

Numbers 17:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod.

Analysis

Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD (מִטְוָת מֶלֶפֶנִי יְהוָה)—after overnight divine vindication, Moses presents the evidence publicly. Aaron's rod alone had budded, blossomed, and borne almonds (v.8), supernatural proof of God's chosen priesthood. The phrase **they looked, and took every man his rod** (וְרָאוּ וְקָרְבוּ אִישׁ מְטָהוֹן) shows transparency: each tribal leader verified his unchanged staff while witnessing Aaron's miraculous transformation.

This public vindication ended Korah's rebellion (chapter 16) with irrefutable divine testimony. Dead wood bore fruit—only God's life-giving power could accomplish this. The image prefigures Christ's resurrection: the 'dry tree' (Luke 23:31) bursting with resurrection life. Aaron's budded rod, kept in the ark (Hebrews 9:4), stood as permanent witness that God alone chooses His priests.

Historical Context

Numbers 17 follows the devastating judgment on Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (chapter 16), where 14,700 died in plague. The rod miracle (circa 1445 BC) provided positive proof of divine selection after the negative proof of judgment, establishing Aaronic priesthood beyond challenge.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's public vindication of His chosen leaders address ongoing challenges to spiritual authority?
2. What does the transformation of dead wood into fruit-bearing life teach about God's power in seemingly hopeless situations?
3. How does Aaron's budded rod as a 'witness' (v.10) function like resurrection evidence for Christ's claims?

Interlinear Text

אָל	יְהוָה	ה	מִלְפָנָי	מִלְפָנָי	אָל	
brought out	And Moses	H853	H3605	all the rods	from before	the LORD
H3318	H4872			H4294	H6440	H413

כָּל	בָּנִים	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיַּרְא	וַיַּקְרֹב	אִישׁ
H3605	unto all the children	of Israel	and they looked	and took	every man
H1121		H3478	H7200	H3947	H376

מִלְפָנָי
all the rods
H4294