

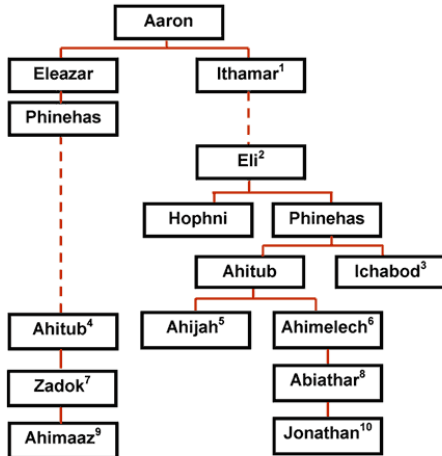


Happy Father's Day

Don't be afraid to make this journey; remember when God cared for you in Egypt & in the wilderness all the way to this place - JUST LIKE a father carries his son. (Deut. 1:29-31)

ELI

Genealogy of the Priests in David's Time



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I LIKE TO STUDY THE MEANINGS OF NAMES.

Your name carries significance which contains a legacy which will impact your generation. Your name reveals your identity, your self-esteem, your self-awareness. It sets you apart from others. Your name is a perfectly-fitted garment which, like skin, grows over and covers you.

God said it in Proverbs 22:1, "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches."

In Hebrew, the name "Eli" means "The high & lofty one", "to lift up". It could also mean "my God".

Some Jews actually called God "Eli" or "Eloi". Jesus did on the cross: Matthew 27:46 - "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani"? ("My God. My God, why have you forsaken Me")

1. Jewish parents took great care when choosing names for their children. There is no mention of Eli's parents, but they probably faced two things:
 - a. Yes No They wanted God's best for their son, Eli.
 - b. Yes No They may have endured past family pain & drama.
2. Yes No Did you feel as you grew up that your parents wanted only the best for your life?
3. If the answer to #2 is "no", how did you come to that conclusion?

This gets complicated because what seems like the "best" to your parents may not be the "best" for you. My parents came from a long line of isolated & wounded people. Their goal through life was not to enjoy life to its best nor make a difference to those around them; they simply wanted to survive.

4. "Survive" means "to tread water & keep your head above the surface".

Yes No Has your life been more surviving than enjoying?
5. Which one of the following phrases describes you?
 - a. **Surviving** in life is simply living life; **Thriving** in life means loving life.
6. Yes No Is it possible that a person who grows up just "surviving" will be able "thrive" later in his life?

I grew up in a middle-class family; I never lacked for my basic needs; we had a nice house and a good car. My parents protected me; they were good people. I had their last name & they made me feel that I had a place to be.

7. The paragraph above sounds good. What is missing? _____

SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET



Skeleton #1 – The Highly-Achieving Family

Eli the Priest came from this type of background.

1. Look at the family tree chart at the top of the previous page. Who is Eli's famous ancestor (past relative)? _____
 2. ___Yes ___No Being a relative to the brother of Moses could make you feel pretty proud.
 3. ___Yes ___No Being compared to your "Godly" ancestors & be expected to live that way could cause you stress.
 4. Were you ever compared to a family member ("why can't just be like your sister, Julie"?) Share some thoughts.
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5. Let's face it. A high-achieving family could go three ways. Check what you agree with.
- a. ___ The high-achieving people in your family are your parents or guardians. Everything is about their jobs, their success, their pleasure, their future.
 - b. ___ Your parents expect you to get involved in whatever they want you to, and they expect success, dedication and no giving-up whether you want to participate, whether you have been asked, or whether you are any good at it.
 - c. ___ Your parents have no interest in what you are interested in, and are not guiding you in any direction, or encouraging you at all.
6. Which one did you face? a. ___ b. ___ c. ___

In my case, my parents were very busy surviving, and they did not do much outside the home. They did not stand in my way, but I pursued my activities myself regardless of my parents' involvement. It was lonely.

THE TRIBE OF LEVI IN ISRAEL

Gen. 29:34 - Again Rachel conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons. Therefore, his name was Levi."

7. In these Bible days, having children was not necessarily motivated by romance. What was Rachel's reason? _____
8. Some families have ancestors who have made poor choices which have filtered down to affect the family today. Does your family have such events. Explain.
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Skeleton #2 – Dark & Mysterious Times in the Family

Leviticus 21:6 *The priests will be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God.*

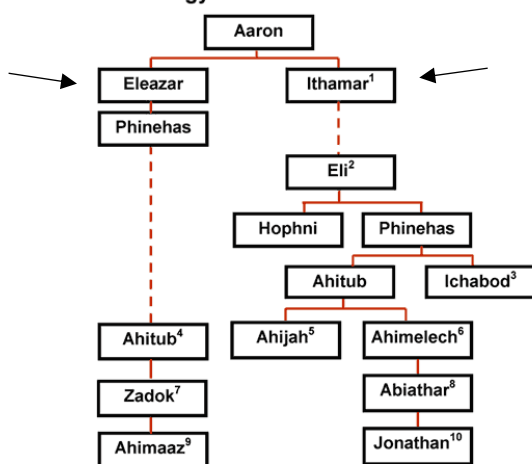
Leviticus 21:8 *I, the Lord, will build holiness in you; I am holy.*

9. What does God expect from the priests? _____

The tribe of Levi was appointed to be the priests (and worship center staff). Their purpose was to stand between man & God, offering sacrifices for sin, and instructing man to live a life that pleases God. If the priests are not following God's plan, then, all the Jews are contaminated before God. It is not a joke to God.

10. Yes No Can we assume that since you and I are men, and since the Biblical priests were men, there will be times when priests will NOT be holy & pure?

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11. Who are the sons of Aaron's listed in Exodus 6:23)?

- a. _____ c. _____
b. _____ d. _____

12. Who are the sons of Aaron listed in this family chart?

- a. _____ b. _____

13. The family line is very important with the Jews. God passed on His blessings & guidance through the family.

Yes No Though no family is perfect, God still requires His holy standards to be obeyed.

14. In His holiness, which of these could God choose to do?

- Keep the family intact but impose consequences
Remove or de-activate family members

15. Read Exodus 32:1-4. Check the choices that are true below.

- a. Aaron the High Priest built a condo after God told him not to.
b. The Jews were running low on money in the wilderness, so Aaron collected everybody's gold possessions to build up the bank account.
c. Aaron made a statue of a gold calf and the Jews were told to call it God.
d. God told Moses that the Jews had contaminated their faith, & to get down there.

THOSE JEWS DID EXACTLY WHAT WE DO WHEN WE GET SCARED & UNCERTAIN. WE GO BACK & TRUST IN WHATEVER WE THOUGHT WORKED BEFORE.

16. The golden calf was a god in Egypt; the Jews saw it worshipped over and over. Then, they crossed the wilderness and got frustrated & scared. What did they do?

- a. They trusted God for direction & continued waiting for Moses to come down.
b. They trusted a "god" (calf) who they saw back in the safety of Egypt.

This was a dark time in the family of Eli, dating clear back to Aaron. Oh, surely this evil past history couldn't have any negative effects on the life of Eli. It was too long ago.

17. Remember the two missing sons of Aaron depicted in the "family tree" above. Read Leviticus 10:1-3. What did they do? "offered profane _____ before the _____."

They made up their own rules on how to meet God & worship God; they ignored God's instructions.

I could do this too: "In order to become a Christian, you must worship this rock."

ALL UNTRUE

"To get your sins FORGIVEN, you must do lots of good things your whole life."

"If you accepted Christ as Savior, you will never know for sure you have been saved from the penalty of sin before you die."

18. What happened to these two sons (priests) of Aaron? (Lev. 10:2) _____

19. What was God's point? What was the issue here (Lev. 10:3)

"Those who come near to Me must regard Me as _____."

If you don't regard the integrity & purity of the God Who runs your universe as important, then, what kind of a world & life are you expecting? Your own rules? Your own rock?

Let's Review

- Aaron, the first High Priest defied God and built a golden idol.
- Aaron's two sons, Nadab & Abihu, brought unholy practices into the worship.
- Aaron's other two sons, Eleasar & Ithamar, treated their role of **standing between the Jews and God**, to sacrifice for sin very carelessly. They were chewed out by Moses.

20. ___Yes ___No Could the family of Levi (where the priests come from) have had less than a good reputation through the years even though they were the chosen tribe to carry on the priestly name?

Skeleton #3 – The Consequences of Past Family Failure on the Current Family.

1. ___Yes ___No Children who grow up in family businesses could be trapped, sick of the business practices, and not at all committed to it anymore.

I know this is a stretch but Eli did see dishonestly, evil behaviors, and disregard about how God wanted the family business (Priesthood) conducted. What we see in our past either builds us up or ruins us.

2. Read 1 Sam. 1:9-18. How did Eli handle his job? _____

3. Read 1 Sam. 2:12-17. How did Eli handle his children? _____

4. Read 1 Samuel 3:1. What kind of spiritual condition was Eli servicing in?

5. ___Yes ___No Is it possible that Eli had given up while going through the motions?

6. Read 1 Sam. 3:8. Describe Eli's personal spiritual condition? _____

7. How did God feel about Eli in 1 Sam. 3:11-14? _____

8. What was Eli's response? (1 Sam. 3:18) _____

Our past & upbringing can determine the rest of our lives. I know I was damaged & I have suffered the consequences. I see that now. But the Lord says to you and me, "May I pick you up & lead you on? Will you allow Me to forgive you? Will you let Me begin healing in you? I still have a special job for you." I SAID "YES" MANY YEARS AGO. THE SCARS ARE STILL THERE BUT THE HEALING IS HAPPENING.