

# Numbers 32:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So concerning them Moses commanded Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the chief fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel:

## Analysis

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**So concerning them Moses commanded Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the chief fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel—** Moses establishes verification committee: **Eleazar the priest** (representing religious authority), **Joshua** (military commander/Moses' successor), and **chief fathers** (tribal elders). The verb **commanded** (צִוָּה tzivah) indicates authoritative instruction ensuring covenant terms would be enforced.

This multi-authority oversight (priest + prophet-successor + tribal elders) prevented later disputes about conditional land grants. Transparent accountability involving multiple witnesses mirrors New Testament principle: 'By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established' (Matthew 18:16). Significant covenant commitments require documentation and multiple-party verification to prevent later confusion or manipulation.

## Historical Context

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Moses knew he wouldn't enter Canaan (Numbers 20:12; Deuteronomy 34:4), necessitating clear instructions to successor leadership. By involving Eleazar, Joshua, and tribal elders, Moses ensured institutional memory would survive leadership transition. This foresight prevented Reuben and Gad from later claiming Moses made unconditional promises—witnesses held them accountable.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Moses' establishment of multi-party oversight teach the importance of transparency and verification in significant agreements?
2. What does involving priest, military leader, and elders demonstrate about comprehensive accountability across different authority spheres?
3. How can you ensure that major commitments involve adequate witnesses and documentation to prevent future disputes or misunderstandings?

## Interlinear Text

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|               |                 |                          |        |           |               |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------|-----------|---------------|
| וַיֹּצֵא      | לָהֶם           | מֹשֶׁה                   | אֵת    | אֶלְעָזָר | הַכֹּהֵן      |
| commanded     | H0              | So concerning them Moses | H853   | Eleazar   | the priest    |
| H6680         |                 | H4872                    |        | H499      | H3548         |
| וְיָאֵת       | יְהוֹשֻׁעַ      | לְבָנֵי                  | נֹון   | וְאֵת     | כְּאִשִּׁי    |
| H853          | and Joshua      | of the children          | of Nun | H853      | and the chief |
|               | H3091           | H1121                    | H5126  |           | H7218         |
|               |                 |                          |        |           | fathers       |
|               |                 |                          |        |           | H1            |
| הַמִּטּוֹת    | לְבָנֵי         | יִשְׂרָאֵל:              |        |           |               |
| of the tribes | of the children | of Israel                |        |           |               |
| H4294         | H1121           | H3478                    |        |           |               |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 1:13** (References Moses): Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.

