

# Numbers 8:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

## Analysis

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**The LORD spake unto Moses**—This divine speech formula (יְדַבֵּר יְהֹוָה vayedaber YHWH) introduces age-related regulations for Levitical service, demonstrating God's concern for both human dignity and physical limitations. Ancient cultures often worked elderly individuals until incapacity; Israel's system provided structured retirement.

The placement of these verses after the consecration narrative (8:5-22) suggests that even sacred callings have temporal boundaries. God's sovereignty extends over the full lifecycle of ministry—calling, serving, and resting—anticipating the New Testament teaching that different seasons require different contributions to Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

## Historical Context

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This passage (8:23-26) addresses administrative details following the broader consecration ritual. Moses received this instruction at Sinai during the second year after the Exodus (Numbers 1:1), as Israel prepared for organized wilderness march and tabernacle service.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's establishment of retirement ages demonstrate care for His servants' wellbeing?
2. What does the placement of these regulations after the consecration ceremony teach about lifecycle stages in ministry?
3. How can churches honor both the energy of younger servants and the wisdom of those transitioning from active service?

## Interlinear Text

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לִאמְרָה: מֵשֶׁה אֶל יְהוָה הָיָה רִאשֵׁן  
spake And the LORD unto Moses saying  
H1696 H3068 H413 H4872 H559

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