

Numbers 4:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From thirty years old and upward until fifty years old shalt thou number them; all that enter in to perform the service, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Analysis

The age requirement of thirty to fifty years for Levitical service demonstrates divine wisdom in balancing maturity and strength for sacred work. These were men in their prime, possessing both the physical vigor for demanding labor and the seasoned judgment for careful handling of holy things. This principle of qualified service pervades Scripture—God calls workers who are equipped for the task. The Reformed tradition emphasizes both calling and preparation for ministry.

Historical Context

The thirty-year minimum corresponds to the age when priests began their service and when Jesus began His public ministry. The maximum age of fifty ensured that those handling the heavy tabernacle components had adequate strength for the demanding work of repeated assembly and disassembly.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the age requirement for Levitical service inform modern practices of training and ordaining church leaders?
2. What balance should exist between youthful energy and mature wisdom in Christian service?
3. In what ways did Jesus fulfillment of Levitical service transform our understanding of qualification for ministry?

Interlinear Text

בָּן	שְׁנַת	יָמִים	שְׁלֹשׁ	יָמִים	בָּן	שְׁנַת	יָמִים	שְׁלֹשׁ	יָמִים	בָּן	שְׁנַת	יָמִים	שְׁלֹשׁ	יָמִים						
old	From	thirty	years	and	upward	old	until	fifty	years	old	until	fifty	years	old	until	fifty	years			
H1121		H7970		H8141		H4605		H5704		H1121		H2572		H8141		H6635		H6635		
shalt	thou	number		H853		H3605		them	all	that	enter	in	to	perform	the	service				
לַעֲבֹד	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם	בָּאָדָם			
to	do	the	work	in	the	tabernacle	of	the	congregation	to	do	the	work	in	the	tabernacle	of	the	congregation	
H5647		H5656				H168					H4150									

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 4:3 (Temple): From thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.