



“Aaron Shall be Gathered to His People”

Numbers 20:22-29

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- “Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor. 23 And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom, saying: 24 Aaron shall be gathered to his people, for he shall not enter the land which I have given to the children of Israel, because you rebelled against My word at the water of Meribah. 25 Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up to Mount Hor; 26 and strip Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son; for Aaron shall be gathered to his people and die there. 27 So Moses did just as the LORD commanded, and they went up to Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. 28 Moses stripped Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there on the top of the mountain. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain. 29 Now when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, all the house of Israel mourned for Aaron thirty days.”

# Aaron's Background

- Aaron ('εərən) was the older brother of Moses  
- Ex. 6:16-20, 7:7
- 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

# Aaron's Background

- At the command of Moses, he cast down his rod and it turned into a serpent - Ex. 7:9-12.
- Then he stretched out his rod in order to bring on the first three plagues - Ex. 7:19, 8:1, 12
- Afterward, Moses acted and spoke for himself - Ex. 9:23, 10:13, 22
- The Law Moses received from God at Sinai granted Aaron the high priesthood for himself and his male descendants

# Aaron's Family

- Great-grandfather: Levi
- Grandfather: Kohath
- Father: Amram
- Mother: Jochebed
- Younger Sister: Miriam
- Younger Brother: Moses
- Uncles: Izhar, Hebron, Uzziel
- Wife: Elisheba
- Sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, Ithamar
- Grandson: Phinehas

# Aaron's Work

- Supported the hand of Moses that held the rod of God - Ex. 17:9
- Aaron remained below Mount Sinai to look after the people - Ex. 24:9-14
- Aaron had the exclusive right and responsibility to make offerings on the altar to the God of Israel.
- Moses anointed and consecrated Aaron and his sons to the priesthood, and arrayed them in the robes of office - Lev. 8

# Aaron's Work

- Aaron's rod budded, blossomed, and produced ripe almonds, authenticating his right to receive tithes - Num. 17:23
- 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.

# Aaron's Errors

- Aaron to make a Golden Calf as an image of a god he claimed had delivered them from Egypt - Ex. 32:1-6
- Aaron escaped punishment for his role in the affair, because of the intercession of Moses - Deut. 9:20
- 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
- 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

# Aaron's Passing

- Aaron, like Moses, was not permitted to enter Canaan with the Israelites because they showed impatience at Meribah - Num. 20:12-13
- Aaron died before the Israelites crossed the Jordan River and was buried on Mount Hor - Num. 33:39
- He was 123 at the time of his death.
- Aaron is also mentioned in the New Testament - Luke 1:5; Acts 7:40; Heb. 5:4, 7:11, 9:4

# Lessons From Aaron's Passing

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

# God Takes Sin Seriously

- Aaron sinned with Moses at the waters of Meribah
  - Num. 20:12 - “Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”

# God Takes Sin Seriously

- God takes sin seriously
  - Isa. 59:2 - “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”
  - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
  - Prov. 6:16-19 - “These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.”

# God Takes Sin Seriously

- We must take sin seriously as well
  - Psalm 97:10 - “You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.”
  - Psalm 119:104 - “Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.”
  - Prov. 8:13 - “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.”

# We Have A Better High Priest

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

# It Is Appointed Unto Men Once To Die

- Aaron, Moses, nor any other man, righteous or unrighteous, outlives life
  - Gen. 3:19 - “In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”
  - Job 30:23 - “For I know that You will bring me to death, And to the house appointed for all living.”
  - Psalm 90:10, 12 - “The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away...  
12 So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.”
  - Heb. 9:27 - “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”

# Weep With Those Who Weep

- When all the congregation of Israel had heard that Aaron was dead, they mourned for him 30 days.
- Death affects every person on earth, even Jesus
  - John 11:35 - “Jesus wept.”
- Jesus was made like his brethren
  - Heb. 2:17 - “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”
  - Rom. 12:15 - “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”

# God Shows No Partiality To Men

- 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
  - Deut. 10:17 - “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.”

# God Shows No Partiality To Men

- Acts 10:34-35 - “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”
- Rom. 2:11 - “For there is no partiality with God.”
- 1Peter 1:17 - “And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear”

# God Shows No Partiality To Men

- 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 - “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption... 15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”

# God Shows No Partiality To Men

- Every one among us are in the place of Aaron; that is, we all sin, and we all will face death.
- 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