

## **God's Presence In Our Lives**

### **Part 3**

In our previous section we spoke that inside the ark of the covenant three more things are associated with God's presence according to **Hebrews 9:4** *"having a golden altar of incense, and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which was a golden pot holding the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant."* And as the following:

- 1- *A golden pot holding the manna.*
- 2- *Aaron's rod that budded.*
- 3- *The tables of the covenant.*

We spoke about the tables of the covenant and we will proceed now to speak about Aaron's rod that budded:

***1- Aaron's rod that budded:*** What is Aaron's rod, from where it came, how it budded and why it found itself in the Ark of the Covenant? this what we are going to discuss in the Part 3 and 4.

When God commissioned Moses to go to Egypt and faced Pharaoh to bring his people out of Egypt. Moses asked the Lord what I will do if the Israelites would not believe that God appeared to me: ***"1 Moses answered, 'What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'" 2 Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. 3 The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. 4 Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. 5 "This," said the LORD, "is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has appeared to you."*** (Exodus 4:1-5)

So as we read above the Lord gave to Moses a sign for the Israelites to believe in him that he is sent by God. And truly God used that staff as a sign with other signs to make the Israelites to believe in Moses. Then ***"27 The LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the desert to meet Moses." So he met Moses at the mountain of God and kissed him. 28 Then Moses told Aaron everything the LORD had sent him to say, and also about all the miraculous signs he had commanded him to perform. 29 Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, 30 and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, 31 and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped."*** (Exodus 4:27-31)

The rod or the staff that was in the hand of Moses was used by Aaron his brother when they were confronting Pharaoh who was resisting them and not allowing God's people to leave Egypt. ***"8 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, 9 "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a miracle,' then say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,' and it will become a snake." 10 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. 11 Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian***

***magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: 12 Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. 13 Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said."*** (Exodus 7:8-13) So now clearly we can read that it is called Aaron's staff or rod and was used to convince Pharaoh to obey God.

Furthermore Aaron's rod or staff was used further by the Lord to perform miracles to convince Pharaoh, ***"19 The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt--over the streams and canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs'--and they will turn to blood. Blood will be everywhere in Egypt, even in the wooden buckets and stone jars." 20 Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood. 21 The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. Blood was everywhere in Egypt. 22 But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said."*** (Exodus 7:19-22)

***"5 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your staff over the streams and canals and ponds, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.'" 6 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land. 7 But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt."*** (Exodus 8:5-7) So in the above two plagues the magicians made counterfeit miracles in order to oppose Aaron and nullify his rod or staff. But in the next plague as we are going to read they were not able to counterfeit what Aaron staff did: ***"16 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,' and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats." 17 They did this, and when Aaron stretched out his hand with the staff and struck the dust of the ground, gnats came upon men and animals. All the dust throughout the land of Egypt became gnats. 18 But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not. And the gnats were on men and animals."*** (Exodus 8:16-18)

What we learn here from the above, that when God called you to serve Him there will be forces, authorities and people who will be opposing you, and for all that you need to rely fully on God's presence who will go before you to defeat them. You cannot depend or rely on your own ways and power but on God and His grace and provision to face the enemy.

***My dear and beloved:*** Paul said ***"16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. 17 But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen."*** (2Timothy 4:16-18) People cannot help you in the mid of the opposition that is around you. Only the Lord can rescue you and deliver you. Therefore cry and pray to Him and He will deliver you as you agree to pray. ***My Prayer:*** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I cry out to you, deliver me Lord from those people \_\_\_\_\_.* *Lord help me, sustain me and provide for me to continue to serve you. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*