



*Eleazar
Learned From Tragedy
To Be
Faithful*

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Overview:

ELEAZAR, LEARNED FROM TRADGEY, TO BE FAITHFUL

An understudy must know the lead role completely and be willing to step into it at a moment's notice. Eleazar was an excellent understudy, well trained for his eventual leading role.

However, his moments in the spotlight were painful. On one occasion, he watched his two older brothers' burn to death for failing to take Gods holiness seriously. Later, as his father was dying, he was made high priest, surely one of the most responsible—and therefore potentially most stressful—positions in Israel.

An understudy benefits from having both the script and a human model of the role. Ever since childhood, Eleazar had been able to observe Moses and Aaron. Now he could learn from watching Joshua. In addition, he had Gods laws to guide him as he worked as priest and adviser to Joshua.

Eleazar succeeded his father, Aaron, as high priest. He completed his father's work by helping lead the people into the Promised Land

Eleazar teamed up with Joshua and acted as God's spokesman to the people.
Acted as Gods spokesman to the people

Eleazar was the son of Aaron

Exodus 6:23

Aaron married Elisheba, the daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon, and she bore him Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

Moses and Aaron were Israelites; raised up unto them of their brethren, as Christ also should be, who was to be the Prophet and Priest, the Redeemer and Lawgiver of the people of Israel.

Moses returns to his narrative, and repeats the charge God had given him to deliver his message to Pharaoh, and his objection against it.

Those who have spoken unadvisedly with their lips ought to reflect upon it with regret, as Moses seems to do here.

It is profitable to place no confidence in ourselves, all our sufficiency must be in the Lord.

We never can trust ourselves too little, or our God too much. I can do nothing by myself, said the apostle, but I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Sons of Aaron set apart as God's priest

Exodus 28:1

"Your brother, Aaron, and his sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar, will be set apart from the common people. They will be my priests and will minister to me.

Hitherto the heads of families were the priests, and offered sacrifices; but now this office was confined to the family of Aaron only; and so continued till the gospel dispensation.

The holy garments not only distinguished the priests from the people, but were emblems of that holy conduct which should ever be the glory and beauty, the mark of the ministers of religion, without which their persons and ministrations will be had in contempt.

They also typified the glory of the Divine majesty, and the beauty of complete holiness, which rendered Jesus Christ the great High Priest. But our adorning under the gospel, is not to be of gold and costly array, but the garments of salvation, the robe of righteousness

Married a daughter of Putiel, who bore him Phinehas

Exodus 6:25

Eleazar son of Aaron married one of the daughters of Putiel, and she bore him Phinehas.

After the death of Nadab and Abihu is made chief of the tribe of Levi

Numbers 3:32

Eleazar the priest, Aaron's son, was the chief administrator over all the Levites, with special responsibility for the oversight of the sanctuary.

The Levites were in three classes, according to the sons of Levi; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari; and these were subdivided into families.

The posterity of Moses were not at all honoured or privileged, but stood upon the level with other Levites; thus it was plain, that Moses did not seek the advancement of his own family, or to secure any honours to it.

The tribe of Levi was by much the least of all the tribes. God's chosen are but a little flock in comparison with the world.

Duties of Eleazar

Numbers 4:16

"Eleazar son of Aaron the priest will be responsible for the oil of the lampstand, the fragrant incense, the daily grain offering, and the anointing oil. In fact, the supervision of the entire Tabernacle and everything in it will be Eleazar's responsibility."

The Kohathites were to carry the holy things of the tabernacle. All the holy things were to be covered; not only for security and respect, but to keep them from being seen.

This not only marked the reverence due to holy things, but the mystery of the things signified by those types, and the darkness of the dispensation.

But now, through Christ, the case is altered, and we are encouraged to come boldly to the throne of grace.

Eleazar succeeds Aaron as high priest

Numbers 20:26-28

There you will remove Aaron's priestly garments and put them on Eleazar, his son. Aaron will die there and join his ancestors."

So Moses did as the Lord commanded. The three of them went up Mount Hor together as the whole community watched.

At the summit, Moses removed the priestly garments from Aaron and put them on Eleazar, Aaron's son. Then Aaron died there on top of the mountain, and Moses and Eleazar went back down.

God bids Aaron prepare to die. There is something of displeasure in these orders.

Aaron must not enter Canaan, because he had failed in his duty at the waters of strife. There is much of mercy in them. Aaron, though he dies for his transgression, dies with ease, and in honour.

He is gathered to his people, as one who dies in the arms of Divine grace. There is much significance in these orders.

Aaron must not enter Canaan, to show that the Levitical priesthood could make nothing perfect; that must be done by bringing in a better hope.

Aaron submits, and dies in the method and manner appointed; and, for aught that appears, with as much cheerfulness.

It was a great satisfaction to Aaron to see his son, who was dear to him, preferred; and his office preserved and secured: especially, to see in this a figure of Christ's everlasting priesthood.

A good man would desire, if it were the will of God, not to outlive his usefulness. Why should we covet to continue any longer in this world, than while we may do some service in it for God and our generation?

Deut. 10:6

"The people of Israel set out from the wells of the people of Jaakan and traveled to Moserah, where Aaron died and was buried. His son Eleazar became the high priest in his place.

Eleazar assists Moses in the census

Numbers 26:63

So these are the census figures of the people of Israel as prepared by Moses and Eleazar the priest on the plains of Moab beside the Jordan River, across from Jericho.

None Remaining of the First Numbering

The execution of the sentence passed on the murmurers, [Numbers 14:29](#), and is observable. There was not one man numbered now, who was numbered then, but Caleb and Joshua.

Here appeared the righteousness of God, and his faithfulness to his threatenings.

Especially observe the truth of God, in performing his promise to Caleb and Joshua.

We should renew our repentance, seek forgiveness, value the salvation of Christ, remember how frail we are, prepare for the summons of death, and fill up our days in serving our generation according to the will of God.

Eleazar with Joshua, divides Palestine

Numbers 34:17

"These are the men who are to divide the land among the people: Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun.

God here appoints men to divide the land to them. So sure must they feel of victory and success while God fought for them, that the persons are named who should be entrusted with the dividing of the land.

Death and burial of Eleazar

Joshua 24:33

Eleazar son of Aaron also died. He was buried in the hill country of Ephraim, in the town of Gibeah, which had been given to his son Phinehas.

Joseph died in Egypt, but gave commandment concerning his bones, that they should not rest in their grave till Israel had rest in the land of promise. Notice also the death and burial of Joshua, and of Eleazar the chief priest.

The most useful men, having served their generation, according to the will of God, one after another, fall asleep and see corruption.

But Jesus, having spent and ended his life on earth more effectually than either Joshua or Joseph, rose from the dead, and saw no corruption.

And the redeemed of the Lord shall inherit the kingdom he prepared for them from the foundation of the world.

They will say in admiration of the grace of Jesus, Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Lessons from his life

Concentrating on our present challenges and responsibilities is the best way to prepare for what God has planned for our future. God's desire is consistent obedience throughout our lives.

Key verses:

“At Mount Hor, near the border of Edom, the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, . . . Get Aaron and his son Eleazar and take them up Mount Hor. Remove Aarons garments and put them on his son Eleazar ” (Numbers 20:23-26).

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Verse Concept: Matthew Henry's Concept Bible Commentary.