

# Numbers 32:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses said unto them, If ye will do this thing, if ye will go armed before the LORD to war,

## Analysis

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After Reuben and Gad promised to fight alongside other tribes before settling, Moses consented with conditions. Their amended proposal demonstrated that initial resistance to community obligation could be overcome through committed promise to participate in corporate mission. Proper resolution required both sides hearing each other and finding solution serving both personal interest and communal good.

## Historical Context

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The condition that they fight 'before the LORD' (verse 20) meant in the vanguard, taking most dangerous position. This proved their sincerity—not seeking safety while others fought but bearing greatest risk. Their willingness to accept these terms showed genuine repentance from initial self-centered request.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How can pursuing personal interests be reconciled with community obligations?
2. What does it mean to bear disproportionate burden to prove your commitment to community welfare?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּקָר אֶת תַּעֲשֵׂה וְאֵת אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים מֵשֶׁה וְאֵלֶיךָם יֹאמֶר  
said H413 And Moses H518 unto them If ye will do H853 this thing  
H559 H4872 H6213 H1697

לִמְלֹאת הַמִּצְמָה: יְהִי הַתִּפְלִצְתִּי אֵם בַּעַד הַלְּפִנֵּי  
H2088 H518 if ye will go armed H2502 before H6440 the LORD H3068 to war H4421

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