

Numbers 17

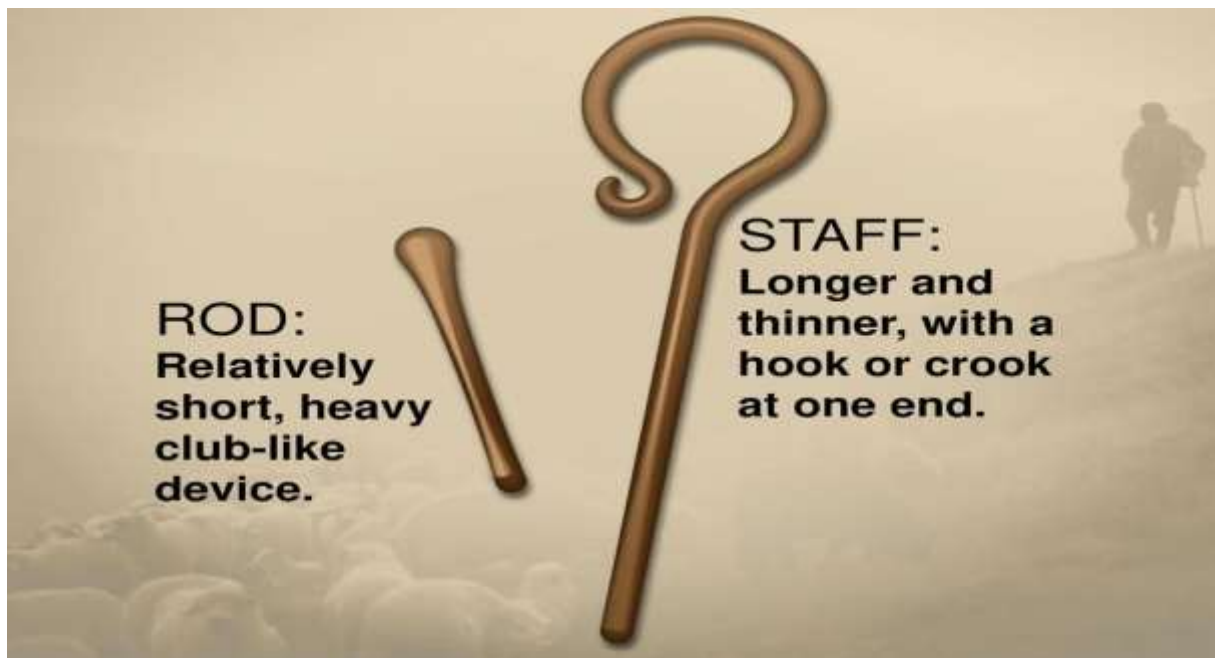
Verses 1 – 7

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to the sons of Israel, and obtain from them a staff for each father’s household: twelve staffs, from all their leaders for their fathers’ households. You shall write each man’s name on his staff, ³ and write Aaron’s name on the staff of Levi; for *there is to be* one staff for the head of *each* of their fathers’ households. ⁴ You shall then leave them in the tent of meeting in front of the testimony, where I meet with you. ⁵ And it will come about that the staff of the man whom I choose will sprout. So I will relieve myself of the grumblings of the sons of Israel, who are grumbling against you.” ⁶ So Moses spoke to the sons of Israel, and all their leaders gave him a staff, one for each leader, for their fathers’ households, twelve staffs *in all*, with the staff of Aaron among their staffs. ⁷ Then Moses left the staffs before the Lord in the tent of the testimony.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to the sons of Israel, and obtain from them a staff for each father’s household: twelve staffs

The staff and rod were the tools of a shepherd

See Pic 1705



1. The rod was a sturdy wooden stick used as a weapon to fight off wild animals

The rod is a symbol of the Lord's strength and protection

2. The staff is a symbol of the Lord's guidance and lovingkindness

The shepherd used his staff to keep his sheep out of danger and close to himself.

The shepherd would loop the curved end of the staff around the neck of the sheep and retrieve it back to safety.

See Psalms 23:4

And it will come about that the staff of the man whom I choose will sprout.

This was meant to be another sign for the people.

Do you think the budding of the staff will do the trick?

The people had already been given 3 signs in the last 24 hours

1. The earth opening up and swallowing people
2. Fire from heaven consuming people
3. A plague that killed 14,700 people

So I will relieve myself of the grumblings of the sons of Israel, who are grumbling against you.

Why was Israel grumbling?

Because they would have to spend 38 more years in the wilderness

Did Israel have a legitimate complaint?

No, because they had refused to enter Canaan

Should God continue to look past unfounded complaints and rebellion?

These people had seen numerous miracles and still rejected God's leadership.

Choices have consequences and rejecting God's leadership is monumental.

Verses 8 - 11

⁸ Now on the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony; and behold, Aaron's staff for the house of Levi had sprouted and produced buds and bloomed with blossoms, and it yielded ripe almonds. ⁹ Moses then brought out all the staffs from the presence of the Lord to all the sons of Israel; and they looked, and each man took his staff. ¹⁰ But the Lord said to Moses, "Put the staff of Aaron back in front of the testimony to be kept as a sign against the rebels, so that you may put an end to their grumblings against me and they do not die." ¹¹ Moses did so; just as the Lord had commanded him, so he did.

Aaron's staff for the house of Levi had sprouted and produced buds and bloomed with blossoms, and it yielded ripe almonds

Moses captured this with his phone. 😊

See Pic 1710



Put the staff of Aaron back in front of the testimony to be kept as a sign against the rebels

See Pic 1711



The artist who drew this must not have read the actual account that was given here because he/she failed to represent the blossoms and ripe almonds.

Also the poles to carry the ark should be on the short side of the ark and should be attached to the feet near the bottom. Details matter.

See Exodus 25:10-22

Verse 12

¹² Then the sons of Israel spoke to Moses, saying, “Behold, we are passing away, we are perishing, we are all perishing! ¹³ Everyone who comes near, who comes near to the tabernacle of the Lord, must die. Are we to perish completely?”

The people finally displayed an attitude of repentance.

How long do you think this might last?