

Numbers 17:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

God's command to keep Aaron's rod 'for a token against the rebels' established a permanent memorial preventing future challenges to priestly authority. The phrase 'that thou mayest quite take away their murmurings' shows God's determination to stop rebellion. Storing the rod in the ark (with the tablets and manna) placed it in Israel's most sacred repository, emphasizing the priesthood's importance. This demonstrates God's patience in providing evidence for faith, yet His firmness in establishing His ordained order.

Historical Context

The ark of the covenant contained three items: the stone tablets (God's law), the pot of manna (God's provision), and Aaron's rod (God's appointed priesthood). Together these symbolized Israel's covenant relationship with God. The rod remained there until Solomon's temple, serving as perpetual proof of Aaronic priesthood's legitimacy. This tangible evidence prevented future claims that the priesthood was merely Moses' invention rather than God's appointment.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What permanent memorials has God established to authenticate His provisions and appointments?
2. How does God's patience in providing evidence balance with His requirement for faith and obedience?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	מִטְבָּח	אֶת	בְּשֵׁב	מֵשֶׁה	אֶל	יְהִי	הָ	וַיֹּ
said	And the LORD	H413	unto Moses	H4872	Bring	H853	rod	Aaron's
H559	H3068				H7725	H4294		H175
לֹפֶנְךָ	לֹא	וְתִ	לִמְשָׁמֶת	כִּתְ	בְּעֵד	וְתִ	לְבָנֵי	מִרְיָה
before	the testimony		to be kept		for a token		H1121	against the rebels
H6440	H5715		H4931		H226		H4805	
וְתַכְלִ	מַעַל	וְ	תְּלוּפַת	מִ		וְל		
and thou shalt quite take away	their murmurings					H5921	H3808	
H3615			H8519					
וְמַתָּה								
from me that they die								
H4191								

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:4 (Parallel theme): Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

Ephesians 5:6 (Parallel theme): Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Isaiah 1:2 (References Lord): Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

Psalms 57:4 (Parallel theme): My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

Exodus 16:32 (References Lord): And Moses said, This is the thing which the LORD commandeth, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 9:24 (References Lord): Ye have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.

Numbers 16:40 (References Lord): To be a memorial unto the children of Israel, that no stranger, which is not of the seed of Aaron, come near to offer incense before the LORD; that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the LORD said to him by the hand of Moses.

Numbers 16:38 (References Lord): The censers of these sinners against their own souls, let them make them broad plates for a covering of the altar: for they offered them before the LORD, therefore they are hallowed: and they shall be a sign unto the children of Israel.

1 Samuel 30:22 (Parallel theme): Then answered all the wicked men and men of Belial, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them ought of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away, and depart.

1 Samuel 2:12 (References Lord): Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.