

Numbers 17:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness.

Analysis

Aaron's rod alone had budded, brought forth blossoms, and yielded almonds—three stages of fruit from a dead stick overnight. This miraculous abundance demonstrated that God's chosen servant would be extraordinarily fruitful. The progression from bud to blossom to fruit symbolized complete, mature ministry flowing from divine election rather than human striving.

Historical Context

Almond trees were first to bloom in spring, their name in Hebrew (shaqed) meaning 'awakening' or 'watching.' The almond symbolized watchfulness and prompt fulfillment of God's word (Jeremiah 1:11-12). Aaron's rod bearing almonds signified that his priesthood would faithfully watch over and fulfill God's purposes.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What fruit in your life demonstrates God's calling and empowerment?

2. How can you distinguish between forced human effort and organic spiritual fruitfulness?

Interlinear Text

בָּאָדָל יְהוָה לְפָנָי הַמְּטָבָע תְּאַת מִשְׁהָ וְעַל
in the tabernacle the LORD before the rods the commandment that
H168 H3068 H6440 H4294 H853 And Moses laid up

בְּעֵדָה:
of witness
H5715

Additional Cross-References

Acts 7:44 (Temple): Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen.

Exodus 38:21 (Temple): This is the sum of the tabernacle, even of the tabernacle of testimony, as it was counted, according to the commandment of Moses, for the service of the Levites, by the hand of Ithamar, son to Aaron the priest.

Numbers 18:2 (Temple): And thy brethren also of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of thy father, bring thou with thee, that they may be joined unto thee, and minister unto thee: but thou and thy sons with thee shall minister before the tabernacle of witness.