



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE  
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2014



# CANON

## *A Study in the Revelation of Jesus Christ*

A Three Part Series



SESSION ONE:

### **The Almond Branch**

*The Token Against the Rebels*

7

SESSION TWO:

### **What is a Rod, Anyway?**

*Unpacking the Idea of Canon*

15

SESSION THREE:

### **The Messiah Test**

*Is He the Promised Savior, or not?*

23



## SESSION ONE

# THE ALMOND BRANCH

*The Token Against the Rebels*

## Who's in Charge Here?

The Question of Authority that Every Generation Must Face

## The Bristling

Who are you to tell me what to do?

## Korah and His Cronies

The Canon Debate Begins

Now Korah . . . and Dathan and Abiram . . . took men: And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, You take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift you up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

**Numbers 16:1-3**

## Dirty Debate Technique #1

Discredit your opponent, cast doubt on his competence, smear his good name

Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that flows with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us? Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that flows with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? **We will not come up.**

**Numbers 16:1-3, 13-14**

# The Stand-Off

How Do We Know Who is Right?

*When that which defines right is questioned,  
then how does one determine right from wrong?*

# The Canon Test

That Which Proves Authority

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod. And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers. And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you. And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you.

**Numbers 17:1-5**

# Why Take a Rod?

It's the symbol of Authority

And Moses spoke unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods. And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness.

**Numbers 17:6-7**

# The Rod that Buds is the Rod that Rules

And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds. And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod. And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be

kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not. And Moses did so: as the LORD commanded him, so did he.

**Numbers 17:8-11**

## God Has Spoken

But Will We Listen?

Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

**Jeremiah 1:11-12**

## SESSION TWO

# WHAT IS A ROD, ANYWAY?

*Unpacking the Idea of Canon*

## Canon Authority

The Divine Right to Rule and Control

## The Canon Test

The Test to Prove Who Has the Authority to Govern

## The Canon of Scripture

The 66 Books which possess the Divine Right to Rule and Control. That which has passed the Canon Test.

## A Canon

A Rod of authority, a Branch fashioned for the purpose of ruling well, a Tree limb cut and carved and utilized for the proper expression of power and control.

## The Rod of Authority

The Fashioned Tree Branch and its Four uses throughout the Bible

1. **Measuring Rod** (Ezekiel 40:2-4; Revelation 11:1)
2. **A Rod of Correction** (Ezekiel 20:37; Proverbs 13:24; 22:15)
3. **A Shepherd's Rod** (Psalm 23:4)
4. **A King's Rod of Authority** (Psalm 110:2; Micah 6:9; Revelation 19:15)



All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable **for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**: That the man of God **may be perfect, thoroughly furnished** unto all good works.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

1. For doctrine
2. for reproof and correction
3. for instruction in righteousness
4. for being made perfect and thoroughly furnished for all good works

## This is What a Rod Does!

1. **Measuring Rod** - for doctrine
2. **A Rod of Correction** - for reproof and correction
3. **A Shepherd's Rod** - for instruction in righteousness
4. **A King's Rod of Authority** - for being made perfect, and thoroughly furnished for all good works

## The Building of the Bible

Testing Everything Against the Word of God

## How To Test a Rod as Authentic

How do you know it came from THE Tree of Life?

1. It Must Prove the Same Wood Grain
2. It Must Bear the Same Fruit
3. It Must Measure Perfectly with the Other Branches
4. It Must Have Been Publicly Sealed

## What is the Word of God All About?

It's About a Messiah and What this Messiah will do!

# The Bible on Two Legs

And **the Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**John 1:14**

## The Rod is Christ

1. He is the Measuring Rod
2. He is the Rod of Correction
3. He is the Shepherd's Rod
4. He is the King's Rod of Authority

## Jesus, The Branch

The Rod of all Rods

I am the root and the offspring of David . . .

**Revelation 22:16**

## The Builder of the Stage

Is also the Leading Man in the Drama He produced

## Hear Him!

This is My beloved Son. **Hear Him!**

**Luke 9:35**

The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. **Him you shall hear** . . . I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.

**Deuteronomy 18:15,18-19**

# The Branch

The long-awaited One

And there shall come forth a **Rod** out of the stem of Jesse, and a **Branch** shall grow out of his roots . . .

## Isaiah 11:1

Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant **the BRANCH** . . . and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

## Zechariah 3:1-9

Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest; And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is **The BRANCH**; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and **he shall be a priest upon his throne**: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

## Zechariah 6:9-13

In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious . . . When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.

## Isaiah 4:1-6

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a **righteous Branch** . . . In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

## Jeremiah 23:5-6

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, will I cause **the Branch** of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness. For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel; Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually.

## Jeremiah 33:14-18



## SESSION THREE

# The Messiah Test

*Is He the Promised Savior, or not?*

And if you say in your heart, “How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?” When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

**Deuteronomy 18:21-22**

## The Blossoming Rod

He has done it!

Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

**Jeremiah 1:11-12**

## The Canon Test

If Jesus Passes it, Then He Has the Divine Right to Rule and Control

Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am (He).

**John 13:19**

### 1. He must prove to be the Son of God

#### Old Testament Prophecy

Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, **Thou art my Son**; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

## **Psalm 2:6-9**

### **New Testament Fulfillment**

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also **that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.**

**Luke 1:30-35**

## **2. He must prove the Seed of the Woman**

### **Old Testament Prophecy**

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

**Genesis 3:14-15**

### **New Testament Fulfillment**

But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law

**Galatians 4:4**

## **3. He must prove the Seed of Abraham**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Genesis 17:7-8)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Galatians 3:16)

## **4. He must prove the Seed of Isaac**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Genesis 21:12)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Hebrews 11:17-19)

## **5. He must prove the Seed of David**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Psalm 132:11)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Acts 13:22-23; Romans 1:1-14)

## **6. He must be born of a virgin. He must be Immanuel, God with us**

**Old Testament Prophecy**

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**Isaiah 7:14**

**New Testament Fulfillment**

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Luke 2:7**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

**Matthew 1:18-23**

## **7. He must be born in Bethlehem Judea**

**Old Testament Prophecy**

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

**Micah 5:2**

**New Testament Fulfillment**

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

**Matthew 2:1**

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

**Luke 2:4-6**

## **8. Kings must fall down before him offering gifts**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Psalm 72:10-11)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Matthew 2:1-11)

## **9. He must be called out of Egypt**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Hosea 11:1)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Matthew 2:13-15)

## **10. Elijah must come before Him**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; Malachi 4:5)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Matthew 3:1-3; Matthew 11:9-15; Matthew 17:10-12)

## **11. He must be anointed with the Spirit**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Psalm 45:7)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Matthew 3:16)

## **12. His ministry must commence in Galilee**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Isaiah 9:1-2)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Matthew 4:12-19)



### **13. He must enter Jerusalem riding upon a colt**

#### **Old Testament Prophecy**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon a donkey, and upon a colt the foal of a donkey.

**Zechariah 9:9**

#### **New Testament Fulfillment**

And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find a donkey tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them. All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon a donkey, and a colt the foal of a donkey.

**Matthew 21:1-5**

### **14. He must be undesirable to many**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Isaiah 53:1)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Mark 6:3)

### **15. He must be meek**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Isaiah 42:1-3)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Matthew 12:14)

### **16. His being without guile**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Isaiah 53:9)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (1 Peter 2:21-25)

### **17. He must be consumed with zeal for God's House**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Psalm 69:9)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (John 2:13-22)

## **18. He must bear the reproach**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Psalm 22:6-8; 12-13)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Romans 15:3)

## **19. He must be betrayed by a friend**

**Old Testament Prophecy**

Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

**Psalm 41:9**

**New Testament Fulfillment**

I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eats bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

**John 13:18-19**

## **20. The sheep must be scattered**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Zechariah 13:7)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Matthew 26:31, 56)

## **21. He must be sold for thirty pieces of silver and the Potter's field must be purchased with the money**

**Old Testament Prophecy**

And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

**Zechariah 11:12-13**

## **New Testament Fulfillment**

And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

**Matthew 26:15**

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

**Matthew 27:3**

## **22. He must be numbered with the Criminals**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Isaiah 53:12)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Matthew 15:27-30)

## **23. He must make intercession for his murderers**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Isaiah 53:12)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Luke 23:34)

## **24. They Must Cast Lots for His Clothing**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Psalm 22:18)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Luke 23:34)

## **25. His hands and his feet must be pierced**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Psalm 22:16)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (John 20:25-27)

## **26. He must die**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Isaiah 53:12)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Matthew 27:50-54)

## **27. His bones must not be broken**

**Old Testament Prophecy**

In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.

**Exodus 12:46**

He keeps all his bones: not one of them is broken.

**Psalms 34:20**

**New Testament Fulfillment**

But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knows that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

**John 19:33-36**

## **28. His side must be pierced**

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Zechariah 12:10)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (John 19:34)

## **29. He must rise again from the dead**

**Old Testament Prophecy**

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

**Psalms 16:10**

**New Testament Fulfillment**

He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spoke unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words,

**Luke 24:6-8**

### 30. He must ascend

**Old Testament Prophecy** (Psalm 68:18)

**New Testament Fulfillment** (Luke 24:51-53)

## Isaiah 53

750 years before Jesus

Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am (He).

**John 13:19**

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

- For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant
- And as a root out of dry ground
- He has no form or comeliness
- And when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him
- He is despised and rejected by men
- A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief
- And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him
- He was despised, and we did not esteem Him
- Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows
- Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted
- But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities
- The chastisement for our peace was upon Him
- And by His stripes we are healed
- All we like sheep have gone astray
- We have turned, every one, to his own way
- And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all
- He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth
- He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.
- He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living

- For the transgressions of My people He was stricken
- And they made His grave with the wicked--But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth
- Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him
- He has put Him to grief
- When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand
- He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied
- By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities
- Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong
- Because He poured out His soul unto death
- And He was numbered with the transgressors
- And He bore the sin of many
- And made intercession for the transgressors

## Psalm 22

1000 years before Jesus

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

**Matthew 27:46**

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? . . .

- I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people
- All those who see Me ridicule Me
- They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!" . . .
- Be not far from Me, For trouble is near; For there is none to help
- Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me
- They gape at Me with their mouths, like a raging and roaring lion
- I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint
- My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me
- My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws

- You have brought Me to the dust of death
- For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me
- They pierced My hands and My feet
- I can count all My bones
- They look and stare at Me
- They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots

This is My beloved Son. **Hear Him!**

**Luke 9:35**