

PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S KINGDOM - Part 64 By Terri Hill

The Kingdom Principle Of God's Rod - The Rod speaks of the authoritative ministry of the Sons of God; Exodus 4:2-3, 17, 20; Numbers 17:1-13; 20:8-11; Revelation 2:26-27. The Hebrew word for "rod" is defined as a branch, stick, a rod for correction, for ruling (sceptre), for throwing (lance), or walking (a support of life); a staff, figurative of a tribe.

The ROD and the STAFF are employed by the Good Shepherd; Psalm 23:4; John 10:11; Matthew 25:31-46:

- A. The ROD is symbolic of the Word of God
- B. The STAFF is symbolic of the Spirit of God

THE GOOD SHEPHERD'S ROD:

1. Is an extension of the shepherd's (owner's) right arm.
2. Is a symbol of strength, power and authority.
3. Is an instrument used to correct, inspect and protect the sheep from enemies.
4. Enables the shepherd to effectively control his flock in any given situation.
5. Disciplines a wayward sheep who wanders away.
6. It speaks of the spoken Word, the expressed intent and the extended activity of God's mind and will in dealing with men.
7. It is thrown in the direction of a predator, driving it away from the flock.

PASSING UNDER THE SHEPHERD'S ROD:

A. "And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever PASSETH UNDER THE ROD, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord"; Leviticus 27:32

1. This alludes to the mode of taking a "tithe" of sheep and cattle, which were made to pass through a narrow gateway in the pen (an enclosure for animals); Matthew 7:13-14.

2. As the animal passed through this gate, a person with a rod counted them and "marked" the back of every tenth animal with a dye (a picture of the tithe); Jeremiah 33:13; Ezekiel 9:4-6.

3. That which is "counted and marked" belongs to the Lord. The Lord's tithe includes:

a. A Natural Tithe: finances, produce of the land; Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7:2; Malachi 3:8-10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.

b. A Spiritual Tithe: a people who are completely devoted to the Lord; Isaiah 6:13; Numbers 18:26; Nehemiah 10:38; Isaiah 53:6; Matthew 18:12; Jeremiah 3:14.

c. Note: tithes were brought to the temple, the "house of God"; Deut. 12:5-19. Jesus healed 10 lepers; Luke 17:11-19. Leprosy is symbolic of sin, those who are spiritually unclean. Only one out of ten (a tithe), went to THE TEMPLE (Jesus). Many may be forgiven of sin, but only one returns to Him, giving thanks and worship.

B. "And I will cause you to PASS UNDER THE ROD, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant"; Ezekiel 20:37

1. The Lord is stating: I will examine you carefully and hold you to the terms of the "covenant" (means "to cut"), a contract, treaty, agreement, pledge.

a. A sheep which "passed under the rod" was one which had been counted, inspected and looked over with great care; Psalm 139:23-24.

b. The shepherd takes his rod and parts the sheep's wool to determine the condition of its skin and wool, its health and the conformation of its body; Romans 12:2.

c. The rod of discipline and correction is alluded to in raising children; Proverbs 13:24; 19:18. God's children are heirs of His covenantal promises, placed under the influence of "tutors and governors"; Galatians 4:1-7. The Rod of God in the local church consists of the ministries of Ephesians 4:11-13.

d. Our Heavenly Father is aware of his child's physical, mental and spiritual condition, maturity and character development. As a child matures and is proven faithful, he is entrusted with greater responsibility and privileges from his father. There are 3 progressive concepts to consider:

1. Inheritance - every born again child of God is an heir. He desires that we receive the full benefit of His Covenant; Ephesians 1:18; Colossians 1:12; Acts 20:32.

2. Possession - we take possession of the "land" a little at a time, based upon our maturity and obedience; Isaiah 1:19; Eph. 5:5; Exod. 23:29-30; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rev. 21:7

3. Dominion - indicates power to rule; authority and ability to govern; Gen. 1:26; Psalm 8:6; Romans 6:14; Ephesians 1:20-22; Revelation 1:6

The Lord will "perfect" (end, complete, perform) that which concerns us; Psalm 138:8
He which hath begun a good work in us shall bring it to a completion; Philippians 1:6

Kingdom Principles Of The Rod Of God:

1. Aaron's Rod that "budded", Numbers 17:1-13, reveals:

a. Aaron is a type of Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest, Who stands between the living and the dead.

b. Each tribal leader presented a dead almond rod, inscribed with his name on it.

c. The Lord caused life to spring up in Aaron's Rod, a picture of the Resurrection.

d. Jehovah gave proof of His choice to the others through the fruitful Rod of Aaron (there were not just leaves upon it, but fruit - ripe almonds).

e. The Almond (tree or nut) represents the "firstfruits" - it is the first or earliest to bloom; it is the first to "awaken" from winter sleep; it was called the "hastener"; Jer. 1:11-12

f. His Rod was then placed in the Ark of the Covenant as a memorial of the rebellious uprising of Korah; Heb. 9:4.

g. Aaron's Rod swallowed up the rods of the sorcerers; Exodus 7:9-12.

2. A "Rod of Iron" denotes unbending authority; Psalm 2:8-9; Revelation 2:27:

a. To "break, dash into pieces" means to rule, to subdue or govern.

b. It points to the sceptre of God's Kingdom, His Governmental Authority; Hebrews 1:8.

3. The Rod was also a Branch, the extension of Jehovah's power in the earth. He walks among the branches (candlesticks); Revelation 1:12-13; Isaiah 11:1-2.

4. The Rod of the Manchild, "He that overcomes", is that which roars out of Zion in High Priestly Ministry; Psalm 110:2; Revelation 2:26-28.

5. If I submit to God's Rod, then I can take it up: "And the Lord said to him (Moses), What is that in your hand? And he said, A rod"; Exodus 3:10; 4:2.

a. The Rod speaks of Support - the upholding, protecting, strengthening Grace of God. (If you cast this away, you will find yourself immediately facing the serpent); Ex. 4:2-3.

b. Moses cast his rod to the ground, and it became a serpent; Exod. 4:3-4. God's Government is cast into the earth. He has delegated His authority to the rulers of the earth; Romans 13:1-7. God told Moses to:

1. Cast it on the ground - let go of your ministry, release it to God, and then
2. Take hold of it by the tail - Jesus is the Head.
3. Put forth your hand and catch it - reach for that ministry and hold of it.
4. It became a rod in Moses' hand - it will become the authority of God in your hand.

6. The Rod points to the Melchizedek Order - priestly authority and kingly dominion.

a. Jesus is the High Priest after the order of Melchizedek; Hebrews 5:6,10; Psalm 110:4.

b. Moses speaks of the kingly ministry. Aaron speaks of the priestly ministry.

c. They met together in the MOUNT (Kingdom of God); 1 Peter 2:9-10.

d. These share the commission and the credentials of Jehovah; together they minister the word of the Lord.

e. The offices of Prophet, Priest and King met in Jesus Christ, and will meet again in the Overcomer who is conformed to His image; 1 John 4:17.

7. The Greek word "kanon" means to "rule" with a straight Rod, as a ruler or measuring instrument; 2 Corinthians 10:13-16; Revelation 11:1.

8. God uses His Rod to DECLARE His name throughout the earth. It DELIVERS His people, brings signs and wonders, plagues upon the Egyptians, and it DIVIDES the sea (of humanity); Exodus 9:13-16,23; 14:16.

9. The Lord's Rod has broken the staff of the wicked; Ps. 2:9; Isaiah 14:5. Leaders who are disobedient and misuse the Rod of God's authority, shall not take the people into the Promised Land; Numbers 20:8-12.

10. "And the word of the Lord came unto me saying, What do you see, Jeremiah? And I said, I see a ROD of an almond tree"; see Jeremiah 1:10-12

God Uses His Ministry, The Rod Of His Authority:

1. To Root Out – refers to anything "planted" by the enemy; the axe is laid at the root of the tree; Matthew 15:13

2. To Pull Down – refers to anything "built" apart from God's Kingdom; Jer. 18:7

3. To Destroy – the works of the devil; 1 John 3:8 (Jesus has already accomplished this)

4. To Throw Down – impure altars, idols, false images; Judges 6:25-29; Jer. 31:28.

5. To Build – His Church (His people), to repair, to set up; Isaiah 65:21-23; Matthew 16:18; It is built upon the foundation of Apostolic and Prophetic ministry (revelation builds the house); Ephesians 2:20

6. To Plant – to fix or fasten His Vineyard, the establishing of His people in their land; Jeremiah 32:38-42; Amos 9:14-15

