

# Exodus 4:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.

## Analysis

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**And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs** (וְאַתָּה תִּקְחֶה בְּצִדְקָה אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה־בָּו—**This rod** (כְּרוּבָה כְּפָעַלָה)—the shepherd's staff now becomes the **rod of God** (4:20), instrument of miracles. **Wherewith thou shalt do signs**—God empowers the ordinary tool. The rod will: turn to serpent and back (4:2-4), turn water to blood (4:9), bring plagues (7:17, 20), part the Red Sea (14:16), bring water from rock (17:5-6). The rod symbolizes God's authority exercised through human obedience. It's not magic (power in the object) but sign (power from God through obedient use). Moses must learn to wield God's authority humbly, recognizing the power source.

## Historical Context

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The rod became Moses' signature symbol, recognized throughout Israel's history (Psalm 23:4's "rod and staff"). While Egyptian magicians also used rods (7:11-12), Moses' rod demonstrated superior divine power (7:12, rod swallowing theirs). The rod's transformation from shepherding tool to miracle-working instrument teaches that God consecrates ordinary implements for extraordinary purposes.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What 'rod in your hand'—ordinary skill, tool, or resource—might God want to consecrate for miraculous purposes?
2. How does the rod teach that spiritual authority operates through obedient use of God-given means, not inherent power in objects or individuals?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵת	וְהַ	מֵעַד	הַ	בְּזַה	תִּקְרַב	תְּ	בְּיָד	בְּ	אֲשֶׁר
H853	<b>this rod</b>	H2088	<b>And thou shalt take</b>	H3947	<b>in thine hand</b>	H3027		H834	
	H4294								
מֵעַד	וְ	אַתָּה	בְּ	בְּ	פְּאַתְּתָּה				
<b>wherewith thou shalt do</b>	H0	H853			<b>signs</b>	H226			
H6213									

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 4:2** (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.

**1 Corinthians 1:27** (Parallel theme): But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;