

# 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** (עֲבָדֶיךָ יַעֲשׂוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר אֲדֹנִי מְצַוֶּה avadekha ya'asu ka'asher adoni metzaveh)—demonstrates submissive covenant obedience. The self-designation **thy servants** (עֲבָדֶיךָ) 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

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**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

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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

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לֵאמֹר	וּבְנֵי י	גַּד	וּבְנֵי י	רְאוּבֵן	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה
saying	And the children	of Gad	And the children	of Reuben	H413	unto Moses
H559	H1121	H1410	H1121	H7205		H4872
לֵאמֹר	עֲבָדֶי יְ	יַעֲשׂוּ	כְּאֲשֶׁר	אֲדֹנִי	מִצְוָה:	
saying	Thy servants	will do	H834	as my lord	commandeth	
H559	H5650	H6213		H113	H6680	