

# Numbers 32:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Build you cities for your little ones, and folds for your sheep; and do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth.

## Analysis

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**Build you cities for your little ones, and folds for your sheep; and do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth**—Moses authorizes Reuben and Gad to establish settlements east of Jordan: **build... cities** בְּנֻוּ לְכֶם עָרִים (benu lakhem arim) for dependents and **folds** גָּדְרוֹת (gederot, walled enclosures) for livestock. The concluding phrase—**do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth** הַיְצָא מִפִּיכֶם עָשָׂו (hayotze mifikem asu, 'what has gone from your mouth, do')—holds them to their commitment to fight with Israel before settling (32:16-19).

This verse demonstrates covenant principle: public commitments create binding obligations before God and community. Jesus taught: 'Let your yes be yes and your no be no' (Matthew 5:37). The tribes' verbal pledge required fulfillment regardless of subsequent preference changes. Modern casual commitments ('I'll think about it,' 'maybe') avoid accountability, but biblical community requires actionable yes/no answers with follow-through responsibility.

## Historical Context

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Reuben, Gad, and half-Manasseh requested Transjordan territories (Gilead and Bashan) because the land suited their vast livestock holdings (32:1). Moses initially feared they were repeating the spies' unbelief (32:6-15) but accepted their commitment to cross Jordan and fight alongside other tribes before returning to their east-bank inheritances.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Moses' phrase 'do what proceeded from your mouth' challenge contemporary casual commitment-making that avoids accountability?
2. What does the requirement to fulfill spoken commitments teach about the weight and seriousness of our words?
3. How can you cultivate integrity that treats verbal commitments as binding obligations requiring faithful execution?

## Interlinear Text

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Build	H1129	לְכַלֵּל	עָרִים	לְכַלְלָה	לְצַדְאָכָה	תְּגִידֶל	לְצַדְאָכָה
	H0	you	cities	for your little ones	and folds	for your sheep	
	H5892			H2945	H1448	H6792	

  

that which hath proceeded	H3318	מִפְיָצָךְ	out of your mouth	H6310	פָּעַשׂ	and do	H6213
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## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 32:16** (Parallel theme): And they came near unto him, and said, We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle, and cities for our little ones: