

Eleazar

Any understudy must know the lead role completely and be willing to step into it at a moment's notice.

Eleazar was an excellent understudy of Aaron, well trained for his eventual leading role.

Eleazar was consecrated with his three brothers into the service of the Creator God as priests, [Leviticus 9:1-24].

After the death of Nadab and Abihu, [Leviticus 10:1-2] Aaron and his two remaining sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, continued to exercise priestly functions, [Numbers 3:2-4].

Eleazar was set over the Levites, [Numbers 3:32] and to him was assigned the care of the sanctuary and other priestly offices, [Numbers 4:16; Numbers 16:37-40; Numbers 19:3].

On the death of Aaron, Eleazar took over the office of high priest, [Deuteronomy 10:6].

Eleazar completed his father's work by helping lead the people into the Promised Land, teamed up with Joshua.

The relationship between Joshua and Eleazar is shown clearly by what the Creator God commanded Moses.

Numbers 27:18-23 [New King James] *“And the LORD said to Moses: ‘Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the LORD for him by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him, all the congregation.’ So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him, just as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.”*

Eleazar was to be Joshua's counsellor in all that he did to lead the nation.

The functions of Eleazar as high priest were not confined to the service in the tabernacle.

Eleazar assisted Moses in numbering the people, [Numbers 26:1-4].

Eleazar assisted in the important matter of dividing up the land among the tribes of Israel, [Numbers 32:2; Numbers 34:17].

Eleazar then assisted Joshua in the fulfilment of this task, [Joshua 14:1; Joshua 19:51].

When the question of female inheritance arose this was brought before Moses and Eleazar for a decision, [Numbers 27:1-11], this was carried into effect by Eleazar with Joshua, [Joshua 17:3-4].

When Moses sent the people to war against the Midianites, Phinehas, Eleazar's son went with them, [Deuteronomy 20:2-4] showing that the Creator God was with them.

Joshua 24:33 [New King James] *“And Eleazar the son of Aaron died. They buried him in a hill belonging to Phinehas his son, which was given to him in the mountains of Ephraim.”*

A very brief statement about a man who had been used by the Creator God in many ways during his life.

What can we learn from the recorded life of Eleazar?

Concentrating on our present challenges and responsibilities is the best way to prepare for what the Creator God has planned for us in the future.

The Creator God's desire is consistent obedience throughout our lives as we saw in the life of Eleazar.