

Chapter 17

Moyfes taking of the princes of twelue tribes twelue rodde, and one of Aaron for the tribe of Leui, layeth them al in the tabernacle al night, 8. where Aarons rodde (and none of the rest) buddeth, bloometh, and bringeth forth fruite. 9. And al being shewed to the people, Aarons is caried back, and kept for a monument in the tabernacle.

And our Lord spake to Moyfes, saying: ²Speake to the children of Ifrael, and ^a)take a rodde of euerie one of their kinredes, of al the princes of their tribes, twelue rodde, and the name of euerie one thou shalt write vpon his rodde. ³ And the name of Aaron shall be in the tribe of Leui, and one rodde shall containe al their families: ⁴ and thou shalt lay them in the tabernacle of couenant before the teftimonie, where I wil spake to thee. ⁵ Whomfoeuer of thefe I shal choofe, his rodde shal bloffome: and I shal ftay from me the grudgings of the children of Ifrael, wherwith they murmur againft you. ⁶ And Moyfes spake to the children of Ifrael: and al the princes gaue him rodde by euerie tribe: and they were twelue rodde besides Aarons rodde. ⁷ Which when Moyfes had laid before our Lord in the tabernacle of teftimonie: ⁸ returning the day folowing he found that ^dAarons ^b)rodde in the houle of Leui was budded: and the buddes therof fwelling, the bloffomes were shotte forth, which fpredding the leaues, were fashioned into almondes. ⁹ Moyfes therefore brought forth al the rodde from the fight of our Lord to al the children of Ifrael: and they faw and euerie one receiued their rodde. ¹⁰ And our Lord faid to Moyfes: Carie backe Aarons rodde into the tabernacle of teftimonie, that it

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fully formed.

^a For more fatisfaction to the whole people God confirmeth Aarons authoritie by a new miracle. *v. 10.*

^b The rodde fignified the B. Virgin mother; and the almondes Chrif, to wit, the vtter pill his humanitie, the fhel his croffe, the kernel his diuinitie; VVho *pacified by the bloud of his croffe, al thinges in earth and in heauen. Collof. 1. S. Aug. fer. 3. de temp.*

may be kept there for a figne of the rebellious children of Ifrael, and let their complaintes ceafe from me, left they die. ¹¹ And Moyfes did as our Lord had commanded. ¹² And the children of Ifrael faid to Moyfes: Behold we are confumed, we are al perished. ¹³ Whofoeuer approcheth to the tabernacle of our Lord, he dieth. Are we al to be deftroied vnto vtter confumption?

ANNOTATIONS

8 Aarons rodde.) This rodde without roote, neither it felf planted, nor anie liue branch ingrafted therin, al drie without iuyce or moifture, bringing forth buddes, flowers, and fruite, was a figure that our B. Ladie fhould beare a fonne, and remaine a Virgin. And this example euidently demonftrateth that fhe could fo do, it being no more contrarie to nature, that a virgin fhould conceiue, and beare a child without loffe of virginitie, then that the drie rodde fhould bud and beare fruite, without ordinarie concourfe of nature. *S. Aug. fer. 3. de temp. S. Greg. Niffen. de nattuit. Dom. S. Bernard. ho. 2. in Euang. Mifus eft.*

Example of one miracle proueth the poffibilitie of an other.