

# Numbers 8:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation:

## Analysis

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**From twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service**—The minimum age (עֲשֵׂרִים וְחָמֵשׁ שָׁנָה esrim vechamesh shanah) for Levitical service balances physical maturity with spiritual readiness. The phrase **wait upon** (לִצְבָּא לְצָבָא litsvo tzava, literally 'to wage warfare') uses military terminology, revealing that tabernacle service constituted spiritual warfare requiring mature soldiers (cf. Ephesians 6:10-18).

This age requirement (25) differs from the 30-year threshold for priestly service (Numbers 4:3), suggesting graduated responsibility—Levites began apprenticeship at 25 before assuming full duties at 30. Paul's instruction that elders not be recent converts (1 Timothy 3:6) echoes this principle of seasoned maturity before spiritual leadership.

## Historical Context

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The Levitical minimum age of 25 provided five years of apprenticeship before the full service age of 30 (Numbers 4:3). This training period under experienced Levites ensured proper handling of sacred objects and accurate execution of complex tabernacle procedures.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. Why does God use military language ('wage warfare') to describe tabernacle service? What spiritual battles accompany sacred ministry?
2. How does the apprenticeship model (25-30) inform modern approaches to leadership development in churches?
3. What character qualities and life experiences make someone 'mature enough' for spiritual leadership?

## Interlinear Text

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אֵשֶׁת	זֶה	אֲשֶׁר	לְלוֵוִיִּם	קִדְמָה	שָׁמַיְמָה
H2063		H834			
			<b>This is it that belongeth unto the Levites</b>	<b>old</b>	<b>and five</b>
			H3881	H1121	H2568
מִעֶשְׂרֵי	שָׁנָה	וְעַד	יָבוֹאוּ	לְצִבָּא	צָבָא
					H6635
<b>from twenty</b>	<b>years</b>	<b>and upward</b>	<b>they shall go in</b>	<b>to wait</b>	
H6242	H8141	H4605	H935	H6633	
בְּעִבְדֵי	אֵל	מִוֶּעֶד:			
<b>upon the service</b>	<b>of the tabernacle</b>	<b>of the congregation</b>			
H5656	H168	H4150			

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Chronicles 23:3** (Parallel theme): Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and upward: and their number by their polls, man by man, was thirty and eight thousand.

**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.

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