

Participant Notes for The Covenants of the Priesthood: Part 1

Aaron was the firstborn son of Amram, the son of Kohath the son of Levi.

Genesis 46:11 NKJV 11 The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

God sent Aaron out to meet Moses at Mt. Sinai.

Exodus 4:14-16 NKJV 14 So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. 15 "Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. 16 "So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.

God told Moses; Moses told Aaron; Aaron spoke the words to the people and to Pharaoh.

As a firstborn, Aaron would be one of those who God took as His own at the first Passover.

Numbers 3:13 NKJV 13 "because all the firstborn are Mine. On the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They shall be Mine: I am the LORD."

Before the sin of the golden calf, God selected Aaron and his sons to become the first priests.

Exodus 28:1 NKJV 1 "Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

The children of Israel went to Aaron and demanded that he build them gods.

Exodus 32:1-6 NKJV 1 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "**Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.**" 2 And Aaron said to them, "Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." 3 "So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. 4 And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" 5 So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron

made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD." 6 Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

The calf was built as a replacement for Moses not God.

Gods: Elohim: #430. אֱלֹהִים which means gods, supreme God, judges or leaders.

Elohim: #430. אֱלֹהִים plural of 433; gods in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates; and sometimes as a superlative:--angels, judges

Hur, who was appointed by Moses along with Aaron, was missing from the account.

Exodus 24:13-14 NKJV 13 So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up to the mountain of God. 14 And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them."

Rashi: speculates that Hur had been killed by the people.

Or HaChaim: Aaron was the fashioner of the calf only in that he threw the metal in the fire.

Discussion Question: In what ways were Aaron and Hur both Moses' second in command?

The sages attribute the golden calf to the mixed multitude. "They" proclaimed, "This is **your** god O Israel."

Even Aaron's pronouncement about a feast is an attempt to redirect the people when he proclaims a feast the Yahweh.

When Moses comes down from Mt. Sinai and sees the golden calf and the extent of the immoral acts they performed in worship of the calf, Moses broke the tablets of the Ten Words and destroyed the calf.

Exodus 32:19-20 NKJV 19 So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. 20 Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it.

Discussion Question: How is this like the test that a jealous husband may require of his wife that he suspects of adultery in Numbers 5:11-28?

Aaron had been unable to restrain the people, but Moses rallied the Levites to his side.

Exodus 32:26-28 NKJV 26 then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the LORD'S side-come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. 27 And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.'" 28 So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.

Because on a small number were killed (3,000 out of 600,00), the sages say that only a small portion of the people participated in the worship of the golden calf.

The golden calf that was originally created to replace Moses was destroyed. God tells Moses the Moses will remain the leader and God's Angel, not some created "god" will go before them!

Exodus 32:33-34 NKJV 33 And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book. 34 "Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin."

Before setting out for the Promised Land, God will take the Levites in place of the firstborn of Israel to be His exclusive servants.

Numbers 3:11-13 NKJV 11 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 12 "Now behold, I Myself have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the children of Israel. Therefore the Levites shall be Mine, 13 "because all the firstborn are Mine. On the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They shall be Mine: I am the LORD."

This act places the tribe of Levi in the role of the firstborn excluding the priesthood. The Levites were a protective barrier between God and the people.

Numbers 1:52-54 NKJV 52 "The children of Israel shall pitch their tents, everyone by his own camp, everyone by his own standard, according to their armies; 53 "but the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the Testimony, that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the children of Israel; and the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony." 54 Thus the children of Israel did; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so they did.

This special role for the Levites will set the stage for a challenge of Aaron's right to the priesthood. Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi will challenge God's covenant with Aaron.