

**W**hat does the rod of Moses represent? If you look back in Exodus, we find that in **Exodus chapter 4**, when Moses was commissioned by God to go to the Israelites, and go to Pharaoh and tell him to 'let my people go'. Moses said: 'Well, are they going to listen to me?' And God said: 'I'm going to give you signs to show you that they will listen to you', and one of the signs which He gave was the rod, which he was holding in his hands, his shepherd's staff, his rod.

**Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you.'" <sup>2</sup> So the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod." <sup>3</sup> And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. <sup>4</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), <sup>5</sup> "that they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."**

**S**o, he took this rod and threw it on the ground and it became a serpent. Then he took it by the tail, and it became a rod again. And, of course, what does the serpent speak to us off? Well, **Genesis 3**, the devil came and inhabited the serpent, and spoke to the woman, caused her to be tempted, and to cause the whole fall, the whole problem which came into the human race.

**S**o, in a sense, this rod becoming the serpent and then becoming this the rod again, when he takes it by the tail, is a sign of the authority which is given to Moses as the representative of God over the powers of darkness. Over Satan and demon powers which are behind the enemies which are coming against them.

**S**o, immediately you see the rod, you see something which is spiritual, which is speaking about God's authority, God's power, which is given to his people over the powers of darkness which are coming against his people.

**For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. And Pharaoh's heart grew hard ... Exodus 7.12-13**

**The Rod and Staff of the Lord "Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." — Psalm 23:4**

A ROD IS USED IN THE Bible to symbolize power and authority—destructive power, such as the "rod of iron"; the rod of discipline; and especially the rod of assistance and comfort as suggested in our theme text.

RODS AND STAFFS According to the best authorities, the distinction between a rod and a staff in olden times is not clear. In the Old Testament, the two words are often translated from the same Hebrew word, and seem to be used interchangeably. It appears that the shepherds of Israel may have had two distinct implements that were used in connection with their occupation... In the New Testament, the English words rod and staff are used several times and always translated from the same Greek word... The Lord and his disciples each used such a rod, or staff, to assist them as they journeyed from place to place. This is referred to in **Mark 6:8** when Jesus sent the twelve disciples out two by two, and instructed them to take nothing with them except their "staff"...

A SPECIAL ROD—THE ROD OF GOD We note a very special rod that is mentioned in the Scriptures in connection with the exodus of Israel from Egypt. This rod is called the "rod of Moses," the "rod of Aaron," the "rod of Levi," and most significantly it is called the "rod of God." This 'Rod of the Lord,' which was to play such an important role in the delivery of Israel from Egyptian bondage, had a very humble beginning. It was a simple shepherd's rod which Moses used in tending the flocks of Jethro, his father-in-law, in the land of Midian... WHAT IS THAT IN THINE HAND? The Lord is asking each one of us the question, as he asked Moses, '**What is that in thine hand?**' If we have certain talents, abilities, if we have material possessions, if we have a knowledge of the Truth, let us remember that all of these things have been sanctified with the 'rod' of God's authority through the begetting of the Holy Spirit, and we must use all to his praise and honor in faithful service to him... ROD USED AT THE RED SEA Let us now project our minds a little farther ahead where we see the children of Israel gathered at the Red Sea. The last plague—the death of the firstborn—was too much for Pharaoh to bear and he hastened to send the Israelites out of the land... ROD USED TO OBTAIN WATER In **Exodus 17**, we find Moses and the children of Israel have crossed over the Red Sea and are approaching unto Mount Horeb, which is Sinai, and near to the place where God first spoke to Moses out of the burning bush...

**What was the significance of Aaron's rod?**

... When God called the shepherd Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, He demonstrated His power by performing miracles using Moses' rod (**Exodus 4:1–5; Numbers 20:11**). God also chose Moses' brother, Aaron, to perform miracles with his own rod (**Exodus 7:19; 8:5, 16**). ... The most famous story of Aaron's rod begins with a few of the Levites becoming disgruntled about the extra authority given to Moses and Aaron. In **Numbers 16**, Korah, who was also a Levite, joined with two others, Dathan and Abiram, to incite a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. In **verse 3** Korah says to Moses, "**You have gone too far! The whole community of Israel has been set apart by the Lord, and he is with all of us. What right do you have to act as though you are greater than the rest of the Lord's people?**" Because of this defiance of the Lord's authority, God caused the earth to open up and swallow these three men and their families (**verses 28–33**)... However, rather than submit to the Lord, the other tribal leaders joined the revolt. **Numbers 16:41** says, "**But the very next morning the whole community of Israel began muttering again against Moses and Aaron, saying, 'You have killed the Lord's people!'**" The Lord desired to wipe out the whole company, but Moses and Aaron fell on their faces and pleaded with Him not to destroy them. God relented and, instead, sent a plague throughout the company of rebellious Israel; the plague killed 14,700 of them (**verse 49**).