

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Exodus 4:10-17**.
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (8-28-94).
- C. God had called Moses to be the leader of His people:
 - 1. Moses began to make excuses:
 - a. "Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh...?" (3:11).
 - b. "...when they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say unto them?" (3:13).
 - c. "...but, behold, they will not believe me..." (4:1).
 - d. "...Oh my Lord, I am not eloquent..." (4:10).
 - e. "...Oh my Lord, please send someone to do it." (4:13).
 - 2. The Lord is angry when we make excuses (4:14). God did not accept his excuses.
 - 3. The consequences of the excuses were that Moses still had to lead God's people out of Egypt, but share the glory of it.
 - a. God could have enabled Moses to do it.
 - b. Moses was weak in faith and self confidence at this time.
- D. Since Moses would not do as God asked, God told him to take his brother Aaron with him:
 - 1. Aaron was Amram's firstborn. Their sister Miriam was older but girls did not count as a firstborn.
 - 2. Aaron was three years older than Moses.
 - 3. God said that He knew that Aaron was a good speaker.
- E. Aaron had a very difficult job:
 - 1. He was the spokesman and assistant for his younger brother.
 - 2. He was not perfect, but he was faithful in general.
 - 3. God selected Aaron to be the first high priest.

I. AARON WAS THE SPOKESMAN AND ASSISTANT FOR HIS YOUNGER BROTHER.

- A. He was three years older than Moses (7:7):
 - 1. It is often difficult to work as an assistant.
 - a. It is said that the most difficult instrument to play is "second fiddle."
 - b. Some claim that the most difficult job in Washington is the Vice-President.
(Not a President guilty of vice, but the assistant to the president.) - He has to support the policies of the President, but the President has the power and glory.
 - 2. But Aaron seems to accept the role w/o conflict.
 - 3. Working in the shadow of a younger brother would increase the possibility of conflict.
- B. God describes Aaron as a good speaker (4:14).
 - 1. There seems to be little basis for the profuse elaboration of some commentaries on what great eloquence that Aaron had that his reputation had even reached heaven.
 - 2. There's no indication that Aaron had an education beyond what his mother gave him.
 - 3. Moses was educated in all of the learning of the Egyptians, there is no reason to believe that Aaron was likewise.
- C. Aaron seems willing to accept his role and to follow directions:
 - 1. God told Moses that Aaron would follow directions (4:16).
 - 2. Aaron does not hesitate when God tells him to meet Moses in the wilderness (4:27).
 - 3. He also said what Moses told him (4:30).
- D. When Pharaoh rebelled at God's demand that he let His people go to worship Him in the wilderness, Aaron performed the miracles:
 - 1. It may have seemed to some that the power was in Aaron rather than Moses.
 - 2. He would have, at least, shared the glory and respect, as well as Pharaoh's wrath.

3. When the burdens increased, the Israelites, may have equally blamed Moses and Aaron.
4. Both Moses and Aaron continued to speak boldly before Pharaoh and perform miracles.

II. AARON WAS NOT PERFECT BUT HE WAS STILL FAITHFUL TO GOD.

- A. At times he seemed weak and easily led aside by others:
 1. At Mt. Sinai while Moses was on the mount for 40 days receiving the Law, he listened to the people (32:1-6).
 2. Later, he seemed to follow his sister, Miriam in speaking against Moses (Num. 12:1-3):
 - a. We believe that Miriam took the lead because her name is given first.
 - b. Also, her punishment of leprosy was greater than the rebuke that God gave Aaron.
 3. Aaron was punished with Moses for not glorifying God at the waters of Meribah at Kadesh when they did not glorify God:
 - a. God told them to speak to the rock (Num. 20:8).
 - b. Moses said that "WE will give you water," and struck it (Num. 20:10-11).
- B. But Aaron seemed to genuinely repent and glorify God after he sinned.
 1. After making the golden calf, Moses called for those on the Lord's side to strike those who sinned (32:26-28).
 - a. They struck down the Israelites and 3,000 died that day.
 - b. "The sons of Levi did according to the word of the Lord..." (32:28).
 2. When Miriam was made leprous, Aaron pleaded with Moses to pray to God for her healing and confessed, "Oh my lord! Please do not lay this sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned" (Num. 12:11).
 3. Aaron and Moses were not allowed to enter the promised land because of their sin at the waters of Meribah, but they were still blessed as righteous because God forgave their sin.

III. AARON WAS SELECTED TO BE THE FIRST HIGH PRIEST.

- A. Aaron and his sons were selected to be priests of God for the nation (28:1-2).
 1. He and his sons were inducted into the priestly offices w/great sacrifices and as a solemn occasion (Lev. 8:1-3).
 2. Leviticus describes the occasion and concludes with the affirmation of obedience (Lev. 8:36).
- B. Other Levites and leaders of other tribes challenged God's selection of Aaron as High Priest in the rebellion of Korah, Dathan and Abiram (Num. 16).
 1. Korah was a Levite, Dathan and Abiram were from Reuben (Num. 16:1).
 2. Also, there were 250 leaders of Israel, "men of renown" who joined the revolt (Num. 16:3).
 3. God commanded that each man bring a censer with fire, and incense to appear before the Lord and He would show whom He had selected as priest (Num. 16:16-17).
 4. God caused the ground to open and devour Korah, Dathan and Abiram, with their families' tents and possessions.
 5. He sent fire from heaven and burned up the 250 leaders who had rebelled.
- C. God then commanded that a leader from each tribe appear before the tabernacle with his rod, and leave the rod before the Lord in the tabernacle during the night (Num. 17:8). Thus God confirmed the selection of Aaron and the tribe of Levi for priestly functions.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Aaron was a great man of God, though overshadowed by his younger brother, Moses.
- B. He did not show dedication and complete devotion of Moses, but neither did anyone else.
- C. It is often more difficult to work in the shadow of a great leader than to lead in the limelight.
- D. The greatest leaders are servants, and they are at their greatest when they are the most humble, while

shallow leaders are arrogant, self-centered and egotistical.

- E. Aaron is also another example of how God can use men who are not perfect to do His work provided they have a good heart and will acknowledge and turn from their sins.
- F. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.