

# “Aaron Shall be Gathered to His People”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet sources)

## Introduction:

### A. Num. 20:22-29

### B. Aaron's Background

1. Aaron ( ' ə r ə n ) was the older brother of Moses - Ex. 6:16-20, 7:7
2. Unlike Moses, who grew up in the Egyptian royal court, Aaron and his younger sister Miriam remained with their kinsmen in the eastern border-land of Egypt called Goshen. Aaron served as Moses' spokesman to Pharaoh - Ex. 7:1
  - a. At the command of Moses, he cast down his rod and it turned into a serpent - Ex. 7:9-12.
  - b. Then he stretched out his rod in order to bring on the first three plagues - Ex. 7:19, 8:1, 12
  - c. Afterward, Moses acted & spoke for himself - Ex. 9:23, 10:13, 22
3. The Law Moses received from God at Sinai granted Aaron the high priesthood for himself and his male descendants

### C. Aaron's Family

1. Great-grandfather: Levi
2. Grandfather: Kohath
3. Father: Amram
4. Mother: Jochebed
5. Younger Sister: Miriam
6. Younger Brother: Moses
7. Uncles: Izhar, Hebron, Uzziel
8. Wife: Elisheba
9. Sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, Ithamar
10. Grandson: Phinehas

### D. Aaron's Work

1. During the journey in the wilderness, Aaron was not always prominent or active. At the battle with Amalek, he was chosen with Hur to support the hand of Moses that held the rod of God - Ex. 17:9
2. When the revelation was given to Moses at Mount Sinai, he headed the elders of Israel who accompanied Moses on the way to the summit. While Joshua went with Moses to the top, however, Aaron and Hur remained below to look after the people - Ex. 24:9-14
3. From here on in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers, Joshua appears in the role of Moses' assistant while Aaron functions as the first high priest.
4. The family of Aaron had the exclusive right and responsibility to make offerings on the altar to the God of Israel. The rest of the tribe of Levi was given subordinate responsibilities.
5. Moses anointed and consecrated Aaron and his sons to the priesthood, and arrayed them in the robes of office - Lev. 8
6. He also related to them God's detailed instructions for performing their duties while the rest of the Israelites listened - Lev. 1-7, 11-27

7. To emphasize the validity of the Levites' claim to the offerings and tithes of the Israelites, Moses collected a rod from the leaders of each tribe in Israel and laid the twelve rods overnight in the tent of meeting. The next morning, Aaron's rod was found to have budded and blossomed and produced ripe almonds - Num. 17:23
8. In later books of the Old Testament, Aaron and his kin are not mentioned often. The books of Judges, Samuel and Kings mention priests and Levites, but do not mention the Aaronic line. Remaining books speak very little about them.

#### E. Aaron's Errors

1. During the prolonged absence of Moses on Mount Sinai, the people provoked Aaron to make a Golden Calf as a visible image of the divinity who had delivered them from Egypt - Ex. 32:1-6
2. Aaron escaped punishment for his role in the affair, because of the intercession of Moses - Deut. 9:20
3. On the day of Aaron's consecration, his oldest sons Nadab and Abihu were burned up by Divine fire because they offered "strange" incense - Lev. 10:1-3. Aaron was commanded not to grieve
4. Aaron and Miriam complained about Moses' exclusive claim to be the God's prophet. Miriam was punished with leprosy, but Aaron was spared - Num. 12

#### F. Aaron's Passing

1. Aaron, like Moses, was not permitted to enter Canaan with the Israelites because they showed impatience at Meribah - Num. 20:12-13
2. Aaron died before the Israelites crossed the Jordan River and was buried on Mount Hor - Num. 33:39
3. Soon after the incident at Meribah, Aaron with his son Eleazar and Moses ascended Mount Hor. There Moses stripped Aaron of his priestly garments and transferred them to Eleazar. Aaron died on the summit of the mountain, and the people mourned for him thirty days - Num. 20:22-29, 33:38-39
4. He was 123 at the time of his death.
5. Aaron is also mentioned in the New Testament - Luke 1:5; Acts 7:40; Heb. 5:4, 7:11, 9:4

#### G. Lessons from Aaron's passing

1. God takes sin seriously.
2. We have a better high priest.
3. It is appointed to men once to die.
4. We should weep with those who weep.
5. God shows no partiality to men.

### I. GOD TAKES SIN SERIOUSLY

#### A. Aaron sinned with Moses at the waters of Meribah - Num. 20:12

1. Aaron failed to do what God told him and Moses to do. As a result, Aaron was not going to enter the Promised Land. His office was to be placed upon his son, Elieazar.

- B. God takes sin seriously - Isa. 59:2; Rom. 6:23; Prov. 6:16-19
- C. We must take sin seriously as well - Psalm 97:10; 119:104; Prov. 8:13

## **II. WE HAVE A BETTER HIGH PRIEST**

- A. Aaron was the first high priest of the children of Israel - Lev. 8:12, 21:10
  - 1. He mediated the atonement for himself and others - Ex. 30:10
  - 2. Even so, Aaron sinned and died - Heb. 7:22-27, 8:1-2
  - 3. We have a superior, sinless, eternal High Priest today.

## **III. IT IS APPOINTED UNTO MEN ONCE TO DIE**

- A. Aaron, Moses, nor any other man, righteous or unrighteous, outlives life
  - 1. Gen. 3:19; Job 30:23; Psalm 90:10, 12; Heb. 9:27

## **IV. WEEP WITH THOSE WHO WEEP**

- A. When all the congregation of Israel had heard that Aaron was dead, they mourned for him 30 days.
  - 1. Death affects every person on earth, even the Lord Jesus - John 11:35
  - 2. Jesus was made like his brethren - Heb. 2:17; Rom. 12:15

## **V. GOD SHOWS NO PARTIALITY TO MEN**

- A. Aaron, High Priest, brother and spokesperson for Moses, Beloved of the people, leader of priests and the tribe of Levi, sinned and died. Who he was in this world did not void or validate what he did and did not do
  - 1. Deut. 10:17; Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 2:11; 1Peter 1:17
- B. And if Aaron is forgiven, it will be without partiality as well; it will come through the same source that all are forgiven: by the grace and mercy of God, by the blood of Christ, and by faith and obedience to the will of God - Heb. 9:12, 15
  - 1. Every one among us are in the place of Aaron; that is, we all sin, and we all will face death.
  - 2. If we are saved, it will be by the grace and mercy of God, the blood of Christ, and by our faith and obedience to the Gospel