

~ABIJAH 9 (351)

(A-bi'jah) [My Father Is Yehowah]

- A priest, or the forefather of one, who, in the days of Nehemiah, participated in the sealing of the **trustworthy arrangement** or resolution to Yehowah.
- These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua the son of Jozadak and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and Ezra the priest, the copyist. (**Nehemiah 12:26**)
- If this was the same **Abijah** listed as **No. 8**, as suggested by some, then he would have been more than 100 years old.
- One year from the start of the Exodus, came the time for setting up of the tabernacle and the installation of the priesthood **1512 B.C.E.** The entire nation assembled before the entrance of the tent of meeting for the installation ceremonies and saw Aaron and Abihu and his brothers, washed and turbaned, receive the anointing as priests of God to represent the nation before Him.
- Thereafter the newly installed priests remained at the entrance of the tent of meeting for seven days to complete their installation and, as Moses said; **To fill your hand with power.** And Aaron and his sons proceeded to do all the things that Yehowah had commanded by means of Moses.
- And Yehowah proceeded to speak to Moses, saying; (**Leviticus 8:1**)
- Take Aaron and his sons with him and the garments and the anointing oil and the bull of the sin offering and the two rams and the basket of unfermented cakes. (**Leviticus 8:2**)
- And make all the assembly congregate at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (**Leviticus 8:3**)
- Moses then brought Aaron's sons near and clothed them with robes and girded them with sashes and wrapped the headgear upon them, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Leviticus 8:13**)

- Then he led up the bull of the sin offering and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the bull of the sin offering. **(Leviticus 8:14)**
- And Moses proceeded to slaughter it and take the blood and put it with his finger upon the horns of the altar round about and purify the altar from sin, but the rest of the blood he poured at the base of the altar, that he might sanctify it to make atonement upon it. **(Leviticus 8:15)**
- After that he took all the fat that was upon the intestines, and the appendage of the liver and the two kidneys and their fat and Moses made them smoke upon the altar. **(Leviticus 8:16)**
- And he had the bull and its skin and its flesh and its dung burned with fire outside the camp, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. **(Leviticus 8:17)**
- He now brought the ram of the burnt offering near, and Aaron and his sons then laid their hands upon the head of the ram. **(Leviticus 8:18)**
- After that Moses slaughtered it and sprinkled the blood round about upon the altar. **(Leviticus 8:19)**
- And he cut up the ram into its pieces, and Moses proceeded to make the head and the pieces and the suet smoke. **(Leviticus 8:20)**
- And the intestines and the shanks he washed with water, and Moses then made the entire ram smoke upon the altar. It was a burnt offering for a restful odor. It was an offering made by fire to Yehowah, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. **(Leviticus 8:21)**
- Then he brought the second ram, the ram of the installation, near, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the ram's head. **(Leviticus 8:22)**
- After that Moses slaughtered it and took some of its blood and put it upon the lobe of Aaron's right ear and upon the thumb of his right hand and upon the big toe of his right foot. **(Leviticus 8:23)**

- **Next Moses brought Aaron's sons near and put some of the blood upon the lobe of their right ear and upon the thumb of their right hand and upon the big toe of their right foot, but Moses sprinkled the rest of the blood round about upon the altar. ([Leviticus 8:24](#))**
- **Then he took the fat and the fat tail and all the fat that was upon the intestines, and the appendage of the liver and the two kidneys and their fat and the right leg. ([Leviticus 8:25](#))**
- **And out of the basket of unfermented cakes that was before Yehowah he took one unfermented ring-shaped cake and one ring-shaped cake of oiled bread and one wafer. He then placed them upon the fatty pieces and the right leg. ([Leviticus 8:26](#))**
- **After that he put all of them upon the palms of Aaron and the palms of his sons and began to wave them to and fro as a wave offering before Yehowah. ([Leviticus 8:27](#))**
- **Then Moses took them off their palms and made them smoke upon the altar on top of the burnt offering. They were an installation sacrifice for a restful odor. It was an offering made by fire to Yehowah. ([Leviticus 8:28](#))**
- **And Moses proceeded to take the breast and to wave it to and fro as a wave offering before Yehowah. From the installation ram it became the portion for Moses, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. ([Leviticus 8:29](#))**
- **After that Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood that was upon the altar and spattered it upon Aaron and his garments and upon his sons and the garments of his sons with him. Thus he sanctified Aaron and his garments and his sons and the garments of his sons with him. ([Leviticus 8:30](#))**
- **Then Moses said to Aaron and his sons; Boil the flesh at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and there is where you will eat it and the bread that is in the installation basket, just as I was given the command, saying; Aaron and his sons will eat it. ([Leviticus 8:31](#))**
- **And what is left over of the flesh and the bread you will burn with fire. ([Leviticus 8:32](#))**
- **And you must not go out from the entrance of the tent of**

meeting for seven days, until the day of fulfilling the days of your installation, because it will take seven days to fill your hand with power. ([Leviticus 8:33](#))

- Just as it has been done this day, Yehowah has commanded to be done so as to make atonement for you. ([Leviticus 8:34](#))
- And you will stay at the entrance of the tent of meeting day and night for seven days, and you must keep the obligatory watch of Yehowah, that you may not die, for so I have been commanded. ([Leviticus 8:35](#))
- And Aaron and his sons proceeded to do all the things that Yehowah had commanded by means of Moses. ([Leviticus 8:36](#))
- On the eighth day Aaron began to officiate, with Abihu and his brothers assisting.
- And it came about on the eighth day that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the older men of Israel. ([Leviticus 9:1](#))
- Then he said to Aaron; Take for yourself a young calf for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering, sound ones, and present them before Yehowah. ([Leviticus 9:2](#))
- But to the sons of Israel you will speak, saying; Take a male goat for a sin offering and a calf and a young ram, each a year old, sound ones, for a burnt offering. ([Leviticus 9:3](#))
- And a bull and a ram for communion sacrifices to sacrifice them before Yehowah, and a grain offering moistened with oil, because today is when Yehowah will certainly appear to you. ([Leviticus 9:4](#))
- Accordingly they took what Moses had commanded before the tent of meeting. Then the whole assembly came near and stood before Yehowah. ([Leviticus 9:5](#))
- And Moses went on to say; This is the thing that Yehowah has commanded you should do, that the glory of Yehowah may appear to you. ([Leviticus 9:6](#))
- Then Moses said to Aaron; Go near to the altar and render up your sin offering and your burnt offering, and make atonement in

your own behalf and in behalf of your house, and render up the offering of the people and make atonement in their behalf, just as Yehowah has commanded. (Leviticus 9:7)

- **Aaron immediately went near to the altar and slaughtered the calf of the sin offering that was for him. (Leviticus 9:8)**
- **Then Aaron's sons presented the blood to him and he dipped his finger in the blood and put it upon the horns of the altar, and the rest of the blood he poured at the base of the altar. (Leviticus 9:9)**
- **And he made the fat and the kidneys and the appendage of the liver from the sin offering smoke upon the altar, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (Leviticus 9:10)**
- **And he burned the flesh and the skin with fire outside the camp. (Leviticus 9:11)**
- **Then he slaughtered the burnt offering and Aaron's sons handed him the blood and he sprinkled it round about upon the altar. (Leviticus 9:12)**
- **And they handed him the burnt offering in its pieces and the head, and he proceeded to make them smoke upon the altar. (Leviticus 9:13)**
- **Further, he washed the intestines and the shanks and made them smoke upon the burnt offering on the altar. (Leviticus 9:14)**
- **He now went presenting the offering of the people and took the goat of the sin offering that was for the people and slaughtered it and made an offering for sin with it as with the first. (Leviticus 9:15)**
- **Then he presented the burnt offering and handled it according to the regular procedure. (Leviticus 9:16)**
- **He next presented the grain offering and filled his hand with some of it and made it smoke upon the altar, apart from the burnt offering of the morning. (Leviticus 9:17)**
- **After that he slaughtered the bull and the ram of the communion sacrifice that was for the people. Then Aaron's sons handed him**

**the blood and he sprinkled it round about upon the altar.
(Leviticus 9:18)**

- **As for the fatty pieces of the bull and the fat tail of the ram and the fat covering and the kidneys and the appendage of the liver.
(Leviticus 9:19)**
- **They now placed the fatty pieces upon the breasts, after which he made the fatty pieces smoke upon the altar. (Leviticus 9:20)**
- **But the breasts and the right leg Aaron waved to and fro as a wave offering before Yehowah, just as Moses had commanded.
(Leviticus 9:21)**
- **Then Aaron raised his hands toward the people and blessed them and came down from rendering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the communion sacrifices. (Leviticus 9:22)**
- **Finally Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting and came out and blessed the people. Then Yehowah's glory appeared to all the people. (Leviticus 9:23)**
- **And fire came out from before Yehowah and began consuming the burnt offering and the fatty pieces upon the altar. When all the people got to see it, they broke out into shouting and went falling upon their faces. (Leviticus 9:24)**
- **They witnessed the glorious manifestation of God's presence. But, evidently before the day was over, the account says that 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. At this a fire came out from before Yehowah and consumed them, so that they died before Yehowah.**
- **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)**

- Their corpses were carried outside the camp by Aaron's cousins at Moses instruction. Their father and remaining brothers were instructed by God to refrain from any display of grief over their being thus cut off from the congregation.
- 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**)
- Immediately thereafter God gave Aaron a warning against the use of intoxicating liquor by him or his sons at the time of serving at the tabernacle, **that you may not die**. Commenting on;
- 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**)
- The **Pentateuch and Haftorahs** says; **The Rabbis connected the incident of Nadab and Abihu with this injunction against intoxicating liquors before officiating in the Sanctuary.** (Edited by J. H. Hertz, London, 1972, p. 446). So, the matter of intoxication may have been involved in their grave sin, but the actual cause of their death was the violation of God's requirement for pure worship by their offering illegitimate fire, which he had not prescribed for them.
- Abihu enjoyed great honor from God and outstanding prominence before all the nation for a short while, but, whether from ambition, an inflated ego, or due to a trifling attitude toward God's instructions, his privileges were short-lived, and he died childless.

- **And these were the names of Aaron's sons, the firstborn Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. (Numbers 3:2)**
- **These were the names of Aaron's sons, the anointed priests whose hands had been filled with power to act as priests. (Numbers 3:3)**
- **However, Nadab and Abihu died before Yehowah when they offered illegitimate fire before Yehowah in the wilderness of Sinai, and they did not come to have any sons. But Eleazar and Ithamar continued to act as priests along with Aaron their father. (Numbers 3:4)**
- **Then there were born to Aaron Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. (Numbers 26:60)**
- **But Nadab and Abihu died for their presenting illegitimate fire before Yehowah. (Numbers 26:61)**
- **Now the sons of Aaron had their divisions. The sons of Aaron were Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. (1 Chronicles 24:1)**
- **However, Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and they did not happen to have any sons, but Eleazar and Ithamar continued to act as priests. (1 Chronicles 24:2)**