

Numbers 26:60

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And unto Aaron was born Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

Analysis

And unto Aaron was born Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar—four sons, two died in judgment (Leviticus 10:1-2), two inherited the priesthood. Aaron's family became Israel's perpetual high priestly line, despite tragedy. Nadab (נָדָב, "willing/generous") and Abihu (אַבְיָהוּא, "he is my father") had promising names but failed ministries. Eleazar (אֱלֹעָזָר, "God has helped") and Ithamar (אִתְמָר, "palm coast/land of palms") survived to serve.

The pairing is instructive: willingness without obedience kills (Nadab), claiming God as father without holiness destroys (Abihu). But trusting God's help (Eleazar) and remaining fruitful (Ithamar) preserves. Names prophesy; obedience fulfills or negates the prophecy.

Historical Context

Eleazar succeeded Aaron as high priest and served alongside Joshua in the conquest (Numbers 20:25-28). Ithamar supervised tabernacle construction (Exodus 38:21). Both lines continued: Zadok (Solomon's priest) descended from Eleazar; Abiathar (David's priest) from Ithamar. This census recorded the generation from whom all subsequent high priests descended.

Related Passages

[John 3:16](#) — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Why would God include the sons who died in judgment (Nadab and Abihu) in this census alongside the faithful sons?
2. How do the meanings of the four names (willing, God is father, God has helped, fruitful land) describe both faithful and unfaithful ministry?
3. What warning does Aaron's mixed legacy—faithful sons and judged sons from the same family—offer to ministry families?

Interlinear Text

אָלָעָה	רְאֵת	אָבִיה	וְאַתָּה	נָדָב	בְּאַתָּה	לְאַבְרָהָם	וְאַתָּה	יְלָדָךְ
was born	And unto Aaron	H853	Nadab	H853	and Abihu	H853	Eleazar	
H3205	H175		H5070		H30			H499
וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה							
אִתְּמָרָה								
H853	and Ithamar	H385						

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 3:2 (Parallel theme): And these are the names of the sons of Aaron; Nadab the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org