

~ABIATHAR (628)

(A-bi'a-thar) [Father of Excellence, Father of More Than Enough,
An Overflow]

.. During The Kingships Of David And Solomon

- A son of High Priest Ahimelech, of the tribe of Levi and of the line of Eli.
- And Ahijah the son of Ahitub, the brother of Ichabod, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the priest of Yehowah in Shiloh, was carrying the ephod. And the people themselves did not know that Jonathan had gone. (1 Samuel 14:3)
- At once the king sent to call Ahimelech the son of Ahitub the priest and all the house of his father, the priests that were in Nob. So all of them came to the king. (1 Samuel 22:11)
- Now it came about that when **Abiathar** the son of Ahimelech ran away to David at Keilah, there was an ephod that went down in his hand. (1 Samuel 23:6)
- He lived during the reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon, and during David's reign he became High Priest. He had two sons, Jonathan and Ahimelech, the same name as **Abiathar's** father.
- And the king went on to say to Zadok the priest; You are a seer, are you? Do return to the city in peace, and also Ahimaaz your son and Jonathan the son of **Abiathar**, the two sons of you men, with you. (2 Samuel 15:27)
- Look! There with them are their two sons, Ahimaaz belonging to Zadok and Jonathan belonging to **Abiathar**, and by means of them you men must send to me everything that you may hear. (2 Samuel 15:36)
- And Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of **Abiathar** were priests, and Seraiah was secretary. (2 Samuel 8:17)
- **Abiathar** was living in Nob, the city of the priests, a short distance from Jerusalem, when King Saul had Doeg the Edomite slaughter Abiathar's father, the High Priest, and other priests some 85 in all, because of their supposed support of David. Doeg also struck

down with the sword all the other residents of the city. Only **Abiathar** escaped.

- He fled to David, himself a fugitive, evidently at Keilah, several miles to the Southwest. David, feeling a certain personal responsibility for the tragedy, told Abiathar; I well knew on that day, because Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would without fail tell Saul. I personally have wronged every soul of the house of your father. Just dwell with me. Do not be afraid, for whoever looks for my soul looks for your soul, for you are one needing protection with me.

- Saul now said; Listen, please, you son of Ahitub! To which he said; Here I am, my lord. (**1 Samuel 22:12**)

- And Saul went on to say to him; Why have you men conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, by your giving him bread and a sword, and there being an inquiry of God for him, to rise up against me as a liar in ambush the way it is this day? (**1 Samuel 22:13**)

- At this Ahimelech answered the king and said; And who among all your servants is like David, faithful, and the son-in-law of the king and a chief over your bodyguard and honored in your house? (**1 Samuel 22:14**)

- Is it today that I have started to inquire of God for him? It is unthinkable on my part! Do not let the king lay anything against his servant and against the entire house of my father, for in all this your servant did not know a thing small or great. (**1 Samuel 22:15**)

- But the king said; You will positively die, Ahimelech, you with all the house of your father. (**1 Samuel 22:16**)

- With that the king said to the runners stationed about him; Turn and put to death the priests of Yehowah, because their hand also is with David and because they knew that he was a runaway and they did not disclose it to my ear! And the servants of the king did not want to thrust out their hand to assault the priests of Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 22:17**)

- Finally the king said to Doeg; You turn and assault the priests! Immediately Doeg the Edomite turned and himself assaulted the priests and put to death on that day eighty-five men bearing an

ephod of linen. (1 Samuel 22:18)

- Even Nob the city of the priests he struck with the edge of the sword, man as well as woman, child as well as suckling and bull and ass and sheep with the edge of the sword. (1 Samuel 22:19)
- However, one son of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, whose name was **Abiathar**, made his escape and went running away to follow David. (1 Samuel 22:20)
- Then **Abiathar** told David; Saul has killed the priests of Yehowah. (1 Samuel 22:21)
- At this David said to **Abiathar**; I well knew on that day, because Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would without fail tell Saul. I personally have wronged every soul of the house of your father. (1 Samuel 22:22)
- Just dwell with me. Do not be afraid, for whoever looks for my soul looks for your soul, for you are one needing protection with me. (1 Samuel 22:23)
- Now it came about that when **Abiathar** the son of Ahimelech ran away to David at Keilah, there was an ephod that went down in his hand. (1 Samuel 23:6)
- **Abiathar** now traveled with David during the remainder of his outlawed state and served as priest for David's forces.
- Now it came about that when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech ran away to David at Keilah, there was an ephod that went down in his hand. (1 Samuel 23:6)
- This shows that Abiathar had brought with him an ephod, and while the priests in general wore an ephod of linen
- Finally the king said to Doeg; You turn and assault the priests! Immediately Doeg the Edomite turned and himself assaulted the priests and put to death on that day eighty-five men bearing an ephod of linen. (1 Samuel 22:18)
- And David got to know that Saul was fabricating mischief against him. Hence he said to **Abiathar** the priest; Do bring the ephod near. (1 Samuel 23:9)

- And David went on to say; O Yehowah the God of Israel, your servant has definitely heard that Saul is seeking to come to Keilah to lay the city in ruin on my account. (**1 Samuel 23:10**)
- Will the landowners of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down just as your servant has heard? O Yehowah the God of Israel, tell your servant, please. To this Yehowah said; He will come down. (**1 Samuel 23:11**)
- And David went on to say; Will the landowners of Keilah surrender me and my men into Saul's hand? In turn Yehowah said; They will do the surrendering. (**1 Samuel 23:12**)
- Indicate that this was apparently the ephod of **Abiathar's** father, the High Priest, containing the Urim and Thummim.

• During The Kingships Of David And Solomon

- It appears that when David finally gained the throne, **Abiathar** was made the High Priest. Some scholars suggest that, after High Priest Ahimelech's death, King Saul had Zadok installed as High Priest to replace Ahimelech, thereby not recognizing Abiathar, who was in the company of Saul's future successor, David.
- They hold that, following his ascension to the throne, David made **Abiathar** an associate High Priest along with Zadok. Such view is evidently taken due to the fact that Zadok and **Abiathar** are regularly mentioned together as though sharing a high position in the priesthood.
- Accordingly Zadok and **Abiathar** took the ark of the true God back to Jerusalem, and they continued to dwell there. (**2 Samuel 15:29**)
- Are not Zadok and **Abiathar** the priests there with you? And it must occur that everything that you may hear from the house of the king you should tell to Zadok and **Abiathar** the priests. (**2 Samuel 15:35**)
- Later Hushai said to Zadok and **Abiathar** the priests; This and that was the way that Ahithophel counseled Absalom and the older men of Israel, and this and that was the way that I myself counseled. (**2 Samuel 17:15**)

- As for King David, he sent to Zadok and **Abiathar** the priests, saying; Speak to the older men of Judah, saying; Why should you become the last one's to bring the king back to his house, when the word of all Israel itself has come to the king at his house? (**2 Samuel 19:11**)
- And Sheva was secretary, and Zadok and **Abiathar** were priests. (**2 Samuel 20:25**)
- And he came to have dealings with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with **Abiathar** the priest, and they began offering help as followers of Adonijah. (**1 Kings 1:7**)
- As for Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and Nathan the prophet and Shimei and Rei and the mighty men that belonged to David, they did not become involved with Adonijah. (**1 Kings 1:8**)
- For he has today gone down that he might sacrifice bulls and fatlings and sheep in great quantity and might invite all the sons of the king and the chiefs of the army and **Abiathar** the priest, and there they are eating and drinking before him and they keep saying; Let King Adonijah live! (**1 Kings 1:25**)
- But as for me your servant, me and Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and Solomon your servant he has not invited. (**1 Kings 1:26**)
- And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the army, and Zadok and **Abiathar** were priests. (**1 Kings 4:4**)
- Furthermore, David called Zadok and **Abiathar** the priests, and the Levites Uriel, Asaiah and Joel, Shemaiah and Eliel and Amminadab. (**1 Chronicles 15:11**)
- However, the inspired record nowhere mentions any appointment of Zadok as High Priest under King Saul. It is possible that Zadok's prominence is due to his being a seer or prophet, just as the prophet Samuel received greater mention in the divine record than the High Priest of his time.
- And the king went on to say to Zadok the priest; You are a seer, are you? Do return to the city in peace, and also Ahimaaz your

son and Jonathan the son of **Abiathar**, the two sons of you men, with you. (**2 Samuel 15:27**)

- The evidence indicates that **Abiathar** was the sole High Priest during David's reign and that Zadok then occupied a position secondary to him.
- So Solomon drove out **Abiathar** from serving as a priest of Yehowah, to fulfill Yehowah's word that he had spoken against the house of Eli in Shiloh. (**1 Kings 2:27**)
- Upon that the king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in place of him over the army, and Zadok the priest the king put in the place of **Abiathar**. (**1 Kings 2:35**)
- How he entered into the house of God, in the account about **Abiathar** the chief priest, and ate the loaves of presentation, which it is not lawful for anybody to eat except the priests, and he gave some also to the men who were with him? (**Mark 2:26**)
- The text at,
- And Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of **Abiathar** were priests, and Seraiah was secretary. (**2 Samuel 8:17**)
- Has caused some question in this regard, since it says that Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of **Abiathar** were priests then, but does not mention **Abiathar** as High Priest. Some suggest that the names of Ahimelech and **Abiathar** were transposed by a scribal error so that the text should read **Abiathar** the son of Ahimelech, even as it does in the **Syriac Peshitta**. However, the record at;
- And Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of **Abiathar** were priests, and Shavsha was secretary. (**1 Chronicles 18:16**)
- And David, and Zadok from the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech from the sons of Ithamar proceeded to make divisions of them for their office in their service. (**1 Chronicles 24:3**)
- Then Shemaiah the son of Nethanel the secretary of the Levites wrote them down before the king and the princes and Zadok the priest and Ahimelech the son of **Abiathar** and the heads of the fathers of the priests and of the Levites, one paternal house being picked out for Eleazar and one being picked out for

Ithamar. (1 Chronicles 24:6)

- And they themselves also proceeded to cast lots exactly as their brothers the sons of Aaron did before David the king and Zadok and Ahimelech and the heads of the paternal houses of the priests and of the Levites. As respects paternal houses, the head one was exactly as his younger brother. **(1 Chronicles 24:31)**
- Confirms the order of the names in this verse as found in the **Masoretic** text. It therefore appears more likely that Zadok and Ahimelech are mentioned simply as secondary priests under High Priest **Abiathar**, and that Abiathar's position was, in this instance, assumed to be understood.
- Then he left there before the ark of the covenant of Yehowah Asaph and his brothers to minister before the Ark constantly, according to the requirement of each day. **(1 Chronicles 16:37)**
- And Obed-edom and his brothers, sixty-eight, and Obed-edom the son of Jeduthun and Hosah as gatekeepers. **(1 Chronicles 16:38)**
- And Zadok the priest and his brothers the priests before the tabernacle of Yehowah on the high place that was at Gibeon. **(1 Chronicles 16:39)**
- To offer up burnt offerings to Yehowah on the altar of burnt offering constantly morning and evening and for all that is written in the Law of Yehowah that he laid in command upon Israel. **(1 Chronicles 16:40)**
- And the chieftain of the chieftains of the Levites was Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, who had the oversight of those taking care of the obligation to the holy place. **(Numbers 3:32)**
- **Abiathar**, along with other priests, shared in the privilege of bringing the ark of Yehowah up from Obed-edom's home to Jerusalem.
- Finally the report was made to King David, saying; Yehowah has blessed the house of Obed-edom and all that is his on account of the ark of the true God. At that David proceeded to go and bring the ark of the true God out of the house of Obed-edom up to the City of David with rejoicing. **(2 Samuel 6:12)**

- Furthermore, David called Zadok and **Abiathar** the priests, and the Levites Uriel, Asaiah and Joel, Shemaiah and Eliel and Amminadab. (**1 Chronicles 15:11**)
- And he went on to say to them; You are the heads of the fathers of the Levites. Sanctify yourselves, you and your brothers, and you must bring the ark of Yehowah the God of Israel up to the place that I have prepared for it. (**1 Chronicles 15:12**)
- In addition to being High Priest he was included in David's group of advisers.
- And Ahithophel was a counselor of the king, and Hushai the Archite was the king's companion. (**1 Chronicles 27:33**)
- And after Ahithophel there were Jehoiada the son of Benaiah and **Abiathar**, and Joab was chief of the army of the king. (**1 Chronicles 27:34**)
- Toward the latter part of his father David's reign, Absalom formed a conspiracy against him. **Abiathar** again stayed by David when circumstances forced the king to flee from Jerusalem. As part of a plan to thwart the counsel of traitorous Ahithophel, David's previous counselor, Abiathar and Zadok as loyal priests were sent back to Jerusalem to serve as liaison officers to keep David advised of his rebellious sons plans.
- And here also there were Zadok and with him all the Levites carrying the ark of the covenant of the true God, and they proceeded to set the ark of the true God down by **Abiathar** until all the people completed crossing over from the city. (**2 Samuel 15:24**)
- But the king said to Zadok; Take the ark of the true God back to the city. If I shall find favor in the eyes of Yehowah, he will also certainly bring me back and let me see it and its abiding place. (**2 Samuel 15:25**)
- But if this is what he should say; I have found no delight in you, here I am, let him do to me just as it is good in his eyes. (**2 Samuel 15:26**)
- And the king went on to say to Zadok the priest; You are a seer, are you? Do return to the city in peace, and also Ahimaaz your

son and Jonathan the son of **Abiathar**, the two sons of you men, with you. (2 Samuel 15:27)

- See, I am lingering by the fords of the wilderness until word comes from you men to inform me. (2 Samuel 15:28)
- Accordingly Zadok and **Abiathar** took the ark of the true God back to Jerusalem, and they continued to dwell there. (2 Samuel 15:29)
- And David was going up by the ascent of the Olives, weeping as he went up, with his head covered, and he was walking barefoot, and all the people that were with him covered each one his head, and they went up weeping as they went up. (2 Samuel 15:30)
- And to David the report was made, saying; Ahithophel himself is among those conspiring with Absalom. At this David said; Turn, please, the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness, O Yehowah! (2 Samuel 15:31)
- And it came about that when David himself came to the summit where people used to bow down to God, here to meet him was Hushai the Archite, with his robe ripped apart and dirt upon his head. (2 Samuel 15:32)
- However, David said to him; If you actually went across with me, you would then certainly become a load upon me. (2 Samuel 15:33)
- But if you return to the city and you actually say to Absalom, I am your servant, O King. I used to prove myself the servant of your father, even I at that time, but now even I am your servant, you must then frustrate the counsel of Ahithophel for me. (2 Samuel 15:34)
- Are not Zadok and **Abiathar** the priests there with you? And it must occur that everything that you may hear from the house of the king you should tell to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. (2 Samuel 15:35)
- Look! There with them are their two sons, Ahimaaz belonging to Zadok and Jonathan belonging to **Abiathar**, and by means of them you men must send to me everything that you may hear. (2 Samuel 15:36)

- Later Hushai said to Zadok and **Abiathar** the priests; This and that was the way that Ahithophel counseled Absalom and the older men of Israel, and this and that was the way that I myself counseled. (2 Samuel 17:15)
- After Absalom's death, **Abiathar** and Zadok served as intermediaries to arrange David's return to the capital.
- As for King David, he sent to Zadok and **Abiathar** the priests, saying; Speak to the older men of Judah, saying; Why should you become the last one's to bring the king back to his house, when the word of all Israel itself has come to the king at his house? (2 Samuel 19:11)
- My brothers you are, my bone and my flesh you are. So why should you become the last one's to bring the king back? (2 Samuel 19:12)
- And to Amasa you should say; Are you not my bone and my flesh? So may God do to me and so may he add to it if you will not become the army chief before me always instead of Joab. (2 Samuel 19:13)
- And he proceeded to bend the heart of all the men of Judah as one man, so that they sent word to the king; Come back, you and all your servants. (2 Samuel 19:14)
- In view of his faithful record of enduring many hardships in David's company during his time as a fugitive from Saul and again during Absalom's rebellion, and considering his having enjoyed David's confidence, friendship, and favor during some four decades, it is surprising to find **Abiathar** linking himself up with another son of David, Adonijah, in a later conspiracy for the throne.
- And he came to have dealings with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with **Abiathar** the priest, and they began offering help as followers of Adonijah. (1 Kings 1:7)
- Immediately King David said; You men, call for me Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. So they came in before the king. (1 Kings 1:32)
- And the king went on to say to them; Take with you the servants

- of your lord, and you must make Solomon my son ride upon the she-mule that belongs to me and lead him down to Gihon. (**1 Kings 1:33**)
- And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet must anoint him there as king over Israel, and you must blow the horn and say; Let King Solomon live! (**1 Kings 1:34**)
 - And you must come up following him, and he must come in and sit upon my throne, and he himself will be king in place of me, and him I shall have to commission to become leader over Israel and over Judah. (**1 Kings 1:35**)
 - At once Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said; Amen! Thus may Yehowah the God of my lord the king say. (**1 Kings 1:36**)
 - Just as Yehowah proved to be with my lord the king, so let him prove to be with Solomon, and may he make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David. (**1 Kings 1:37**)
 - And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and the Cherethites and the Pelethites proceeded to go down and make Solomon ride upon the she-mule of King David, and then brought him to Gihon. (**1 Kings 1:38**)
 - Zadok the priest now took the horn of oil out of the tent and anointed Solomon, and they began to blow the horn, and all the people broke out saying; Let King Solomon live! (**1 Kings 1:39**)
 - After that all the people came on up following him, and the people were playing on flutes and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by the noise of them. (**1 Kings 1:40**)
 - **Abiathar's** son Jonathan, who had previously served as a runner to bear news to David during Absalom's insurrection, now went to advise Adonijah of the plots miscarriage. King Solomon took no immediate action against **Abiathar**, but when evidence showed that the plot was still smoldering, he ordered Adonijah's and Joab's death and banished priest **Abiathar** from Jerusalem, saying; (**1 Kings 2:26**)
 - And to **Abiathar** the priest the king said; Go to Anathoth to your

fields! For you are deserving of death, but on this day I shall not put you to death, because you carried the ark of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah before David my father, and because you suffered affliction during all the time that my father suffered affliction. (**1 Kings 2:26**)

- Zadok was now assigned to replace **Abiathar** in his priestly position, and with this the office of High Priest passed again to the line of Aaron's son Eleazar, and the priestly line of the house of Eli came to a complete end, in fulfillment of the prophecy at;
- Look! Days are coming when I shall certainly chop off your arm and the arm of the house of your forefather, so that there will not come to be an old man in your house. (**1 Samuel 2:31**)
- So Solomon drove out **Abiathar** from serving as a priest of Yehowah, to fulfill Yehowah's word that he had spoken against the house of Eli in Shiloh. (**1 Kings 2:27**)
- On that day I shall carry out toward Eli all that I have said respecting his house, from beginning to end. (**1 Samuel 3:12**)
- And you must tell him that I am judging his house to time indefinite for the error that he has known, because his sons are calling down evil upon God, and he has not rebuked them. (**1 Samuel 3:13**)
- And that is why I have sworn to the house of Eli that the error of the house of Eli will not be brought to exemption from punishment by sacrifice or by offering to time indefinite. (**1 Samuel 3:14**)
- While the record later at;
- And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the army, and Zadok and **Abiathar** were priests. (**1 Kings 4:4**)
- Again refers to Zadok and **Abiathar** as priests of Solomon's reign, it is likely that **Abiathar** is listed only in an honorary capacity or in a historical sense. Some scholars suggest that Solomon, after demoting **Abiathar**, then assigned him to serve as Zadok's deputy, and that while one officiated on Mount Zion, where the Ark was kept, the other served at the tabernacle, which continued in Gibeon prior to the building of the temple.

- Then he left there before the ark of the covenant of Yehowah Asaph and his brothers to minister before the Ark constantly, according to the requirement of each day. (1 Chronicles 16:37)
- And Obed-edom and his brothers, sixty-eight, and Obed-edom the son of Jeduthun and Hosah as gatekeepers. (1 Chronicles 16:38)
- And Zadok the priest and his brothers the priests before the tabernacle of Yehowah on the high place that was at Gibeon. (1 Chronicles 16:39)
- To offer up burnt offerings to Yehowah on the altar of burnt offering constantly morning and evening and for all that is written in the Law of Yehowah that he laid in command upon Israel. (1 Chronicles 16:40)
- And to **Abiathar** the priest the king said; Go to Anathoth to your fields! For you are deserving of death, but on this day I shall not put you to death, because you carried the ark of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah before David my father, and because you suffered affliction during all the time that my father suffered affliction. (1 Kings 2:26)
- However, this shows that Solomon sent **Abiathar** to his fields in Anathoth, and while Anathoth was not far from Gibeon, Solomon's order indicates that **Abiathar** was being removed from any active participation in the priesthood.
- How he entered into the house of God, in the account about **Abiathar** the chief priest, and ate the loaves of presentation, which it is not lawful for anybody to eat except the priests, and he gave some also to the men who were with him? (Mark 2:26)
- Most translations have Jesus saying that David went into the house of God and ate the showbread when **Abiathar** was High Priest. Since **Abiathar's** father, Ahimelech, was the High Priest when that event took place, such translation would result in a historical error. It is noteworthy that a number of early manuscripts omit the above phrase, and it is not found in the corresponding passages at;
- How he entered into the house of God and they ate the loaves of presentation, something that it was not lawful for him to eat, nor

for those with him, but for the priests only? (**Matthew 12:4**)

- How he entered into the house of God and received the loaves of presentation and ate and gave some to the men with him, which it is lawful for no one to eat but for the priests only? (**Luke 6:4**)
- However, a similar **Greek** structure occurs at;
- But concerning the dead, that they are raised up, did you not read in the book of Moses, in the account about the thornbush, how God said to him, I am the God of Abraham and God of Isaac and God of Jacob? (**Mark 12:26**)
- But that the dead are raised up even Moses disclosed, in the account about the thornbush, when he calls Yehowah the God of Abraham and God of Isaac and God of Jacob. (**Luke 20:37**)
- And here many translations use the phrase in the passage about. **[RS, AT, JB]** So, it appears that;
- How he entered into the house of God, in the account about **Abiathar** the chief priest, and ate the loaves of presentation, which it is not lawful for anybody to eat except the priests, and he gave some also to the men who were with him? (**Mark 2:26**)
- Properly allows for the translation given in the **New World Translation**, which reads; How he entered into the house of God, **in the account** about **Abiathar** the chief priest. Since the account of the first exploits of **Abiathar** begins immediately following the record of David's entering the house of God to eat the showbread, and since **Abiathar** did later become Israel's High Priest in David's reign, this translation maintains the historical accuracy of the record.