

# 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

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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

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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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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בֶּן	שְׁלֹשׁ יָמִים	שָׁנָה	וְעַד	עַד	בֶּן	חֲמִשָּׁה יָמִים	שָׁנָה
old	From thirty	years	and upward	H5704	old	until fifty	years
H1121	H7970	H8141	H4605		H1121	H2572	H8141
תִּפְקֹד	אֹתָם	כָּל	הַבָּא	לַעֲבֹד	אֶת	עֲבֹדָת	הַמִּשְׁכָּן
shalt thou number	H853	H3605	them all that enter in	to perform		the service	
H6485			H935	H6633		H6635	
לַעֲבֹד	עֲבֹדָת	בַּמִּשְׁכָּן	מִן	הַקִּהְלָה	מוֹעֵד:		
to do	the work	in the tabernacle	of the congregation				
H5647	H5656	H168	H4150				

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.