

## **~AARON (1305)**

- Appointed By God As High Priest**
- During The Wilderness Wanderings**
- Why Was Aaron Not Punished For Making The Golden Calf**
- Aaron And Miriam Criticize Moses Leadership**
- Aaron And Moses Fail To Honor God**
- Aaron Dies**
- Aaron's Priestly Descendants**

**1• And the sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. These were the families of the Levites, according to their family descents. A son of Amram and Jochebed of the tribe of Levi, born in Egypt in 1597 B.C.E. Levi was Aaron's great-grandfather.**

- But Yehowah continued to speak to Moses and Aaron and to issue the command by them to the sons of Israel and to Pharaoh, Egypt's king, in order to bring the sons of Israel out from the land of Egypt. (Exodus 6:13)**
- And these are the names of the sons of Levi, according to their family descents. Gershon and Kohath and Merari. And the years of Levis life were a hundred and thirty-seven years. (Exodus 6:16)**
- The sons of Gershon were Libni and Shimei, according to their families. (Exodus 6:17)**
- And the sons of Kohath were Amram and Izhar and Hebron and Uzziel. And the years of Kohath's life were a hundred and thirty-three years. (Exodus 6:18)**
- And the sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. These were the families of the Levites, according to their family descents. (Exodus 6:19)**
- Now Amram took Jochebed his father's sister as his wife. Later she bore him Aaron and Moses. And the years of Amram's life were a hundred and thirty-seven years. (Exodus 6:20)**
- Miriam was Aaron's elder sister, and Moses was his younger brother by three years.**
- Meantime, a certain man of the house of Levi went ahead and**

- took a daughter of Levi. (**Exodus 2:1**)
- And the woman became pregnant and brought a son to birth. When she saw how good-looking he was, she kept him concealed for three lunar months. (**Exodus 2:2**)
  - When she was no longer able to conceal him, she then took for him an ark of papyrus and coated it with bitumen and pitch and put the child in it and put it among the reeds by the bank of the river Nile. (**Exodus 2:3**)
  - Further, his sister stationed herself at a distance to find out what would be done with him. (**Exodus 2:4**)
  - And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron was eighty-three years old at the time of their speaking to Pharaoh. (**Exodus 7:7**)
  - Aaron married Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab, and had four sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.
  - Now Aaron took Elisheba, Amminadab's daughter, the sister of Nahshon, as his wife. Later she bore him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. (**Exodus 6:23**)
  - He died in **1474 B.C.E.**, at the age of 123 years.
  - And Aaron was a hundred and twenty-three years old at his death on Mount Hor. (**Numbers 33:39**)
  - Owing to Moses reluctance because he found it difficult to speak fluently, Yehowah assigned Aaron to act as Moses spokesman before Pharaoh, saying of Aaron; I do know that he can really speak. (**Exodus 4:14**)
  - Aaron went to meet Moses in the wilderness and was informed of the far-reaching proportions of the divinely outlined program of action involving Israel and Egypt, and the brothers then journeyed back to Egypt.
  - Then Yehowah's anger grew hot against Moses and he said; Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I do know that he can really speak. And, besides, here he is on his way out to meet you. When he does see you, he will certainly rejoice in his heart. (**Exodus 4:14**)

- **And you must speak to him and put the words in his mouth. I myself shall prove to be with your mouth and his mouth, and I will teach you men what you are to do. (Exodus 4:15)**
- **And he must speak for you to the people. And it must occur that he will serve as a mouth to you, and you will serve as God to him. (Exodus 4:16)**
- **Then Yehowah said to Aaron; Go to meet Moses into the wilderness. With that he went and met him in the mountain of the true God and kissed him. (Exodus 4:27)**
- **And Moses proceeded to tell Aaron all the words of Yehowah, who had sent him, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. (Exodus 4:28)**
- **After that Moses and Aaron went and gathered all the older men of the sons of Israel. (Exodus 4:29)**
- **Then Aaron spoke all the words that Yehowah had spoken to Moses, and he performed the signs under the eyes of the people. (Exodus 4:30)**
- **Aaron now began serving as a mouth to Moses, speaking for him to the older men of Israel and performing miraculous signs as proof of the divine origin of their messages. When the time came for their appearance at Pharaoh's court, the 83-year-old Aaron, as Moses spokesman, had to face up to that arrogant ruler. As Yehowah thereafter told Moses;**
- **Consequently Yehowah said to Moses; See, I have made you God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your own brother will become your prophet. (Exodus 7:1)**
- **And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron was eighty-three years old at the time of their speaking to Pharaoh. (Exodus 7:7)**
- **It was Aaron who performed the first miraculous sign before Pharaoh and his magic-practicing priests. Later, it was Aaron who, at Moses order, stretched forth Moses rod and signaled the start of the Ten Plagues.**
- **In case that Pharaoh speaks to you, saying; Produce a miracle**

**for yourselves, then you must say to Aaron; Take your rod and throw it down before Pharaoh. It will become a big snake. (Exodus 7:9)**

- **So Moses and Aaron went on in to Pharaoh and did exactly as Yehowah had commanded. Accordingly Aaron threw his rod down before Pharaoh and his servants and it became a big snake. (Exodus 7:10)**
- **However, Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers, and the magic-practicing priests of Egypt themselves also proceeded to do the same thing with their magic arts. (Exodus 7:11)**
- **So they threw down each one his rod, and they became big snakes, but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. (Exodus 7:12)**
- **Subsequently Yehowah said to Moses; Say to Aaron, Take your rod and stretch your hand out over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, over their Nile canals and over their reedy pools and over all their impounded waters, that they may become blood. And there will certainly be blood in all the land of Egypt and in the wooden vessels and in the stone vessels. (Exodus 7:19)**
- **Immediately Moses and Aaron did so, just as Yehowah had commanded, and he lifted up the rod and struck the water that was in the Nile River under the eyes of Pharaoh and his servants, and all the water that was in the Nile River was turned into blood. (Exodus 7:20)**
- **He continued to work in united coordination with Moses and in obedience to God during the succeeding plagues, until liberation finally came. In this he was a good example for Christians who serve as ambassadors substituting for Christ.**
- **And Moses and Aaron went ahead doing as Yehowah had commanded them. They did just so. (Exodus 7:6)**
- **We are therefore ambassadors substituting for Christ, as though God were making entreaty through us. As substitutes for Christ we beg; Become reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20)**

**4· Aaron's activity as spokesman for Moses evidently diminished during the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, since Moses appears to have done more of the speaking himself.**

- **Then Moses took his stand in the gate of the camp and said; Who is on Yehowah's side? To me! And all the sons of Levi began gathering themselves to him. (Exodus 32:26)**
- **He now said to them; This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Put each one of you his sword on his side. Pass through and return from gate to gate in the camp and kill each one his brother and each one his fellow and each one his intimate acquaintance. (Exodus 32:27)**
- **And the sons of Levi proceeded to do as Moses had said, so that there fell of the people on that day about three thousand men. (Exodus 32:28)**
- **And Moses went on to say; Fill your hand today with power for Yehowah, because each one of you is against his own son and his own brother, and that he may confer a blessing upon you today. (Exodus 32:29)**
- **And it came about on the very next day that Moses proceeded to say to the people; You, you have sinned with a great sin, and now I shall go up to Yehowah. Perhaps I can make amends for your sin. (Exodus 32:30)**
- **And Moses proceeded to call them. So Aaron and all the chieftains among the assembly came back to him, and Moses began to speak to them. (Exodus 34:31)**
- **First after that all the sons of Israel came near to him, and he began commanding them all that Yehowah had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. (Exodus 34:32)**
- **When Moses would finish speaking with them, he would put a veil over his face. (Exodus 34:33)**
- **But when Moses would go in before Yehowah to speak with him, he would take away the veil until his going out. And he went out and spoke to the sons of Israel what he would be commanded. (Exodus 34:34)**

- **Later Moses called the entire assembly of the sons of Israel together and said to them; These are the words that Yehowah has commanded, to do them. (Exodus 35:1)**
- **And Moses went on to say to the entire assembly of the sons of Israel; This is the word that Yehowah has commanded, saying; (Exodus 35:4)**
- **The rod also returned to Moses hands after the third plague. And Aaron, along with Hur, merely supported Moses arms at the battle of Amalek.**
- **So Moses stretched out his rod toward the heavens, and Yehowah gave thunders and hail, and fire would run down to the earth, and Yehowah kept making it rain down hail upon the land of Egypt. (Exodus 9:23)**
- **At this Moses said to Joshua; Choose men for us and go out, fight against the Amalekites. Tomorrow I am stationing myself upon the top of the hill, with the rod of the true God in my hand. (Exodus 17:9)**
- **When the hands of Moses were heavy, then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat upon it. Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on this side and the other on that side, so that his hands held steady until the sun set. (Exodus 17:12)**
- **However, Yehowah generally continued to associate Aaron with Moses when giving instruction, and they are spoken of as acting and speaking together, right up to the time of Aaron's death.**
- **Then Moses and Aaron came from before the congregation to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell upon their faces, and Yehowah's glory began to appear to them. (Numbers 20:6)**
- **Then Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (Numbers 20:7)**
- **Take the rod and call the assembly together, you and Aaron your brother, and you must speak to the crag before their eyes that it may indeed give its water, and you must bring out water for them from the crag and give the assembly and their beasts of burden drink. (Numbers 20:8)**
- **So Moses took the rod from before Yehowah, just as he had**

commanded him. (**Numbers 20:9**)

- After that Moses and Aaron called the congregation together before the crag, and he proceeded to say to them; Hear, now, you rebels! Is it from this crag that we shall bring out water for you? (**Numbers 20:10**)
- With that Moses lifted his hand up and struck the crag with his rod twice. And much water began to come out, and the assembly and their beasts of burden began to drink. (**Numbers 20:11**)
- Later Yehowah said to Moses and Aaron; Because you did not show faith in me to sanctify me before the eyes of the sons of Israel, therefore you will not bring this congregation into the land that I shall certainly give them. (**Numbers 20:12**)
- Aaron, in his subordinate position, did not accompany Moses to the top of Mount Sinai to receive the Law covenant, but, together with two of his sons and 70 of the older men of the nation, he was permitted to approach the mountain and behold a magnificent vision of God's glory.
- And Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the older men of Israel proceeded to go up. (**Exodus 24:9**)
- And they got to see the God of Israel. And under his feet there was what seemed like a work of sapphire flagstones and like the very heavens for purity. (**Exodus 24:10**)
- And he did not put out his hand against the distinguished men of the sons of Israel, but they got a vision of the true God and ate and drank. (**Exodus 24:11**)
- Yehowah now said to Moses; Come up to me in the mountain and stay there, as I want to give you the stone tablets and the Law and the commandment that I must write in order to teach them. (**Exodus 24:12**)
- So Moses and Joshua his minister got up and Moses went up into the mountain of the true God. (**Exodus 24:13**)
- But to the older men he had said; You wait for us in this place until we return to you. And, look! Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a case at Law, let him approach them. (**Exodus**

**24:14)**

- Thus Moses went up into the mountain while the cloud was covering the mountain. (**Exodus 24:15**)

**.. Aaron Appointed By God As High Priest**

- In the Law covenant Aaron and his house received honorable mention, and God designated Aaron for the position of High Priest.
- And as for you, bring near to yourself Aaron your brother and his sons with him from the midst of the sons of Israel that he may act as priest to me, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron. (**Exodus 28:1**)
- And you must make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and beauty. (**Exodus 28:2**)
- And you yourself are to speak to all the one's wise with a heart that I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, and they must make Aaron's garments for sanctifying him, that he may act as priest to me. (**Exodus 28:3**)
- By a seven-day installation ceremony Aaron was invested with his sacred duties by Moses as God's agent, and his four sons were also installed as underpriests. Moses dressed Aaron in beautiful garments of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet materials, including shoulder pieces and a breastpiece that was adorned with precious gems of varied colors. On his head was placed a turban of fine linen. Attached to it was a plate of pure gold, engraved with the words, **Holiness belongs to Yehowah**. (**Exodus Chapter 28**)
- After that he put the robe upon him and girded him with the sash and clothed him with the sleeveless coat and put the ephod upon him and girded him with the girdle of the ephod and bound it closely to him with it. (**Leviticus 8:7**)
- Next he placed the breastpiece upon him and put in the breastpiece the Urim and the Thummim. (**Leviticus 8:8**)
- Then he placed the turban upon his head and placed upon the turban at the forefront of it the shining plate of gold, the holy sign of dedication, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Leviticus 8:9**)



**Aaron was then anointed in the manner described at,**

- **It is like the good oil upon the head, that is running down upon the beard, Aaron's beard, that is running down to the collar of his garments. (Psalms 133:2)**
- **And could thereafter be called the *ma-shi'ach*, or messiah, *khristos'*, LXX, that is, **the anointed one**.**
- **And the priest, the anointed one, must take some of the bull's blood and bring it into the tent of meeting. (Leviticus 4:5)**
- **Then the priest, the anointed one, must bring some of the bull's blood into the tent of meeting. (Leviticus 4:16)**
- **And the priest, the one anointed in place of him from among his sons, will make it. It is a regulation to time indefinite. As a whole offering it will be made to smoke to Yehowah. (Leviticus 6:22)**
- **Aaron not only was placed over all the priesthood, but also was divinely declared to be the one from whose line, or house, all future High Priests must come. Yet Aaron himself had not received the priesthood by inheritance, and so the apostle Paul could say of him,**
- **Also, a man takes this honor, not of his own accord, but only when he is called by God, just as Aaron also was. (Hebrews 5:4)**
- **So too the Christ did not glorify himself by becoming a High Priest, but was glorified by him who spoke with reference to him: You are my son. I, today, I have become your father. (Hebrews 5:5)**
- **Paul thereafter demonstrates the way in which the priestly office, first filled by Aaron, was typical of that which Christ Jesus fills as a superior and heavenly High Priest. This being so, the priestly functions of Aaron's high office take on added meaning for us.**
- **Now as to the things being discussed this is the main point: We have such a High Priest as this, and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. (Hebrews 8:1)**
- **A public servant of the holy place and of the true tent, which**

**Yehowah put up, and not man. (Hebrews 8:2)**

- **For every High Priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Wherefore it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. (Hebrews 8:3)**
- **If, now, he were upon earth, he would not be a priest, there being men who offer the gifts according to the Law. (Hebrews 8:4)**
- **But which men are rendering sacred service in a typical representation and a shadow of the heavenly things. Just as Moses, when about to make the tent in completion, was given the divine command. For says he; See that you make all things after their pattern that was shown to you in the mountain. (Hebrews 8:5)**
- **But now Jesus has obtained a more excellent public service, so that he is also the mediator of a correspondingly better covenant, which has been legally established upon better promises. (Hebrews 8:6)**
- **After these things had been constructed this way, the priests enter the first tent compartment at all times to perform the sacred services. (Hebrews 9:6)**
- **But into the second compartment the High Priest alone enters once a year, not without blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of ignorance of the people. (Hebrews 9:7)**
- **Thus the Holy Spirit makes it plain that the way into the holy place had not yet been made manifest while the first tent was standing. (Hebrews 9:8)**
- **This very tent is an illustration for the appointed time that is now here, and in keeping with it both gifts and sacrifices are offered. However, these are not able to make the man doing sacred service perfect as respects his conscience. (Hebrews 9:9)**
- **But have to do only with foods and drinks and various baptisms. They were legal requirements pertaining to the flesh and were imposed until the appointed time to set things straight. (Hebrews 9:10)**

- **However, when Christ came as a High Priest of the good things that have come to pass, through the greater and more perfect tent not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ([Hebrews 9:11](#))**
- **He entered, no, not with the blood of goats and of young bulls, but with his own blood, once for all time into the holy place and obtained an everlasting deliverance for us. ([Hebrews 9:12](#))**
- **For if the blood of goats and of bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who have been defiled sanctifies to the extent of cleanness of the flesh. ([Hebrews 9:13](#))**
- **How much more will the blood of the Christ, who through an everlasting spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works that we may render sacred service to the living God? ([Hebrews 9:14](#))**
- **Therefore it was necessary that the typical representations of the things in the heavens should be cleansed by these means, but the heavenly things themselves with sacrifices that are better than such sacrifices. ([Hebrews 9:23](#))**
- **For Christ entered, not into a holy place made with hands, which is a copy of the reality, but into heaven itself, now to appear before the person of God for us. ([Hebrews 9:24](#))**
- **Neither is it in order, that he should offer himself often, as indeed the High Priest enters into the holy place from year to year with blood not his own. ([Hebrews 9:25](#))**
- **Otherwise, he would have to suffer often from the founding of the world. But now he has manifested himself once for all time at the conclusion of the systems of things to put sin away through the sacrifice of himself. ([Hebrews 9:26](#))**
- **And as it is reserved for men to die once for all time, but after this a judgment. ([Hebrews 9:27](#))**
- **So also the Christ was offered once for all time to bear the sins of many. The second time that he appears it will be apart from sin, and to those earnestly looking for him for their salvation. ([Hebrews 9:28](#))**

- **As High Priest, Aaron was responsible for directing all features of worship at the tabernacle and supervising the work of the thousands of Levites engaged in its service.**
- **And Yehowah proceeded to speak to Moses, saying; ([Numbers 3:5](#))**
- **Bring the tribe of Levi near, and you must stand them before Aaron the priest, and they must minister to him. ([Numbers 3:6](#))**
- **And they must keep their obligation to him and their obligation to all the assembly before the tent of meeting in discharging the service of the tabernacle. ([Numbers 3:7](#))**
- **And they must take care of all the utensils of the tent of meeting, even the obligation of the sons of Israel in discharging the service of the tabernacle. ([Numbers 3:8](#))**
- **And you must give the Levites to Aaron and his sons. They are given ones, given to him from the sons of Israel. ([Numbers 3:9](#))**
- **And you should appoint Aaron and his sons, and they must take care of their priesthood, and any stranger coming near should be put to death. ([Numbers 3:10](#))**
- **On the annual Day of Atonement he presented sin offerings for the priesthood and Levites and for the people of Israel, and he alone was permitted to enter the Most Holy of the tabernacle with the sacrificial blood of the animals. ([Leviticus Chapter 16](#)) The daily offering up of incense, the presentation of the firstfruits of the grain harvest, and many other features of the worship were exclusive prerogatives of Aaron and his sons as priests.**
- **And Aaron must make perfumed incense smoke upon it. Morning by morning, when he dresses the lamps, he will make it smoke. ([Exodus 30:7](#))**
- **And when Aaron lights up the lamps between the two evenings, he will make it smoke. It is an incense constantly before Yehowah during your generations. ([Exodus 30:8](#))**
- **Now as he was acting as priest in the assignment of his division before God. ([Luke 1:8](#))**

- According to the solemn practice of the priestly office it became his turn to offer incense when he entered into the sanctuary of Yehowah. ([Luke 1:9](#))
- And all the multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of offering incense. ([Luke 1:10](#))
- To him Yehowah's angel appeared, standing at the right side of the incense altar. ([Luke 1:11](#))
- These are the seasonal festivals of Yehowah, holy conventions, which you should proclaim at their appointed times. ([Leviticus 23:4](#))
- In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, between the two evenings is the Passover to Yehowah. ([Leviticus 23:5](#))
- And on the fifteenth day of this month is the festival of unfermented cakes to Yehowah. Seven days you should eat unfermented cakes. ([Leviticus 23:6](#))
- On the first day you will have a holy convention occur. No sort of laborious work may you do. ([Leviticus 23:7](#))
- But you must present an offering made by fire to Yehowah seven days. On the seventh day there will be a holy convention. No sort of laborious work may you do. ([Leviticus 23:8](#))
- And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; ([Leviticus 23:9](#))
- Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them; When you eventually come into the land that I am giving you, and you have reaped its harvest, you must also bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ([Leviticus 23:10](#))
- And he must wave the sheaf to and fro before Yehowah to gain approval for you. Directly the day after the Sabbath the priest should wave it to and fro. ([Leviticus 23:11](#))
- His anointing, however, sanctified him to perform not only sacrificial duties for the nation, but other duties as well. He was responsible to teach the nation the Word of God.

- **And Yehowah proceeded to speak to Aaron, saying; (Leviticus 10:8)**
- **Do not drink wine or intoxicating liquor, you and your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, that you may not die. It is a statute to time indefinite for your generations. (Leviticus 10:9)**
- **Both in order to make a distinction between the holy thing and the profane and between the unclean thing and the clean. (Leviticus 10:10)**
- **And in order to teach the sons of Israel all the regulations that Yehowah has spoken to them by means of Moses. (Leviticus 10:11)**
- **Be on your guard in the plague of leprosy to take good care and do according to all that the priests, the Levites, will instruct you. Just as I have commanded them, you should be careful to do. (Deuteronomy 24:8)**
- **For the lips of a priest are the ones that should keep knowledge, and the Law is what people should seek from his mouth, for he is the messenger of Yehowah of armies. (Malachi 2:7)**
- **He, as well as his successors, served as the chief officer under Yehowah the King. On high state occasions he wore the costly garments and the shining plate of gold on his linen turban. He also wore the breastpiece that contained the Urim and Thummim, enabling him to receive Yehowah's Yes or No to national problems. Although, for the duration of Moses life and mediatorship, this feature appears to have received little use.**
- **And these are the garments that they will make: a breastpiece, and an ephod and a sleeveless coat and a robe of checker-work, a turban and a sash. And they must make the holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may act as priest to me. (Exodus 28:4)**
- **And Aaron must carry the names of the sons of Israel on the breastpiece of judgment over his heart when he comes into the Holy as a memorial before Yehowah constantly. (Exodus 28:29)**
- **And you must put the Urim and the Thummim into the**

- breastpiece of judgment, and they must prove to be over Aaron's heart when he comes in before Yehowah. And Aaron must carry the judgments of the sons of Israel over his heart before Yehowah constantly. (**Exodus 28:30**)
- And you must make a shining plate of pure gold and engrave upon it with the engravings of a seal, **Holiness belongs to Yehowah**. (**Exodus 28:36**)
  - **Aaron's devotion to pure worship was early put to the test by the death of his sons Nadab and Abihu, who suffered destruction by God for making profane use of their priestly positions. The record says; And Aaron kept silent. When he and his two surviving sons were instructed not to mourn over the dead transgressors, they did according to Moses word.**
  - **Later on Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took up and brought each one his fire holder and put fire in them and placed incense upon it, and they began offering before Yehowah illegitimate fire, which he had not prescribed for them. (**Leviticus 10:1**)**
  - **At this a fire came out from before Yehowah and consumed them, so that they died before Yehowah. (**Leviticus 10:2**)**
  - **Then Moses said to Aaron; This is what Yehowah has spoken, saying; Among those near to me let me be sanctified, and before the face of all the people let me be glorified. And Aaron kept silent. (**Leviticus 10:3**)**
  - **So Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel, Aaron's uncle, and said to them; Come near, carry your brothers from in front of the holy place to outside the camp. (**Leviticus 10:4**)**
  - **They accordingly came near and carried them in their robes to outside the camp, just as Moses had spoken. (**Leviticus 10:5**)**
  - **Subsequently Moses said to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar his other sons; Do not let your heads go un-groomed, and you must not tear your garments, that you may not die and that he may not become indignant against all the assembly, but your brothers of the whole house of Israel will do the weeping over the burning, which Yehowah has made burn. (**Leviticus 10:6**)**
  - **And from the entrance of the tent of meeting you must not go**

out for fear you may die, because Yehowah's anointing oil is upon you. So they did according to Moses word. (**Leviticus 10:7**)

- And Yehowah proceeded to speak to Aaron, saying; (**Leviticus 10:8**)
- Do not drink wine or intoxicating liquor, you and your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, that you may not die. It is a statute to time indefinite for your generations. (**Leviticus 10:9**)
- Both in order to make a distinction between the holy thing and the profane and between the unclean thing and the clean. (**Leviticus 10:10**)
- And in order to teach the sons of Israel all the regulations that Yehowah has spoken to them by means of Moses. (**Leviticus 10:11**)

**See Also HIGH PRIEST**

#### **.. During The Wilderness Wanderings**

- During nearly 40 years Aaron represented the 12 tribes before Yehowah in his capacity as High Priest. While in the wilderness, a serious rebellion broke out against the authority of Moses and Aaron. It was led by a Levite named Korah, together with the Reubenites Dathan, Abiram, and On, who complained against their leadership. Yehowah caused the earth to open beneath the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, swallowing them up along with their households, while Korah himself and 250 of his coconspirators were destroyed by fire.
- And Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, proceeded to get up, together with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, the sons of Reuben. (**Numbers 16:1**)
- And they proceeded to rise up before Moses, they and two hundred and fifty men of the sons of Israel, chieftains of the assembly, summoned one's of the meeting, men of fame. (**Numbers 16:2**)
- So they congregated themselves against Moses and Aaron and said to them; That is enough of you, because the whole



assembly are all of them holy and Yehowah is in their midst. Why, then, should you lift yourselves up above the congregation of Yehowah? (**Numbers 16:3**)

- When Moses got to hear it he at once fell upon his face. (**Numbers 16:4**)
- Then he spoke to Korah and to his entire assembly, saying; In the morning Yehowah will make known who belongs to him and who is holy and who must come near to him, and whoever he may choose will come near to him. (**Numbers 16:5**)
- Do this. Take fire holders for yourselves, Korah and his entire assembly. (**Numbers 16:6**)
- And put fire in them and place incense upon them before Yehowah tomorrow, and it must occur that the man whom Yehowah will choose, he is the holy one. That is enough of you, you sons of Levi! (**Numbers 16:7**)
- And Moses went on to say to Korah; Listen, please, you sons of Levi. (**Numbers 16:8**)
- Is it such a little thing for you men that the God of Israel has separated you men from the assembly of Israel to present you to himself to carry on the service of Yehowah's tabernacle and to stand before the assembly to minister to them. (**Numbers 16:9**)
- And that he should bring you and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you near? So must you men also try to secure the priesthood? (**Numbers 16:10**)
- For that reason you and all your assembly who are gathering together are against Yehowah. As for Aaron, what is he that you men should murmur against him? (**Numbers 16:11**)
- Later Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, but they said; We are not going to come up! (**Numbers 16:12**)
- Is it so little a thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to put us to death in the wilderness, that you should also try to play the prince over us to the limit? (**Numbers 16:13**)

- **As it is, you have not brought us into any land flowing with milk and honey, that you may give us an inheritance of field and vineyard. Is it the eyes of those men that you want to bore out? We are not going to come up! (Numbers 16:14)**
- **At this Moses became very angry and said to Yehowah; Do not turn to look at their grain offering. Not one male ass have I taken away from them, nor have I harmed one of them. (Numbers 16:15)**
- **Then Moses said to Korah; You and all your assembly, be present before Yehowah, you and they and Aaron, tomorrow. (Numbers 16:16)**
- **And take each one his fire holder, and you men must put incense upon them and present each one his fire holder before Yehowah, two hundred and fifty fire holders, and you and Aaron each his fire holder. (Numbers 16:17)**
- **So they took each one his fire holder and put fire upon them and placed incense upon them and stood at the entrance of the tent of meeting together with Moses and Aaron. (Numbers 16:18)**
- **When Korah got all the assembly together against them at the entrance of the tent of meeting, then Yehowah's glory appeared to all the assembly. (Numbers 16:19)**
- **Yehowah now spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying; (Numbers 16:20)**
- **Separate yourselves from the midst of this assembly, that I may exterminate them in an instant. (Numbers 16:21)**
- **At this they fell upon their faces and said; O God, the God of the spirits of every sort of flesh, will just one man sin and you become indignant against the entire assembly? (Numbers 16:22)**
- **In turn Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (Numbers 16:23)**
- **Speak to the assembly, saying; Get away from around the tabernacles of Korah, Dathan and Abiram! (Numbers 16:24)**
- **After that Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the older men of Israel went with him. (Numbers 16:25)**

- Then he spoke to the assembly, saying; Turn aside, please, from before the tents of these wicked men and do not touch anything that belongs to them, that you may not be swept away in all their sin. (**Numbers 16:26**)
- Immediately they got away from before the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan and Abiram, from every side, and Dathan and Abiram came out, taking their stand at the entrance of their tents, together with their wives, and their sons and their little ones. (**Numbers 16:27**)
- Then Moses said; By this you will know that Yehowah has sent me to do all these deeds, that it is not of my own heart. (**Numbers 16:28**)
- If it is according to the death of all mankind that these people will die and with the punishment of all mankind that punishment will be brought upon them, then it is not Yehowah that has sent me. (**Numbers 16:29**)
- But if it is something created that Yehowah will create, and the ground has to open its mouth and swallow up them and everything that belongs to them and they have to go down alive into Sheol, you will then know for certain that these men have treated Yehowah disrespectfully. (**Numbers 16:30**)
- And it came about that as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them began to be split apart. (**Numbers 16:31**)
- And the earth proceeded to open its mouth and to swallow up them and their households and all humankind that belonged to Korah and all the goods. (**Numbers 16:32**)
- So down they went, and all who belonged to them, alive into Sheol, and the earth went covering them over, so that they perished from the midst of the congregation. (**Numbers 16:33**)
- And all the Israelites who were round about them fled at the screaming of them, for they began to say; We are afraid that the earth may swallow us up! (**Numbers 16:34**)
- And a fire came out from Yehowah and proceeded to consume

the two hundred and fifty men offering the incense. (**Numbers 16:35**)

- **Murmuring broke out now on the part of the congregation against Moses and Aaron, and in the divine plague that ensued, Aaron showed great faith and courage in obediently going out with his fire holder and making atonement for the people while, **standing between the dead and the living**, until the scourge was stopped.**
- **After that Moses said to Aaron; Take the fire holder and put fire from upon the altar in it and put on incense and go to the assembly in a hurry and make atonement for them, because the indignation has gone out from the face of Yehowah. The plague has started! (**Numbers 16:46**)**
- **Aaron at once took it, just as Moses had spoken, and went running into the midst of the congregation, and, look! The plague had started among the people. So he put the incense on and began making atonement for the people. (**Numbers 16:47**)**
- **And he kept standing between the dead and the living. Eventually the scourge was stopped. (**Numbers 16:48**)**
- **And those dead from the scourge amounted to fourteen thousand seven hundred, aside from those dead on account of Korah. (**Numbers 16:49**)**
- **When at last Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance of the tent of meeting, the scourge had been stopped. (**Numbers 16:50**)**
- **God now directed that 12 rods, each representing one of the 12 tribes, be placed in the tabernacle, and the rod for the tribe of Levi was inscribed with Aaron's name.**
- **Yehowah now spoke to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 17:1**)**
- **Speak to the sons of Israel and take from them one rod for each paternal house from all their chieftains, by the house of their fathers, twelve rods. You will write the name of each one upon his rod. (**Numbers 17:2**)**
- **And Aaron's name you will write upon Levi's rod, because there is one rod for the head of the house of their fathers. (**Numbers 17:3**)**

- And you must deposit them in the tent of meeting before the Testimony, where I regularly present myself to you. (**Numbers 17:4**)
- On the following day Moses entered the tent of the Testimony and found that Aaron's rod had budded, blossomed with flowers, and bore ripe almonds.
- And it came about the next day that when Moses went into the tent of the Testimony, look! Aaron's rod for the house of Levi had budded, and it was bringing forth buds and blossoming flowers and was bearing ripe almonds. (**Numbers 17:8**)
- This established beyond dispute Yehowah's choice of the Levite sons of Aaron for priestly service and his authorization of Aaron as High Priest. Thereafter, the right of Aaron's house to the priesthood was never seriously challenged. The budded rod of Aaron was placed in the ark of the covenant as **a sign to the sons of rebelliousness**, though it appears that after the death of these rebellious one's and the entry of the nation into the Land of Promise the rod was removed, having served its purpose.
- Subsequently Yehowah said to Moses; Put Aaron's rod back before the Testimony as something to be kept for a sign to the sons of rebelliousness, that their murmurings may cease from against me, that they may not die. (**Numbers 17:10**)
- This had a golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid all around with gold, in which were the golden jar having the manna and the rod of Aaron that budded and the tablets of the covenant. (**Hebrews 9:4**)
- There was nothing in the Ark but the two tablets that Moses had given at Horeb, when Yehowah covenanted with the sons of Israel while they were coming out from Egypt. (**2 Chronicles 5:10**)
- There was nothing in the Ark but the two stone tablets which Moses had deposited there in Horeb, when Yehowah had covenanted with the sons of Israel while they were coming out from the land of Egypt. (**1 Kings 8:9**)

·· **Why Was Aaron Not Punished For Making The Golden Calf**

- **Why was Aaron not punished for making the golden calf?**  
 Despite his privileged position, Aaron had his shortcomings. During Moses first 40-day stay on Mount Sinai, the people congregated themselves about Aaron and said to him; Get up, make for us a god who will go ahead of us, because as regards this Moses, the man who led us up out of the land of Egypt, we certainly do not know what has happened to him.
- **Meanwhile the people got to see that Moses was taking a long time about coming down from the mountain. So the people congregated themselves about Aaron and said to him; Get up, make for us a god who will go ahead of us, because as regards this Moses, the man who led us up out of the land of Egypt, we certainly do not know what has happened to him. (Exodus 32:1)**
- **Aaron weakly acceded to, and cooperated with, these rebellious one's in making a golden calf statue.**
- **At this Aaron said to them; Tear off the gold earrings that are in the ears of your wives, of your sons and of your daughters and bring them to me. (Exodus 32:2)**
- **And all the people began tearing off the gold earrings that were in their ears and bringing them to Aaron. (Exodus 32:3)**
- **Then he took the gold from their hands, and he formed it with a graving tool and proceeded to make it into a molten statue of a calf. And they began to say; This is your God, O Israel, who led you up out of the land of Egypt. (Exodus 32:4)**
- **When Aaron got to see this, he went to building an altar before it. Finally Aaron called out and said; There is a festival to Yehowah tomorrow. (Exodus 32:5)**
- **So on the next day they were early in rising, and they began offering up burnt offerings and presenting communion sacrifices. After that the people sat down to eat and drink. Then they got up to have a good time. (Exodus 32:6)**
- **When later confronted by Moses, he gave a weak excuse.**
- **To this Aaron said; Do not let the anger of my lord blaze. You yourself well know the people, that they are evil-inclined.**

**(Exodus 32:22)**

- So they said to me; Make for us a god who will go ahead of us, because as regards this Moses, the man who led us up out of the land of Egypt, we certainly do not know what has happened to him. **(Exodus 32:23)**
- Hence I said to them; Who have any gold? They must tear it off themselves that they may give it to me. And I proceeded to throw it into the fire and this calf came on out. **(Exodus 32:24)**
- However, Yehowah did not single him out as the prime wrongdoer, but told Moses;
- So now let me be, that my anger may blaze against them and I may exterminate them, and let me make you into a great nation. **(Exodus 32:10)**
- Moses brought the matter to a showdown by crying; Who is on Yehowah's side? To me!
- Then Moses took his stand in the gate of the camp and said; Who is on Yehowah's side? To me! And all the sons of Levi began gathering themselves to him. **(Exodus 32:26)**
- All the sons of Levi responded, and this undoubtedly included Aaron. Three thousand idolaters, probably the prime movers of the rebellion, were slain by them.
- And the sons of Levi proceeded to do as Moses had said, so that there fell of the people on that day about three thousand men. **(Exodus 32:28)**
- Now as regards someone wicked, in case he should turn back from all his sins that he has committed and he should actually keep all my statutes and execute justice and righteousness, he will positively keep living. He will not die. **(Ezekiel 18:21)**
- Nevertheless, Moses later reminded the rest of the people that they, too, bore guilt.
- And it came about on the very next day that Moses proceeded to say to the people; You, you have sinned with a great sin, and now I shall go up to Yehowah. Perhaps I can make amends for

your sin. (**Exodus 32:30**)

- **Aaron, therefore, was not alone in receiving God's mercy. His subsequent actions indicated that he was not in heart harmony with the idolatrous movement, but simply gave in to the pressure of the rebels.**
- **And Yehowah began plaguing the people because they had made the calf, which Aaron had made. (**Exodus 32:35**)**
- **Yehowah showed that Aaron had received his forgiveness by maintaining as valid Aaron's appointment to become High Priest.**
- **Then you must bring Aaron and his sons near to the entrance of the tent of meeting and wash them with water. (**Exodus 40:12**)**
- **And you must clothe Aaron with the holy garments and anoint him and sanctify him, and so he must act as priest to me. (**Exodus 40:13**)**

#### **.. Aaron And Miriam Criticize Moses Leadership**

- **After having loyally supported his younger brother through many difficult experiences and having recently been installed as High Priest by Moses as God's representative, Aaron foolishly associated himself with his sister Miriam in criticizing Moses for his marriage to a Cushite woman and in challenging Moses unique relationship and position with Yehowah God, saying,**
- **Now Miriam and Aaron began to speak against Moses on account of the Cushite wife whom he had taken, because it was a Cushite wife he had taken. (**Numbers 12:1**)**
- **And they kept saying; Is it just by Moses alone that Yehowah has spoken? Is it not by us also that he has spoken? And Yehowah was listening. (**Numbers 12:2**)**
- **Yehowah swiftly took action, brought the three before him in front of the tent of meeting, and strongly castigated Aaron and Miriam for disrespecting God's appointment. The fact that only Miriam was stricken with leprosy may mark her as the instigator of the action and may indicate that Aaron again had shown weakness by being induced to join her. However, if Aaron had been similarly struck with leprosy, it**



would have invalidated his appointment as High Priest, according to God's Law.

- Any man of the seed of Aaron the priest in whom there is a defect may not approach to present Yehowah's offerings made by fire. There is a defect in him. He may not approach to present the bread of his God. ([Leviticus 21:21](#))
- He may eat the bread of his God from the most holy things and from the holy things. ([Leviticus 21:22](#))
- However, he may not come in near the curtain, and he may not approach the altar, because there is a defect in him, and he should not profane my sanctuary, for I am Yehowah who is sanctifying them. ([Leviticus 21:23](#))
- His right heart attitude manifested itself by his immediate confession and apology for the foolishness of their act and by his agonized plea for Moses' intercession on leprous Miriam's behalf.
- And the cloud turned away from over the tent, and, look! Miriam was struck with leprosy as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and, look! She was struck with leprosy. ([Numbers 12:10](#))
- Immediately Aaron said to Moses; Excuse me, my lord! Do not, please, attribute to us the sin in which we have acted foolishly and which we have committed! ([Numbers 12:11](#))
- Please, do not let her continue like someone dead, whose flesh at the time of his coming out of his mother's womb is half eaten off! ([Numbers 12:12](#))
- And Moses began to cry out to Yehowah, saying; O God, please! Heal her, please! ([Numbers 12:13](#))

### **.. Aaron And Moses Fail To Honor God**

- Aaron again shared responsibility for wrong when he, along with Moses, failed to sanctify and honor God before the congregation in the incident involving the providing of water at Meribah in Kadesh. For this action God decreed that neither of them would enjoy the privilege of bringing the nation into the Land of Promise.

- So Moses took the rod from before Yehowah, just as he had commanded him. (**Numbers 20:9**)
- After that Moses and Aaron called the congregation together before the crag, and he proceeded to say to them; Hear, now, you rebels! Is it from this crag that we shall bring out water for you? (**Numbers 20:10**)
- With that Moses lifted his hand up and struck the crag with his rod twice, and much water began to come out, and the assembly and their beasts of burden began to drink. (**Numbers 20:11**)
- Later Yehowah said to Moses and Aaron; Because you did not show faith in me to sanctify me before the eyes of the sons of Israel, therefore you will not bring this congregation into the land that I shall certainly give them. (**Numbers 20:12**)
- These are the waters of Meribah, because the sons of Israel quarreled with Yehowah, so that he was sanctified among them. (**Numbers 20:13**)

#### ·· Aaron Dies

- On the first day of the month Ab, in the 40th year following the Exodus, the nation of Israel lay encamped on the frontier of Edom before Mount Hor. Within a matter of months they would be crossing over the Jordan, but not the 123-year-old Aaron. At Yehowah's instruction, and with all the camp watching, Aaron, his son Eleazar, and Moses went climbing to the top of Mount Hor.
- There Aaron let his brother remove his priestly garments from him and put them on his son and successor to the High Priesthood, Eleazar. Then Aaron died. He was probably buried there by his brother and his son, and for 30 days Israel mourned his death.
- Aaron will be gathered to his people, for he will not enter into the land that I shall certainly give to the sons of Israel, on the ground that you men rebelled against my order respecting the waters of Meribah. (**Numbers 20:24**)
- Take Aaron and Eleazar his son and bring them up into Mount Hor. (**Numbers 20:25**)
- And strip Aaron of his garments, and you must clothe with them

**Eleazar his son, and Aaron will be gathered and must die there.  
(Numbers 20:26)**

- **So Moses did just as Yehowah had commanded, and before the eyes of all the assembly they went climbing Mount Hor.  
(Numbers 20:27)**
- **Then Moses stripped Aaron of his garments and clothed Eleazar his son with them, after which Aaron died there on the top of the mountain. And Moses and Eleazar came on down from the mountain. (Numbers 20:28)**
- **And all the assembly got to see that Aaron had expired, and all the house of Israel continued weeping for Aaron thirty days.  
(Numbers 20:29)**
- **It is noteworthy that in each of his three deflections, Aaron does not appear as the principal initiator of the wrong action but, rather, seems to have allowed the pressure of the circumstances or the influence of others to sway him from a course of rectitude. Particularly in his first trespass, he could have applied the principle underlying the command:**
- **You **must not follow after the crowd for evil ends**, and you must not testify over a controversy so as to turn aside with the crowd in order to pervert justice. (Exodus 23:2)**
- **Nevertheless, his name is thereafter used in the Scriptures in an honorable way, and God's Son, during his earthly lifetime, recognized the legitimacy of the Aaronic priesthood.**
- **O house of Aaron, put your trust in Yehowah. He is their help and their shield. (Psalms 115:10)**
- **Yehowah himself has remembered us. He will bless, he will bless the house of Israel, he will bless the house of Aaron. (Psalms 115:12)**
- **Let those of the house of Aaron now say; For his loving-kindness is to time indefinite. (Psalms 118:3)**
- **Look! How good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! (Psalms 133:1)**

- It is like the good oil upon the head, that is running down upon the beard, Aaron's beard, that is running down to the collar of his garments. (**Psalms 133:2**)
- O house of Israel, do you men bless Yehowah. O house of Aaron, do you men bless Yehowah. (**Psalms 135:19**)
- Do not think I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I came, not to destroy, but to fulfill. (**Matthew 5:17**)
- For truly I say to you that sooner would heaven and earth pass away than for one smallest letter or one particle of a letter to pass away from the Law by any means and not all things take place. (**Matthew 5:18**)
- Whoever, therefore, breaks one of these least commandments and teaches mankind to that effect, he will be called **least** in relation to the kingdom of the heavens. As for anyone who does them and teaches them, this one will be called **great** in relation to the kingdom of the heavens. (**Matthew 5:19**)
- Then Jesus said to him; See that you tell no one, but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses appointed, for the purpose of a witness to them. (**Matthew 8:4**)

## ·· Aaron's Priestly Descendants

- The expression, **Aaronites**, appears in the **King James Version and Moffatt** at;
- And Jehoiada was the leader of the sons of **Aaron**, and with him there were three thousand seven hundred. (**1 Chronicles 12:27**)
- Of Levi, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel, of **Aaron**, Zadok. (**1 Chronicles 27:17**)
- The **Masoretic** text in Hebrew simply uses the name **Aaron**. **LXX Lagardian edition**, found at;
- And Jehoiada was the leader of the sons of **Aaron**, and with him there were three thousand seven hundred. (**1 Chronicles 12:27**)
- Says **of the sons of Aaron**. It is evident that the word **Aaron** is here used in a collective sense, much as is the name Israel, and stands

for the house of **Aaron** or his male descendants in David's time who were of the tribe of Levi, and were serving as priests.

- And their brothers the Levites were the one's given for all the service of the tabernacle of the house of the true God. (**1 Chronicles 6:48**)
- And **Aaron** and his sons were making sacrificial smoke upon the altar of burnt offering and upon the altar of incense for all the work of the most holy things and to make atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of the true God had commanded. (**1 Chronicles 6:49**)
- And these were the sons of **Aaron**. Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son, Abishua his son. (**1 Chronicles 6:50**)
- Bukki his son, Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son. (**1 Chronicles 6:51**)
- Meraioth his son, Amariah his son, Ahitub his son. (**1 Chronicles 6:52**)
- Zadok his son, Ahimaaz his son. (**1 Chronicles 6:53**)
- The **New World Translation** reads:
- And Jehoiada was the leader of the sons of **Aaron**, and with him there were three thousand seven hundred. (**1 Chronicles 12:27**)
- Bracketing the words **of the sons** to denote that they are supplied.