

Numbers

Chapter 17

- I. Introduction
 - a. Remember, we are still in the 40 years of wandering in this lesson
 - i. In our previous lesson, we saw a continuing rebellious spirit among the leaders and the people
 - b. More reading than normal today
 - i. But it's necessary
- II. Commentary
 - a. **Verses 1-7**
 - i. God confirms the office of Aaron here
 - 1. One can assume that this is the result of what we studied in the previous chapter
 - ii. There is to be another competition, so to speak
 - 1. This one involves staffs (or sticks) which have been cut from a tree
 - a. Obviously, these naturally are dead
 - 2. Each tribal chief and Aaron were to write their name on 12 staffs
 - a. Then, the staffs were to be placed before the LORD in the tabernacle
 - i. God would confirm His choice of priest by making his staff bud
 - 1. No matter how decorated these may have been, these were dead wood
 - a. Aaron's staff was just as dead as the others
 - ii. Moses lays the staffs before the LORD
- b. **Verses 8-11**
 - i. Moses entered the tabernacle on the next day
 - 1. God had caused a resurrection of Aaron's rod
 - a. It brought forth buds, blossoms and ripe almonds - fully ripe!!
 - b. By the resurrection of this dead branch, Aaron's priesthood was confirmed
 - ii. There is much to be seen here in the priesthood of Jesus
 - 1. **Hebrews 6:13-9:28**
 - a. Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek (**6:20**)
 - i. Melchizedek was not a Levitical priest
 - 1. Neither was Jesus (**7:14**)
 - b. Jesus was confirmed as our High Priest by His resurrection from the dead (**7:16**)

- i. Do we not see the same in Aaron's staff?
- c. The priesthood of the Levites was imperfect because of their own sinfulness
 - i. So, it is set aside (**7:18-19**)
- d. Jesus is the guarantor of a better covenant (**7:22**)
 - i. He was not a sinner (**7:26-28**)
- e. Christ, through a better offering, negated the first covenant (**8:13**)
- f. The Levitical priests entered into the holy places made with hands (**9:24**)
 - i. Jesus entered into Heaven itself to appear for us (**9:24**)