

# Numbers 4:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that entereth into the service, for the work in the tabernacle of the congregation:

## Analysis

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**From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old**—The twenty-year service window (מִבֶן שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה, miben shlosim shanah) matched Jesus's age at ministry commencement (Luke 3:23). Thirty represented maturity and tested character; fifty marked transition from active labor to mentorship roles (Numbers 8:24-26).

**Every one that entereth into the service** (כל-הַבָּא לְאַבָּא, kol-haba latzava)—The verb צָבָא (tzava) literally means 'to wage war,' depicting tabernacle service as spiritual warfare. Paul echoed this in 1 Timothy 1:18 and 2 Timothy 2:3-4, calling believers to 'soldier' for Christ. Service wasn't passive ritual but active engagement in God's kingdom advance.

## Historical Context

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The age requirement ensured physical strength for transporting the tabernacle's heavy furnishings during wilderness migrations. Later, David lowered the minimum age to twenty-five (1 Chronicles 23:24-27), then twenty, as temple service became stationary rather than nomadic.

## Related Passages

## **Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment**

## **Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds**

## Study Questions

1. How does viewing Christian service as 'spiritual warfare' (tzava) transform your approach to seemingly mundane ministry tasks?
2. What role does spiritual maturity (the 'age thirty' principle) play in qualifications for church leadership today?

## Interlinear Text

בָּנִים	שְׁנַת הַיּוֹם	שְׁנַת הַשְׁלֵשִׁים	וְעַד שְׁנַת הַעֲלֵה	וְעַד שְׁנַת הַיּוֹם	בָּנִים	שְׁנַת הַיּוֹם	שְׁנַת הַשְׁלֵשִׁים	וְעַד שְׁנַת הַעֲלֵה
<b>old</b>	<b>From thirty</b>	<b>years</b>	<b>and upward</b>	H5704	<b>old</b>	<b>even unto fifty</b>	<b>years</b>	
H1121	H7970	H8141	H4605		H1121	H2572		H8141
כָּל	הַבָּא	לְאַבָּא	לְעַבְדֵּךְ	הַבָּא	לְעַבְדֵּךְ	כָּל	הַבָּא	
H3605	<b>every one that entereth</b>	<b>into the service</b>	<b>for the work</b>	<b>in the tabernacle</b>				
	H935	H6635	H5656	H168				

## מיון of the congregation

## Additional Cross-References

**1 Chronicles 23:24** (Parallel theme): These were the sons of Levi after the house of their fathers; even the chief of the fathers, as they were counted by number of names by their polls, that did the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from the age of twenty years and upward.

**Numbers 4:23** (Temple): 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.

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