

## Numbers 17:1-13 **Aaron's Rod that Budded**

### Settling question of authority and leadership, at God's command

<sup>1</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>2</sup> "Speak to the children of Israel, and get from them a rod from each father's house, all their leaders according to their fathers' houses--twelve rods. Write each man's name on his rod. <sup>3</sup> And you shall write Aaron's name on the rod of Levi. For there shall be one rod for the head of each father's house. <sup>4</sup> Then you shall place them in the tabernacle of meeting before the Testimony, where I meet with you. <sup>5</sup> And it shall be that the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom; thus I will rid Myself of the complaints of the children of Israel, which they make against you."

### Moses instructed the Children of Israel

<sup>6</sup> So Moses spoke to the children of Israel, and each of their leaders gave him a rod apiece, for each leader according to their fathers' houses, twelve rods; and the rod of Aaron was among their rods. <sup>7</sup> And Moses placed the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness.

### God made His choice, Aaron's rod budded

<sup>8</sup> Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi, had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds. <sup>9</sup> Then Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD to all the children of Israel; and they looked, and each man took his rod.

### Aaron's budded Rod kept as a Testimony for Israel

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die." <sup>11</sup> Thus did Moses; just as the LORD had commanded him, so he did.

### The Children of Israel fear that they will all perish

<sup>12</sup> So the children of Israel spoke to Moses, saying, "Surely we die, we perish, we all perish! <sup>13</sup> Whoever even comes near the tabernacle of the LORD must die. Shall we all utterly die?" NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ After the Rebellion of Korah and later of the congregation of the Children of Israel [Numbers 16:1-50] God chose a method to silence the question as to the authority of Moses and Aaron.
- ✧ At the commandment of God, each of the 12 tribal leaders brought their rod and the rods were laid up over night before Yehowah in the Tabernacle of Witness for God to demonstrate His choice by causing the chosen leader's rod to blossom.
- ✧ **Aaron's rod budded, blossomed, and yielded ripe almonds** as a sign of whom the Lord had chosen, and as evidence to stop the murmuring of the Children of Israel against Moses and Aaron.
- ✧ **Yehowah commanded Moses to bring Aaron's rod back before the testimony**, to be kept as a sign against future rebels.
- ✧ The purpose was to put away their complaints, lest they die.
- ✧ God had already proven that rebellion against Him and against Moses would bring death to the rebel. [Numbers 16:1-50]
- ✧ The Children of Israel said, "Surely we die, we perish, we all perish, whoever comes near the Tabernacle of the Lord must die. Shall we all utterly die?"
- ✧ They got the message.

✧ God requires that we reverence Him and His Sanctuary. [Leviticus 19:30, 26:2, Psalm 89:7, Malachi 1:6, 2:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Titus 2:1-8, Hebrews 12:28-29]