

# Numbers 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses numbered them according to the word of the LORD, as he was commanded.

## Analysis

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Moses' obedience in numbering the Levites 'according to the word of the LORD, as he was commanded' demonstrates faithful execution of divine commands even in seemingly mundane administrative tasks. Faithful stewardship appears not only in spectacular acts of faith but in careful obedience to detailed instructions. This challenges the modern tendency to dichotomize 'spiritual' and 'practical' work—for God's servants, all obedience is spiritual service.

## Historical Context

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The census results (recorded in Numbers 3:17-39) provided the foundation for organizing Levitical service, with each clan assigned specific tabernacle components to transport and maintain. This administrative work enabled Israel's worship, demonstrating that practical service facilitates spiritual purposes.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Moses' careful obedience in administrative tasks challenge false distinctions between 'spiritual' and 'practical' work?
2. What does this teach us about the importance of faithful execution of detailed responsibilities in church ministry?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּפְקֹד	אֹתָם	וַיִּפְקֹד	אֹתָם	כַּאֲשֶׁר	צִוָּה
numbered	H853	And Moses	H5921	them according to the word	of the LORD
H6485		H4872		H6310	H3068
כַּאֲשֶׁר		צִוָּה			
H834		as he was commanded			
		H6680			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 4:37** (Word): These were they that were numbered of the families of the Kohathites, all that might do service in the tabernacle of the congregation, which Moses and Aaron did number according to the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

**Numbers 3:39** (Word): All that were numbered of the Levites, which Moses and Aaron numbered at the commandment of the LORD, throughout their families, all the males from a month old and upward, were twenty and two thousand.