

Numbers 17:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you.

Analysis

God declared, 'the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom'—life from dead wood would mark divine election. This test measured not human qualifications but God's sovereign choice. The budding rod would demonstrate that fruitfulness in God's service comes not from natural ability but from His life-giving power working through His chosen vessels.

Historical Context

A dead piece of wood blossoming contradicts nature, requiring supernatural intervention. This paralleled other biblical signs of God's choice: Gideon's fleece (Judges 6:36-40), Moses' rod turning to serpent (Exodus 4:2-5). God authenticates His appointments through unmistakable miracles that silence human argument.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What 'dead wood' in your life has God brought to life through His power?

2. How do you recognize God-given fruitfulness versus mere human achievement?

Interlinear Text

וְהִנֵּחְתָּם	בְּאֹהֶל	מוֹעֵד	לִפְנֵי
And thou shalt lay them up	in the tabernacle	of the congregation	before
H3240	H168	H4150	H6440
הָעֵדוּת	אֲשֶׁר	אֶנֶּה	לְךָ שְׂמָה:
the testimony	H834	where I will meet	H0 H8033
H5715	H3259		

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