

Numbers 20:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, they mourned for Aaron thirty days, even all the house of Israel.

Analysis

Moses and Eleazar 'came down from the mount,' and 'when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, they mourned for Aaron thirty days.' The entire nation grieved their first high priest's passing, showing genuine affection despite previous rebellions against him (16:3, 41). The 30-day mourning period matched Moses' later mourning (Deuteronomy 34:8), honoring leaders who served faithfully despite personal cost.

Historical Context

Traditional mourning periods in Israel lasted 30 days for significant leaders (Deuteronomy 34:8) versus 7 days for ordinary deaths. This extended mourning honored Aaron's unique role as Israel's intercessor and mediator.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How should churches honor faithful leaders who complete their service and depart?
2. What legacy do you want to leave that causes others to genuinely mourn your absence?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּרְאוּ saw H7200	כָּל H3605	וְכָל H5712	עַד H5712	הָ H5712	כָּל H3588	י H3588	גַּם H1478	עָ H1478	אֶהְרֵן H175	for Aaron
וַיֵּכְכוּ they mourned H1058	וְכָל H853	אֶת H853	אֶהְרֵן H175	לְשָׁלֹשׁ H7970	יָמִים H7970	כָּל H3605	יְמֵי H3605	וְכָל H3605	בֵּית H1004	even all the house
יִשְׂרָאֵל of Israel H3478										

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 34:8 (References Israel): And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.