

Numbers 20:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

Analysis

Moses took the rod 'from before the LORD, as he commanded him'—beginning with proper obedience. Yet subsequent actions violated God's specific instruction to speak to the rock. Partial obedience ending in disobedience nullifies initial correctness. God measures complete faithfulness, not merely good beginnings.

Historical Context

The rod was Aaron's budded rod (17:10), kept before the testimony as perpetual sign of God's chosen leadership. Using this specific rod connected the miracle to divine authority and past demonstrations of God's power. The very rod confirming God's choice became instrument of Moses' disqualifying failure.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do good beginnings sometimes breed presumption that leads to eventual disobedience?
2. What incomplete obedience in your life needs to be brought to full completion?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּקַּח	וּמֹשֶׁה	אֶת	הַמֶּטֶּה	מִלִּפְנֵי	יְהוָה	כֶּאֱשֶׁר
took	And Moses	H853	the rod	from before	the LORD	H834
H3947	H4872		H4294	H6440	H3068	

צִוָּהוּ:
as he commanded
H6680

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 17:10 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not.