

# Numbers 26:60

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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**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 (אֲבִיהוּא, "he is my father") had promising names but failed ministries. Eleazar (אֶלְעָזָר, "God has helped") and Ithamar (אִיתָמָר, "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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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וְלֵד	לְאַהֲרֹן	אֶת	נָדָב	וְאֶת	אַבִּיהוּ	אֶת	אֶלְעָזָר
was born	And unto Aaron	H853	Nadab	H853	and Abihu	H853	Eleazar
H3205	H175		H5070		H30		H499

וְאֶת	אִיתָמָר:
H853	and Ithamar
	H385

## Additional Cross-References

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