

# Numbers 4:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is the service of the families of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle of the congregation: and their charge shall be under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

## Analysis

Ithamar's oversight of the Gershonites establishes accountability in sacred service. Even those called to bear the tabernacle's coverings needed direction and supervision. This principle protects both the workers and the work—guidance prevents error, and accountability ensures faithful execution. The Reformed tradition emphasizes that ministry should be exercised within the context of church oversight, not independent individualism.

## Historical Context

Ithamar was Aaron's youngest surviving son, his older brothers Nadab and Abihu having died for offering unauthorized fire. Ithamar's assignment to oversee the Gershonites while his brother Eleazar oversaw the Kohathites divided the supervisory responsibilities among the priestly sons.

## Related Passages

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does the principle of oversight in ministry protect both leaders and the church?
2. What does Ithamar's role teach us about delegation and shared responsibility in leadership?
3. In what ways does accountability in service reflect our ultimate accountability to God?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּאָתָה עֲבֹד תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה יְהוָה בְּאָתָה  
H2063 This is the service of the families of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle  
H5656 H4940 H1121 H1649 H168

אִתְּמָר רְבִיד מֹעֵד מִשְׁמְרָת מִתְּמָרָת  
of the congregation and their charge shall be under the hand of Ithamar  
H4150 H4931 H3027 H385

בָּנֵי אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהן  
of the sons of Aaron the priest  
H1121 H175 H3548

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 4:33** (Temple): This is the service of the families of the sons of Merari, according to all their service, in the tabernacle of the congregation, under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.