

Numbers 17:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Moses placed the rods 'before the testimony' in the tabernacle—the most holy place where God met with Israel. This location ensured that the test occurred in God's presence, under His direct witness. The outcome would be indisputable because it occurred at the very throne of divine authority. All spiritual authentication must happen in God's presence, not through human validation.

Historical Context

The 'testimony' referred to the tablets of the law kept in the ark (Exodus 25:16). Placing the rods there connected this test to covenant relationship—God's choice of priestly line was not arbitrary preference but part of His covenant structure for Israel's worship and access to His presence.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you ensure that major decisions and confirmations happen 'before the Lord'?

2. What practices help you test all things in God's presence rather than merely seeking human approval?

Interlinear Text

כִּי לְאַת שָׁם אֶתְרָא תְּכַתּ בְּעַל מַטְהָר לְאַת
H853 name Aaron's And thou shalt write H5921 rod of Levi H3588
H8034 H175 H3789 H4294 H3878

אַבְזָתָם: בְּית אֲשֶׁר לְרַא שְׁאַל מַטְהָר
rod for one shall be for the head of the house of their fathers
H4294 H259 H7218 H1004 H1

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