

Numbers 17 - Wilderness Wanderings: Aaron's Rod that Budded

II. Failure of the first generation (Num 11:1—25:18)

(3) Failure in the wilderness in and around Kadesh Barnea (Num 15:1—20:13)

(C) Confirmation of Aaron's leadership (Num 17:1-13)

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1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

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1 The LORD instructed Moses,

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 "Speak to the sons of Israel, and obtain from them a staff for each father's household: twelve staffs, from all their leaders for their fathers' households. You shall write each man's name on his staff,

2 "Speak to the sons of Israel, and get from them a rod for each father's household: twelve rods, from all their leaders according to their fathers' households. You shall write each name on his rod,

2 "Tell the Israelis to take a rod—one from each ancestral house, that is, one from every leader, for a total of twelve rods. Write each tribal name on his rod.

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod.

3 and write Aaron's name on the staff of Levi; for *there is to be* one staff for the head of *each* of their fathers' households.

3 and write Aaron's name on the rod of Levi; for there is one rod for the head of *each* of their fathers' households.

3 You are also to write Aaron's name on the tribe of Levi, since there is to be one rod for every leader of their ancestral tribes.

3 And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers.

- God is going to confirm the priesthood of Aaron and establish the fact that he is the high priest. He will establish this by a resurrection!

4 You shall then leave them in the tent of meeting in front of the testimony, where I meet with you.

4 You shall then deposit them in the tent of meeting in front of the testimony, where I meet with you.

4 "Then lay them there in the Tent of Meeting in front of the Ark of the Covenant where I'll meet with you.

4 And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you.

5 And it will come about that the staff of the man whom I choose will sprout. So I will relieve Myself of the grumbings of the sons of Israel, who are grumbling against you."

5 It will come about that the rod of the man whom I choose will sprout. Thus I will lessen from upon Myself the grumbings of the sons of Israel, who are grumbling against you."

5 The rod that belongs to the man whom I'll choose will burst into bloom. That's how I'll put a stop to the complaints of the Israelis, who are complaining against you."

5 And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you.

- The children of Israel were murmuring against Aaron saying that he was not the only one who could represent them before God.

- It was a rebellion against him

6 So Moses spoke to the sons of Israel, and all their leaders gave him a staff, one for each leader, for their fathers' households, twelve staffs *in all*, with the staff of Aaron among their staffs.

6 Moses therefore spoke to the sons of Israel, and all their leaders gave him a rod apiece, for each leader according to their fathers' households, twelve rods, with the rod of Aaron among their rods.

6 So Moses spoke to the Israelis, and each of the tribe leaders gave him a rod, one for each leader, according to their ancestral tribes, for a total of twelve rods. Aaron's rod was one of them.

6 And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods.

7 Then Moses left the staffs before the LORD in the tent of the testimony.
7 So Moses deposited the rods before the LORD in the tent of the testimony.
7 Then Moses laid out the rods in the LORD's presence, inside the Tent of Testimony.
7 And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness.
- These rods were picked up out on the desert—probably whittled out and decorated by carvings—but they were dead wood.

8 Now on the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony; and behold, Aaron's staff for the house of Levi had sprouted and produced buds and bloomed with blossoms, and it yielded ripe almonds.

8 Now on the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony; and behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted and put forth buds and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds.

8 The next morning, Moses went to the Tent of Testimony and the rod of Aaron of the tribe of Levi had burst into bloom! It sprouted buds, bloomed blossoms, and produced fully ripe almonds!

8 And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.

9 Moses then brought out all the staffs from the presence of the LORD to all the sons of Israel; and they looked, and each man took his staff.

9 Moses then brought out all the rods from the presence of the LORD to all the sons of Israel; and they looked, and each man took his rod.

9 Then Moses took out all the rods from the LORD's presence to show all the Israelis. Everybody looked, and then each man took his rod.

9 And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod.

- "This bud's for you!" Aaron's rod brought forth buds, and blossoms, and fruit! Life out of death.

- According to Josephus, it was a stick of an almond tree, bearing fruit in three different stages at once

- The priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ rests upon the fact of His resurrection.

— Heb 7: If He were here on earth, He would not be a priest. He did not come from the priestly tribe of Levi. His resurrection made Him our priest.

10 But the LORD said to Moses, "Put the staff of Aaron back in front of the testimony to be kept as a sign against the rebels, so that you may put an end to their grumbings against

Me and they do not die."

10 But the LORD said to Moses, "Put back the rod of Aaron before the testimony to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put an end to their grumblings against Me, so that they will not die."

10 Then the Lord instructed Moses, "Return Aaron's rod before the testimony to be kept for a reminder against the rebels so that you may put an end to their complaints against me and so that they won't die."

10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not.

11 Moses did so; just as the LORD had commanded him, so he did.

11 Thus Moses did; just as the LORD had commanded him, so he did.

11 So Moses did exactly what the LORD had commanded him to do.

11 And Moses did so: as the LORD commanded him, so did he.

- This rod, a pot of manna, and the Ten Commandments were kept with the Ark of the Covenant.

-- The author of Hebrews wrote that the ark also contained Aaron's rod and a pot of manna (Heb 9:4)

— This is nowhere attested in the Old Testament

— Ex 16:33-34 and Num 17:10 state that the rod and manna were placed in front of the tabernacle, not in the ark.

12 Then the sons of Israel spoke to Moses, saying, "Behold, we are passing away, we are perishing, we are all perishing!

12 Then the sons of Israel spoke to Moses, saying, "Behold, we perish, we are dying, we are all dying!

12 Then the Israelis told Moses, "We're sure to die! We're all going to perish—all of us!

12 And the children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, we die, we perish, we all perish.

13 Everyone who comes near, who comes near to the tabernacle of the LORD, must die. Are we to perish completely?"

13 Everyone who comes near, who comes near to the tabernacle of the LORD, must die. Are we to perish completely?"

13 Anyone who comes near or approaches the LORD's tent is to die. Are all of us going to die?"

13 Whosoever cometh any thing near unto the tabernacle of the LORD shall die: shall we be consumed with dying?