

Deuteronomy 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone:

Analysis

Moses' acknowledgment of being unable to bear the burden alone demonstrates humble leadership and the principle of delegation. The Hebrew 'nasa' (bear/carry) suggests the weight of judicial and administrative responsibility exceeded one person's capacity. This recognition led to the establishment of a judicial system (Exodus 18), showing that God provides wisdom and structure for effective leadership through shared responsibility.

Historical Context

This references Jethro's advice in Exodus 18:13-27, given early in the wilderness journey. Moses wisely implemented a multi-tiered judicial system with leaders over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens—a model of distributed authority that prevented burnout and ensured justice.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Where in your life do you need to acknowledge limitations and seek help?
2. How can you better share responsibility and develop other leaders?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	מְרֹא	תִּבְעֶר	וְאַתָּה	מֵלֵךְ	רַא	לֹא
And I spake	H413	unto you at that time	H1931	And I spake	H3808	
	H559				H559	
לֹא	כִּי	תִּבְדֹּק	שְׁאֵת	אַתָּכֶם	לֹא	
I am not able	you yourself alone	to bear	H853			
H3201	H905	H5375				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 18:18 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.

Numbers 11:17 (Parallel theme): And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.