

Numbers 3:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And these are the names of the sons of Aaron; Nadab the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

Analysis

The naming of Aaron's sons emphasizes the continuity of priestly office through specific family lines, demonstrating God's sovereign choice in appointing mediators between Himself and His people. Nadab and Abihu's later judgment (Leviticus 10:1-2) shows that priestly privilege brings heightened responsibility and severe consequences for presumption. This foreshadows the Christian principle that 'to whom much is given, much will be required' (Luke 12:48) and points to Christ as the only perfect High Priest.

Historical Context

Aaron's four sons were consecrated as priests at the tabernacle's dedication (Leviticus 8-9), but Nadab and Abihu died shortly after for offering unauthorized fire. Only Eleazar and Ithamar survived to continue the priestly line.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Nadab and Abihu's judgment warn against presumption and innovation in worship?
2. What does the failure of Aaronic priests point us toward in terms of our need for a perfect High Priest?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	שְׁמָה	וְתִּתְּנֵן	בְּנֵי	אֶחָד	בְּבָבֶק	רֵא	נָדָב
H428	And these are the names	H8034	of the sons	H1121	of Aaron	H175	the firstborn
וְאֵת	שְׁמָה	וְתִּתְּנֵן	בְּנֵי	אֶחָד	בְּבָבֶק	רֵא	נָדָב
and Abihu	Eleazar	H499	and Ithamar	H385			H5070
H30							

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 6:23 (Parallel theme): And Aaron took him Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab, sister of Naashon, to wife; and she bare him Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

Numbers 26:60 (Parallel theme): And unto Aaron was born Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.