

## Aaron's Rod Blossoming (Numbers 17)

**Introduction:** *To end all grumbling*

### Review of Rebellions

- Aaron and Miriam's challenge (Num 12)
- The Kadesh Revolt (Num 14)
- Korah's Rebellion (Num 16)

### Review of NT Applications of Num 16

- **Christ, greater than Moses:** A faithful son "over his own house" (Heb 3:1-8).
- **Christ, our great High Priest:** "No man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was" (Heb 5:4).

Spurgeon: "[This is] a great spiritual type of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for that erring multitude of the sons of men, [in his] affection for a people who were the most rebellious and stiff-necked that ever grieved the heart of a good man. ... Jesus, thou wast willing to die a martyr, that thou mightest be made a sacrifice for those by whom thy blood was spilt. Jesus transcends Aaron; Aaron might have feared death at the hands of the people, Jesus Christ did actually meet it, and yet there he stood even in the hour of death, waving his censer, staying the plague, and dividing the living from the dead."

- **A Faithful and Unfaithful Ministry:** "Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority ... and perished in the rebellion of Korah" (Jude 8-11).

### 1. Every other challenge to God's appointed government preempted (v. 1-7)

The Hebrew word for "tribe" and for "staff" is the same (matteh), and the staff represents authority.

### 2. The sign of the fruitful almond staff (v. 8-11)

Aaron's ministry was to bear fruit and bring blessing to God's people. It was to be life-giving.

### 3. The other tribes, only able to see harshness, despair of life (v. 12-13)

Considering God more an enemy than a friend – no doubt the result of their guilty conscience – Israel feared the power instead of thanking him for his grace. (Duguid, *Numbers*, p. 214).

### NT Application: Korah's Conspirators vs. "Shepherds after my own heart"

It's grumbling against "you" in v. 5 and it is grumbling against "me" by the Israelites in v. 10. These amount to the same thing.

Moses and Aaron picture the true ministry of "shepherds according to My heart" (Jer 3:15), full of compassion for the lost, practicing ministerial self-denial.

Will we be unwitting conspirators joining in Korah's rebellion? Are we following Diotrephes who loves the preeminence (3John 9-11)? This is a permanent "sign against the rebels" (Num 17:10).