

Exegetical Notes, Numbers 20:22-29

"Aaron Dies"

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NUMBERS 20:22-29

Verses 22-26

²² *The whole Israelite community set out from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor.*

²³ *At Mount Hor, near the border of Edom, the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,*

²⁴ *"Aaron will be gathered to his people. He will not enter the land I give the Israelites, because both of you rebelled against my command at the waters of Meribah. ²⁵ Get Aaron and his son Eleazar and take them up Mount Hor.*

²⁶ *Remove Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar, for Aaron will be gathered to his people; he will die there."*

- At Mount Hor, on the border of Edom, Moses was told that his brother Aaron would die. According to Numbers 33:38, this happened in the fortieth year after Israel left Egypt. Aaron was 133 years old when he died.
- The text asserts that Aaron's death was due to sin, defined as rebellion against God at Meribah. See verses 12-13.
- Aaron's garments are those which set him apart as Israel's high priest. They are to be removed prior to Aaron's death and Eleazar, his son, is to put them on. This is to show the people that power has been passed from Aaron to Eleazar. There was to be an unbroken chain of command in God's house.

Verses 27-29

Moses did as the LORD commanded: They went up Mount Hor in the sight of the whole community. ²⁸ Moses removed Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar. And Aaron died there on top of the mountain. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain, ²⁹ and when the whole community learned that Aaron had died, all the Israelites mourned for him thirty days.

- Moses did exactly as God commanded him to do.
- Authority was transferred from Aaron to Eleazar.
- Aaron died on Mount Hor.
- Israel mourned Aaron's death for 30 days.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Edom Rejects Israel*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)