

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

Psalms 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

וְאֵת	שֵׁם	אַהֲרֹן	תִּכְתֹּב	עַל	מִטֵּה	לְיִי	כִּי
H853	name	Aaron's	And thou shalt write	H5921	rod	of Levi	H3588
	H8034	H175	H3789		H4294	H3878	
הַ	מִטֵּה	אֶחָד	לְרֹאשׁ	בֵּית	אֲבוֹתָם:		
	rod	for one	shall be for the head	of the house	of their fathers		
	H4294	H259	H7218	H1004	H1		

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