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## A Biographical Study of Aaron

Harold Willmington

*Liberty University*, [hwillmington@liberty.edu](mailto:hwillmington@liberty.edu)

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# *Aaron*

## CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

### I. His service

#### A. For Moses

1. Aaron was a spokesman for Moses in Egypt.
  - a. He was officially appointed by God (Exod. 4:16).
  - b. At the time of his calling he was 83 (Exod. 7:6-7).
  - c. He accompanied Moses to Egypt (Exod. 4:27-28).
  - d. He met with the enslaved Israelites (Exod. 4:29).
  - e. He met with Pharaoh (Exod. 5:1).
  - f. He was criticized by the Israelites, who accused him of giving them a killing work burden (Exod. 5:20-21).
  - g. He cast down his staff in front of Pharaoh, and it became a serpent (Exod. 7:10).
  - h. He saw his serpent swallow up the serpents produced by Pharaoh's magicians (Exod. 7:12).
  - i. He raised up his staff and struck the Nile, causing it to be turned into blood (Exod. 7:20).
  - j. He raised his staff over the waters, bringing in the plague of frogs (Exod. 8:6).
  - k. He raised his staff and struck the dust of the ground, introducing the plague of gnats (Exod. 8:17).
2. Aaron was Moses' supporter at Rephidim. He and Hur helped lift up Moses' hands in prayer during Joshua's battle with the Amalekites (Exod. 17:12).
3. Aaron was a spectator with Moses on Mt. Sinai.
  - a. He accompanied Moses to the base of Sinai (Exod. 19:24; 24:1).
  - b. He saw God's glory on Sinai (Exod. 24:9-11).

#### B. For God

1. Aaron's appointment
  - a. He was formally ordained as Israel's first high priest (Lev. 8:1-36).
  - b. He was washed with water, dressed in the garb of the high priest, anointed with oil, and sprinkled with animal blood (Exod. 29:1-21; 40:12-13).
  - c. He began his high priestly ministry (Lev. 9).
2. Aaron's assignments
  - a. He was commanded to pray for Israel (Exod. 28:9-38).
  - b. He was appointed to supervise the tabernacle (Num. 18:5-9).
  - c. He was to burn incense on the altar every morning and evening and to tend the lamps (Exod. 30:7-8).
  - d. He was to make an annual atonement for Israel (Exod. 30:10).

- e. He was given the rules for offering a bull on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:11-14, 18-19, 27-28).
- f. He was given the rules for selecting the scapegoat for that day (Lev. 16:8-9, 15, 18-19, 27-28).
- g. He was given orders concerning the burnt, grain, sin, guilt, trespass, and peace offerings (Lev. 6:9-30; 7:1-27).
- h. He determined who was a leper (Lev. 13:1-45).
- i. His tribe was to have no land inheritance in Canaan. Instead, they were to receive tithes from all the other tribes (Num. 18:30-31).
- j. With Moses, he was in charge of the census taken at Mt. Sinai (Num. 1:1-19).

## II. His sins

- A. Against the people of God—constructing an idol
  - 1. He gave in to the pressure of the Israelite crowd and constructed a golden calf for them while Moses was on Mt. Sinai (Exod. 32:1-5).
  - 2. He lied to Moses with a pitiful excuse for doing this (Exod. 32:22-24).
  - 3. He was saved from death at God's hand by Moses' prayer (Deut. 9:20).
- B. Against the prophet of God—criticizing his brother
  - 1. The cause for this criticism—Both he and his sister, Miriam, criticized Moses over two matters (Num. 12:1-2).
    - a. Moses' wife (12:1)
    - b. Moses' leadership (12:2)
  - 2. The consequences of this criticism (Num. 12:4-15)
    - a. Both Aaron and Miriam were rebuked by God for this (12:5-8).
    - b. Miriam (the ringleader) was punished with a divine plague of leprosy (12:10).
    - c. Aaron confessed his sin and begged Moses to ask God to heal her. This was done and Miriam was healed (12:11-15).

## III. His sorrow

- A. Aaron's two dead sons—These men, Nadab and Abihu, were killed by God for offering strange fire upon the altar. Aaron was commanded by God not to mourn over the deaths of these young apostates (Lev. 10:1-7).
- B. Aaron's two remaining sons—After a misunderstanding, Aaron justified the actions of Eleazar and Ithamar before Moses (Lev. 10:16-20).

## IV. His staff

- A. Aaron's rightful office as high priest was defended by Moses during Korah's rebellion (Num. 16:9-11).
- B. Aaron's rightful office as high priest was demonstrated by God after Korah's rebellion by the supernatural blossoming of his wooden staff (Num. 17:1-9).

## V. His successor

- A. Aaron had his leadership taken from him and given to Eleazar his son on Mt. Hor (Num. 20:23-28).
- B. Unbelief and rebellion prevented him from entering Canaan (Num. 20:12, 24).
- C. He died (and was buried) on Mt. Hor (Num. 20:27-28).
- D. Israel mourned for him 30 days (Num. 20:29).
- E. He was 123 at the time of his death (Num. 33:39).

## THEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. His name was mentioned in a special spiritual contract signed by those who loved God in the days of Nehemiah (Neh. 10:38).
- II. His name is referred to several times in Psalms.
  - A. How God used Aaron and Moses to lead Israel (77:20)
  - B. How God heard their prayers (99:6)
  - C. How God worked miracles through them (105:26-27)
  - D. How Israel rebelled against them (106:16)
  - E. How God loves unity among his people, comparing it to the precious oil poured on Aaron's head which ran down on his beard and robe (133:2)
- III. Micah the prophet mentioned Aaron when reminding Israel of God's faithfulness in the past (Mic. 6:4).
- IV. Stephen referred to Aaron during his address before the Sanhedrin just prior to his martyrdom (Acts 7:40).
- V. He is mentioned in Hebrews.
  - A. His priesthood is compared with that of Christ (5:4-5).
  - B. His priesthood is compared with that of Melchizedek (7:11).

## STATISTICS

*Father:* Amram (Num. 26:59)

*Mother:* Jochebed (Num. 26:59)

*Wife:* Elisheba (Exod. 6:23)

*Sons:* Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, Ithamar (Exod. 6:23; Num. 3:2-4)

*Brother:* Moses (Num. 26:59)

*Sister:* Miriam (Num. 26:59)

*Significant ancestor:* Levi (Num. 26:59)

*Significant descendants:* Ezra (Ezra 7:5), Zacharias and Elisabeth (Luke 1:5)

*First mention:* Exodus 4:14

*Final mention:* Hebrews 9:4

*Meaning of his name:* "Enlightened, illumined"

*Frequency of his name:* Referred to 339 times

*Biblical books mentioning him:* 16 books (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Psalms, Mark, Luke, Acts, Hebrews)

*Occupation:* Israel's first high priest (Exod. 28:1)

*Place of birth:* Egypt (Num. 26:59)

*Place of death:* Mt. Hor (Num. 20:27-28)

*Age at death:* 123 (Num. 33:39)

*Important fact about his life:* He was Moses' older brother and Israel's first high priest (Num. 26:59; Exod. 28:1).