

Secrets of the Staff Revealed

“Definitions”:

ROD (Heb. *maqel, matteh, shevet*, Gr. *rhabdos*). Originally a name given to a piece of tree limb used as a support or as a weapon. There is little difference between the word for rod and that for staff. The Hebrew *shevet* is the word for “rod” or “club”, and is used of an ordinary rod, a shepherd’s crook, or the staff of a commander.

SCEPTER (Heb. *shevet*, Gr. *rhabdos*)

Hebrews 11:21 (*We find this event in the entire chapter of Genesis 48*)

- But the key to understanding what is happening is found in **Genesis 49: 1-10**

Numbers 17:1-11

Building a foundation:

- Before there was paper to write upon, before cave paintings, or before Egyptians diagrams, what was the history of man written upon? More importantly what was the Word of God written upon?
- Look closely at the verses found in Numbers 17...the staffs were written upon.
- Now let’s look back at **Hebrews 11:21** “By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.”

A. Why was he leaning on the top of his staff?

1. Before you answer, ask yourself this question: “When mentioned, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...why does it stop at Jacob?”

2. Now look closely and realize that the history, the promises, the stories, and the covenant of God were written on this particular staff. The lives and relationship of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob between them and Jehovah!
3. The staff was full of God's eternal word and we now see Jacob leaning at the top.

B. Was the first born not the one to receive the blessings and respect of the Father? The question now remains, is why would Jacob pass the staff (Word) onto Judah?

1. Reuben, the first born, was weak in will power to restrain in lusts. "Unstable as Water".
2. Simeon and Levi, instruments of cruelty. Some translations read that they murdered guiltless men and joyfully murdered a prince.
3. Then came Judah, "he whom thy brethren shall praise..." Judah was righteous and found worthy to carry the staff, "Word"

Dropping knowledge:

Exodus 7:10-12

- A. In verse ten, notice that Aaron's rod became a serpent...Why?
– This is the first step into the prophetic picture of the sin of man from the original start in the garden, ultimately being replaced.
- B. Don't miss the complete picture of Aaron's rod swallowing up their rods. If the rod had the word of God, another words the "Truth"...it will always overcome Satan's lies.

The Plagues

A. Exodus 7:19-21

B. Exodus 8:5-6

C. Exodus 8:16-17

D. Exodus 9:22-26

E. Exodus 10:12-15

- Something very important to understand is when studying about the plagues everything that God command, the magicians of Pharaoh done also. Do not ever forget that Satan can only imitate, but eventually he will not overcome. According to the scripture the magicians fell unto the boils and were no longer any use to Pharaoh.

Knowledge Facts

1. When the children was at the foot of the Red Sea (also translated into Sea of Reed—"Word"), Moses stretched his staff over the sea and it was divided.
2. On the way to Sinai, in the battle with Amalek, Aaron and Hur held up Moses's hands in which was the staff of God...by the way they won the battle.
3. Moses (According to **Numbers 20**) was commanded to strike the rock with his staff.

A. Forty years earlier, the Lord had instructed Moses to take the staff he had used to strike the Nile and to strike the rock at Horeb to initiate a flow of water (Ex. 17:1-7**).**

B. Now 40 years later, at the place of Israel's worst acts of rebellion, the scene was recurring.

1. Don't miss the symbolism...In **Exodus 17** Moses was commanded to take his rod (word) and strike the rock in which the water flowed. God's word + the Rock of Christ = the everlasting water of life.

2. Now Moses is once again commanded, but only to take the staff (word) in his hand and speak to the rock. Once a person grows in the word he can freely speak the word.
3. Moses spoke, then with anger struck the rock twice. You can not expect to take God's word in anger when it doesn't have the overcome YOU desire.
4. By the miraculous sign of the flowering and fruit bearing staff, the Lord identified Aaron as his chosen priest and accorded him a perpetual priesthood by ordering his staff to be deposited in the sanctuary.

A. Aaron's budding rod was symbolic of Christ's eternal reign!

1. Once again, don't miss the symbolism...Aaron's rod was dead, but out of death came life. From God's seed came fruit. Sin was Death...but Jesus was life.
2. Aaron's rod was placed in the Ark of the Covenant beneath the mercy seat in which God would dwell. Inside the ark was the commandments handed down on stone to Moses, a golden pot full of manna and Aaron's rod. God's Law + The bread or body of Jesus Christ + the resurrected life of Aaron's rod or another word's the Life of Christ.
5. In **2 Kings 4:29**, Elisha laid the staff upon the dead boy's face expecting the Lord to restore the boy's life when it was placed on him. This does not suggest that Elisha attributed magical power to the staff, but that he viewed it as a representation of his own presence and the divine power that was written upon the staff.
6. In **1 Samuel 17:40**, David took his staff in his hand along with the five smooth stones to fight the giant Goliath.

A. Question: Why did David take along his staff if he intended on using the five stones?

1. Don't overlook the fact of who David was and where he had been. I believe it was written on that staff that earlier he had been anointed to be the next King, that the spirit of the Lord had entered David, that he as a shepherd was delivered out of the paw of a lion and out of the paw of a bear by his hands through the power of the Lord...therefore he went to battle with the word standing before Goliath quoting the Word.
7. You have got to see this to fully appreciate what David was saying:
Psalm 23.

A. Many historians believe that David wrote this particular Psalm in the cave in which he hid when Saul was out to kill him.

Seeing the BIG Picture:

1. A rod held in the hands of kings as a token of authority.
2. We know that the Hebrew *shevet* is the word for “rod” or “club” and is used of an ordinary rod, a shepherd’s crook, or the staff of a commander
3. A rod or staff is the symbol of authority.
4. The staff-scepter might be used for protection.
5. When dying Jacob blessed his son Judah and promised him the royal leadership in words that Christians understand as a messianic prediction, it was the scepter that denoted the royal prerogative.
6. God’s kingship is also represented through a scepter and ultimately the cross.
 - a. **It was on the vertical post of the cross the sign was placed by Pilate reading and translating the letters YHVH...the name Yehovah.**
 - b. **Later Mary would see the place where the body of Christ laid with an angel a both ends—a picture of the mercy seat (*Don't forget about Aaron's rod and its location*).**

7. The coming of Christ was to be preceded by the rod.
8. Jesus is to win with a rod. Aaron's budding rod was symbolic of Christ's eternal reign.
9. The temple of God was measure with a rod-like reed.

The Ultimate Highlight:

Matthew 27:27-29

- Never did they even realize the prophetic picture they were painting.

Revelation 19:11-16

- The victorious believer will rule with a scepter or rod with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!