

Numbers 32:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the children of Gad and the children of Reuben spake unto Moses, saying, Thy servants will do as my lord commandeth.

Analysis

And the children of Gad and the children of Reuben spake unto Moses, saying, Thy servants will do as my lord commandeth—The tribal representatives' response—**thy servants will do as my lord commandeth** (עבדיך) יבשׁוּ כִּי אָשָׁר אָדָם מִצָּה avadekha ya'asu ka'asher adoni metzaveh)—demonstrates submissive covenant obedience. The self-designation **thy servants** (עבדיך) acknowledges Moses' prophetic authority, while **as my lord commandeth** commits to complete compliance.

This response models healthy submission to spiritual authority—not begrudging compliance but willing covenant partnership. The New Testament teaches: 'Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account' (Hebrews 13:17). Submission isn't servility but recognizing God-ordained authority structures that provide order and protection in covenant community.

Historical Context

Moses' initial suspicion (32:6-15) that Reuben and Gad were repeating the exodus generation's unbelief required these tribes to clearly demonstrate covenant faithfulness. Their submissive response and detailed battle-participation commitment (32:16-19,25-27) convinced Moses of sincere intent, leading to authorization of their Transjordan settlement.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the phrase 'thy servants will do as my lord commands' model appropriate submission to spiritual authority in covenant communities?
2. What distinguishes healthy biblical submission from either rebellious independence or servile people-pleasing?
3. How can you cultivate willingness to submit to legitimate spiritual authority while maintaining conscience freedom and personal responsibility before God?

Interlinear Text

מֵשֶׁה אֶל רְאוּבֵן וְעֵדָה וְבָנָי גָּד וְבָנָי יְהוּדָה וְבָנָי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאַמְתָּה

מִצְחָה אָדָן וְכָאָשָׁר יְעַבֵּד יְהָוָה יְהָוָה לְאַמְתָּר saying Thy servants will do H834 as my lord commandeth H6680 H559 H5650 H6213 H113

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