

# 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

**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** (תִּצְוָה 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

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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רְכָב | אֶלְעָזָר אֶת  
מִשְׁנָה | לְבָם תִּיצְא  
commanded H0 So concerning them Moses H853 Eleazar the priest H3548  
H6680 H4872 H499

אָב וְתַּתְּבִּרְאֵשׁ | לְבָנִים אֶת נָהָר  
and Joshua of the children of Nun and the chief fathers  
H853 H3091 H1121 H5126 H853 H7218 H1

יִשְׂרָאֵל: לְבָנִים הַמּוֹט וְתַּתְּבִּרְאֵשׁ  
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.

