

Sanctuary Studies

by Jose Rivera

Aaron's Rod part Two

★ In the first part of our study, we looked at the scriptures in Exodus 7 & 8 concerning the Rod of Aaron. We consistently saw that God gave evidence of His authority and superiority. Anyone who resist God's will is stubborn, rebellious, and hardened in heart. In part two, we will now look at another passage of scripture in connection with the Rod of Aaron. Let us discern if we find any of the same lessons or even more precious lessons concerning Aaron's Rod.

I. The 5th mention of Aaron's Rod - **Numbers 17**

- a. According to the instructions God gave in vs. 2, how many rods were there with names?
- b. Whose name was to be on the rod for the tribe of Levi?
- c. According to vs. 5 what would God do to the rod he choose? & what was His purpose?
- d. According to vs 8 whose rod was chosen and what did God produce on the rod?
- e. According to vs 10 where were they supposed to keep this rod and what did the token represent?

★ It is interesting to note some of the plain reasons to why God arranged for these lessons to take place. It is clear that the Israelites had a huge problem with murmurings. It is also clear based on the previous chapters of Numbers 14-16, but more specifically chapter 16, that many of the Israelites began to develop the spirit of rebellion. Let us take a look at a few examples in the previous chapters of Numbers to see the full development.

II. The first mention of Rebellion for Israel - **Numbers 14:6-11**

- a. What was the warning that Joshua and Caleb gave in verse 9?
- b. What was the reaction of the people in vs 10
- c. Was this pleasing to God? vs 11

★ Joshua and Caleb warned them emphatically not to *rebel*. They remember all the wonderful and miraculous signs God did for them. Plus the cloud was leading the people thus far. They had every evidence of God's purpose for them and good intention to help them to the Promise land, but the refuse to believe. Is that not the same with us many times? God being displeased sent them back into the wilderness for 40 years. No one in that generation was to enter the Promise land except Joshua and Caleb. This alone should teach us how much God is displeased with our murmurings and rebellion.

III. A fearful example of God's displeasure - **Numbers 15:30-36**

- a. What was the warning God gave in vs. 30?
- b. Despite the warning, what did the young man do on the Sabbath?

★ This story is placed right here in the Bible for several reasons. Here we will only cite that it is an example of the presumptuous, and even rebellious sentiments that began to develop among the Israelites. These examples explain a glimpse into what becomes manifest in chapter 16 of Numbers.

IV. Outright Rebellion - **Numbers 16**

- a. What were the 1st complaints of Korah and his followers? vs 3
- b. What does Moses reveal were the ambitions of the rebels? vs 10,11
- c. Did they cooperate with instructions? vs 13,14
- d. Was God pleased? vs 20,21
- e. What unique execution did they face? vs 29-33
- f. What happened to the rest of their followers? vs 35
- g. Who did the people blame and murmur against for this event? vs 41
- h. Was God pleased? vs 45
- i. What was done to spare the people? vs 47,48

- ★ There are a multitude of lessons drawn from this Chapter. We will here focus on but a few. The chief lesson is found under the theme of Rebellion. Verse 10 clearly showed that they had an ambition for position. This is exactly the same spirit Lucifer had in heaven. He wanted to be in charge as did these men. God displayed a miraculous execution to prove to all His displeasure of murmurings and rebellion. After such a manifestation as this, you would think the people would have learned, but no, they did not learn. Further more, they blamed Moses and Aaron for the death of these wicked men.

- ★ By examining all these examples we begin to see the grand lesson God desired to teach Israel concerning the Rod of Aaron. Going back to Numbers 17, we again note that God desired to rid Israel of their murmurings and rebellion. This is why this token was kept in the Ark of the Covenant. It was also to establish the Priesthood and settle the question regarding whom God has chosen to lead His people.