

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
NUMBERS 17 – THE ROD OF AARON
NUMBERS 18 - PRIESTHOOD

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of the book of Numbers.

Numbers 17 – The children of Israel were to bring in 12 rods one for each tribe; twelve rods before the Lord, vs. 1-7 and they were to write their name on it. The rod of Aaron's becomes alive and bears fruit, vs. 8-9 for God had chosen Aaron to be the priesthood. In verses 12-13 the children of Israel think there is no hope.

¹And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

²Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod.

³And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers.

⁴And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you (The Holy of Holies where the ark was and was a sign God was with them.).

⁵And 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 (They murmur against God, Moses and Aaron.).

⁶And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods.

⁷And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness (Tent of testimony).

⁸And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness (tent of testimony); and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds (Almond rods are very strong and yet here it is one rod which comes back to life and bears fruit. It was a miracle; it should have been to the children of Israel that Aaron was chosen to the priesthood. The Bible tells us “⁴Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;” Hebrews 9:4. It was a type Christ for he is the branch “¹²And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man

whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: ¹³Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both” Zechariah 6:12-13, Christ said, I will build my church and he would be the King and Priesthood.).

⁹And 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 (They were still dead rods for they were not called to this service.).

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

¹¹And Moses did so: as the LORD commanded him, so did he.

¹²And the children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, we die, we perish, we all perish (The children of Israel say, “we’re all lost and there is no hope.).

¹³Whosoever cometh any thing near unto the tabernacle of the LORD shall die: shall we be consumed with dying (The children of Israel had brought all this upon themselves for they would not repent and turn to God.)?

Numbers 18

Say – God told Aaron and his sons that they were to bare the priesthood and repeated to Aaron the things He had told him before. Aaron’s rod had budded and blossomed when the remainder of the tribes had remained dead. Also the tribe of Levi that they be joined with them and minister unto Me. Also go to Leviticus 21 and 22 and you will read more about the duties of the Priesthood.

¹And the LORD said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.

²And 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 (tent of witness).

³And they shall keep thy charge, and the charge of all the tabernacle: only they (the Levite) shall not come nigh the vessels of the sanctuary and the altar (this was holy furniture, they were to attend the golden altar, the table of showbread and the candlestick which no Levite could approach), that neither they, nor ye also, die (only the ones called can come to Him).

⁴And they (the Levites) shall be joined unto thee, and keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, for all the service of the tabernacle; and a stranger shall not come nigh unto you. (There could be no false prophet in the tabernacle/tent.)

⁵And ye (the priesthood) shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel.

⁶And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel: to you they are given as a gift for the LORD, to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation (tent of meeting).

⁷Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for everything of the altar, and within the veil; and ye shall serve:(this was the duty of the priesthood) I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death (the children of Israel had to be instructed on how close they were to come to the sanctuary).

⁸And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Behold, I also have given thee the charge of mine heave offerings of all the hallowed things of the children of Israel; unto thee have I given them by reason of the anointing, and to thy sons, by an ordinance for ever.

⁹This shall be thine of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: every oblation of their's, every meat offering of their's, and every sin offering of their's, and every trespass offering of their's which they shall render unto me, shall be most holy for thee and for thy sons.

¹⁰In the most holy place shalt thou eat it (was to be eaten by the priests); every male shall eat it: it shall be holy unto thee.

¹¹And this is thine; the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel: I have given them unto thee, and to thy sons and to thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: every one that is clean in thy house shall eat of it.

¹²All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the LORD, them have I given thee.

¹³And whatsoever is first ripe in the land, which they shall bring unto the LORD, shall be thine; every one that is clean in thine house shall eat of it.

¹⁴Every thing devoted in Israel shall be thine.

¹⁵Every thing that openeth the matrix in all flesh, which they bring unto the LORD, whether it be of men or beasts, shall be thine: nevertheless the firstborn of man shalt thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts shalt thou redeem.

¹⁶And those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem, according to thine estimation, for the money of five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.

¹⁷But the firstling of a cow, or the firstling of a sheep, or the firstling of a goat, thou shalt not redeem; they are holy: thou shalt sprinkle their blood upon the altar, and shalt burn their fat for an offering made by fire, for a sweet savour unto the LORD.

¹⁸And the flesh of them shall be thine, as the wave breast and as the right shoulder are thine.

¹⁹All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer unto the LORD, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: it is a covenant of salt for ever before the LORD unto thee and to thy seed with thee.

Say – The priesthood provided for; God would have them comfortably supplied.

²⁰And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.

²¹And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation (God took good care of His people who did the service of the tabernacle.).

²²Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die.

²³But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance.

²⁴But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance (The Bible tells us “²⁴The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. ²⁵The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. ²⁶It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD” Lamentations 3:24-26. The Levites had no inheritance but they lived comfortably.).

²⁵And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

²⁶Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe.

²⁷And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress.

²⁸Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.

²⁹Out of all your gifts ye shall offer every heave offering of the LORD, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it.

³⁰Therefore thou shalt say unto them, When ye have heaved the best thereof from it, then it shall be counted unto the Levites as the increase of the threshingfloor, and as the increase of the winepress.

³¹And ye shall eat it in every place, ye and your households: for it is your reward for your service in the tabernacle of the congregation.

³²And ye shall bear no sin by reason of it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die.

MEMORY VERSE

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 17:8

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS

AARON'S ROD BUDS, BLOSSOMS, AND BEARS FRUITS

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WERE TO BRING IN 12 RODS, ONE FOR EACH TRIBE OF ISRAEL AND THEY WERE TO WRITE THEIR NAME ON IT.

GOD SAID TO MOSES "AND THOU SHALT WRITE THE NAME OF AARON'S ON THE TRIBE OF LEVI". "AND THOU SHALT LAY THEM UP IN THE TABERNACLE BEFORE THE TESTIMONY, WHERE I WILL MEET WITH YOU."

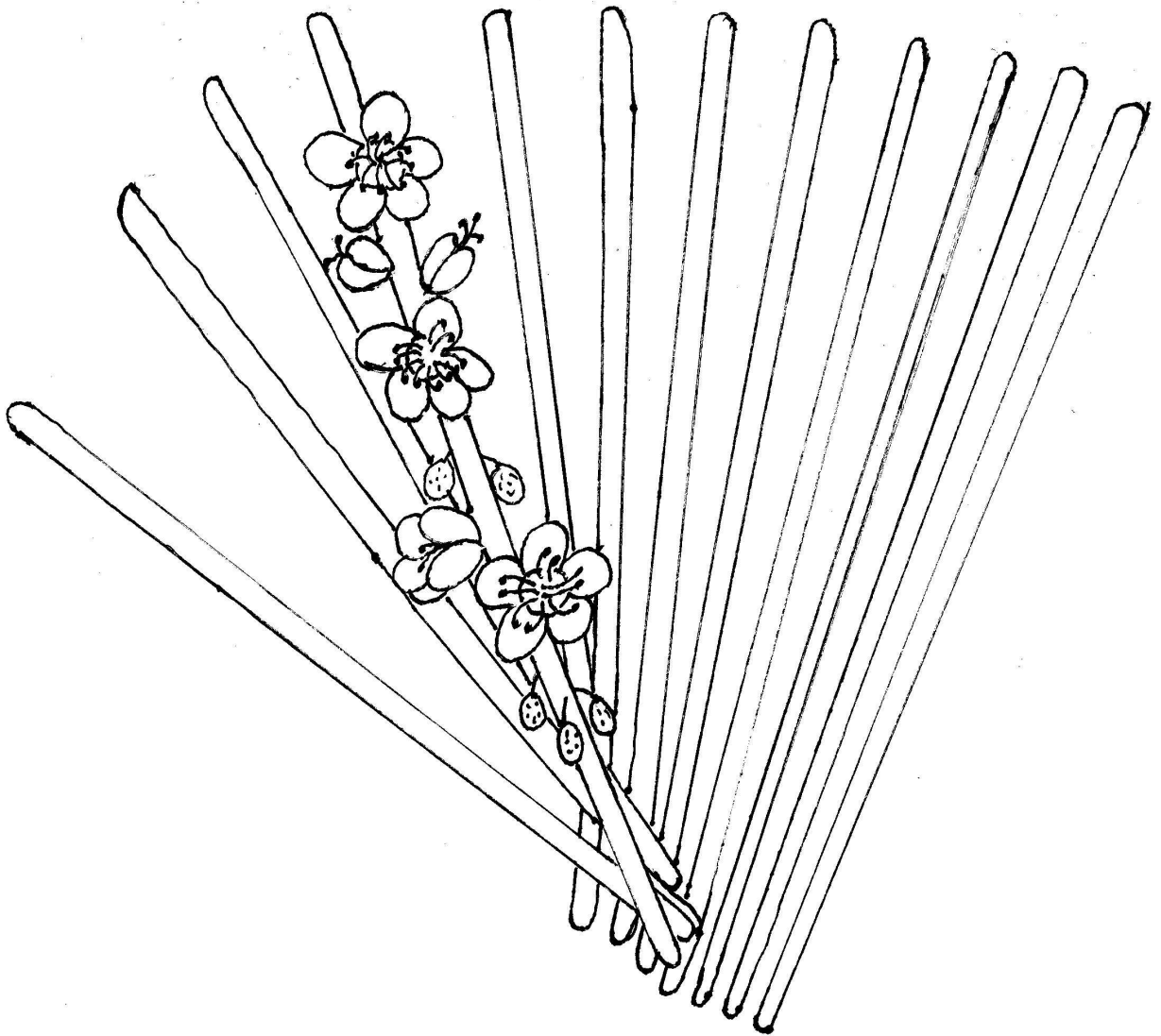
"AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS, THAT THE MAN'S ROD, WHOM I SHALL CHOOSE, SHALL BLOSSOM: AND I WILL MAKE TO CEASE FROM ME THE MURMURINGS OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, WHERE BY THEY MURMUR AGAINST YOU."

"AND MOSES LAID UP THE RODS BEFORE THE LORD IN THE TABERNACLE... 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."

ALMOND RODS ARE VERY STRONG AND YET HERE IS ONE ROD WHICH COMES BACK TO LIFE AND BEARS FRUIT. IT WAS A MIRACLE FROM GOD. THIS PROVED THAT AARON WAS CHOSEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD.

THE BIBLE TELLS US IN THE SANCTURAY OR HOLY PLACE "WHICH HAD THE GOLDEN CENSER, AND THE ARK OF THE COVENANT OVERLAID ROUND ABOUT WITH GOLD, WHEREIN WAS THE GOLDEN POT THAT HAD MANNA, AND **AARON'S ROD THAT BUDDED**, AND THE TABLES OF THE COVENANT;" HEBREWS 9:4

*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.
NUMBERS 17:5*



*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 17:8*