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The Appointment of Kingdom Leaders 16:18 to 18:22



As **Moses** continued to prepare the new generation for life in the Promised Land, he not only instructed them about their past history and their obligations in worship, but he also explained to them the kind of government **ADONAI** wanted them to organize. When their ancestors were in Egypt, **the Jews** had minimal organization involving only **elders (Exodus 3:18)**, and during the wilderness wanderings, **Moshe** had **tribal** officers who assisted him in solving the problems the people brought before them (see the commentary on **Exodus**, to see link click [Cy](#) - **Moses Chose Capable Men From All Isra'el**). Each **tribe** in **Isra'el** also had a leader (**Numbers 1:5-16, 7:10-83**), and there were **seventy elders** who assisted **Moses** in the spiritual oversight of the nation (**Numbers 11:1-30**).

This basic organization was adequate to govern a nomadic people following a gifted leader, but it wouldn't do once the nation moved into the Land of Promise. For one thing, **Moshe** would no longer be with them to give messages directly from **YHVH**. Furthermore, each of the twelve tribes would be living in its own assigned territory, and **Reuben, Gad**, and **Manasseh** would be located on the other side of the Jordan River. How would they deal with tribal differences? Who would protect **the people** and enforce **Ha'Shem's** mitzvot? **God**, in **His** grace, gave **them** the kind of government that would meet **their** needs.³⁷⁶