

Abstract of the Dissertation

A Study of the Biblical Characterization of Aaron

by

James D. Findlay

Claremont Graduate University: 2005

This study examines the characterization of Aaron in six texts: Ex. 7-11, Lev. 8-10, Num. 16-17, Deut. 9-10, Ezra 7:1-10, and 1 Chronicles 23-24. Utilizing text-critical, form-critical, and literary methods, each text is analyzed to discern the role, function, and depiction of Aaron within each text unit, as well as any differences in Aaron's description among ancient textual witnesses. Thus, a comprehensive view of Aaron's place in biblical literature is gained. We conclude that Aaron undergoes a "process" of characterization, ranging from prophet and assistant to Moses in Exodus, to priest triumphant in Numbers, to father and founder of the Israelite priesthood in Ezra and Chronicles. In addition, these insights lead to fresh consideration of the ideology of biblical writers and translators, as well as the history of Israelite religion and Israelite priesthood.