

Numbers 17:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you.

Analysis

God's promise that the rod belonging to His chosen priest would bud demonstrates divine vindication silencing opposition. The budding rod would be supernatural evidence, impossible to attribute to human manipulation. The phrase 'I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel' shows that God takes seriously complaints against His appointed leaders, which are ultimately complaints against Him. This miracle would provide permanent, objective proof of Aaron's divine appointment.

Historical Context

Each tribal leader brought a rod inscribed with his name, with Aaron's rod representing Levi. The choice of almond wood was significant—almond trees bloom earliest in spring, symbolizing awakening and new life. The budding rod miraculously produced blossoms, fruit, and ripe almonds overnight (verse 8), a comprehensive display of God's life-giving power. This rod was preserved in the ark as a permanent memorial (verse 10, Hebrews 9:4).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God provide clear evidence of His calling on leaders' lives to silence wrongful opposition?
2. What does the preservation of Aaron's rod in the ark teach about the permanent nature of God's appointments?

Interlinear Text

בְּזִים אֶלְחָנָן אֶלְחָנָן אֶלְחָנָן אֶלְחָנָן
H1961 And it shall come to pass that the man's H834 whom I shall choose H0
H376

מֵעַל הַמֶּלֶךְ וְמֵעַל הַמֶּלֶךְ וְמֵעַל הַמֶּלֶךְ
rod shall blossom and I will make to cease H5921 H853
H4294 H6524 H7918

מִמֶּלֶךְ תְּלִפּוֹת מִמֶּלֶךְ תְּלִפּוֹת מִמֶּלֶךְ תְּלִפּוֹת
from me the murmurings of the children of Israel H834 H1992
H8519 H1121 H3478

מִלְּבָד מִלְּבָד עַלְּיכֶם עַלְּיכֶם
whereby they murmur H5921
H3885

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 16:5 (Parallel theme): And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.

Ezekiel 16:41 (Parallel theme): And they shall burn thine houses with fire, and execute judgments upon thee in the sight of many women: and I will cause thee to cease from playing the harlot, and thou also shalt give no hire any more.

Hosea 14:5 (References Israel): I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

Numbers 17:8 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.

Numbers 16:11 (Parallel theme): For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD: and what is Aaron, that ye murmur against him?

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