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Israel and Judah: 15. David Organizes for Solomon

by David Sielaff, January 2016

Read the accompanying [Newsletter for January 2016](#)

Israel and Judah: 15

David
Organizes
for Solomon

THE SITUATION: King David continues to arrange the kingdom to hand over an efficient and powerful government to Solomon. David focuses on the religious structure of his kingdom in 1 Chronicles chapters 23–26. The religion from the Law of God given to Moses, is central to the life of Israel; it is its social and constitutional backbone of Israelite society. In chapter 27 David focuses on the military, tribal, and civil organizations. David's preparations for Solomon's construction of the Temple after David's death are discussed in chapters 28 and 29.

Having secured the succession for Solomon, toward the end of his life King David arranges his affairs of state and the affairs of the religion of Israel, based on God's covenant with Israel and given through Moses. This was a major unifying element for Israel as a kingdom. David intended the Temple to be the focus of every Israelite's public and spiritual life. The people needed to be taught about their heritage and ministered to spiritually. (The Temple was much more than just performing the sacrifices properly.) Such organizational planning was expected from a good king or ruler in ancient times. For the people of Israel this demonstrated that David was a true leader like Moses.

TEXT: *David's Organizes the Levites*

1 Chronicles 23:1–32

¹ When David was old and was satisfied [full] with days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel. ² He gathered together all chief officials of Israel and the priests and the Levites.

³ **The Levites** were numbered from thirty years old and upward; and their number, by their polls of masters, was 38,000. ⁴ Of these 24,000 were acting as overseers over the work of the House of Yahweh, 6,000 as superintendents and judges, ⁵ 4,000 as gatekeepers, and 4,000 were praising Yahweh with instruments that I had provided for giving praise. ⁶ David split them up into apportionments ["courses," KJV] corresponding to the sons of Levi, Gershon, Kohath and Merari:

⁷ **To the Gershonite,** Ladan and Shimei; ⁸ the sons of Ladan: Jehiel the head, Zetham and Joel, three in

all; ⁹ the sons of Shimei: Shelomoth, Haziël and Haran; these three were the heads of the fathers' houses of Ladan; ¹⁰ the sons of Shimei: Jahath, Zina, Jeush and Beriah; these were the sons of Shimei, four in all;

¹¹ Jahath was the head, and Zizah the second; yet Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons, so they became a father's house together, a single roster.

¹² **The sons of Kohath:** Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel, four in all; ¹³ **the sons of Amram:** Aaron and Moses; yet Aaron was set apart to sanctify him for the holy of holies, that he and his sons, for the eon, should fume incense before Yahweh, minister to Him and bless in His Name for the eon.

¹⁴ As for Moses the man of the One, Elohim, his sons themselves were called among the tribe of Levi. ¹⁵ The sons of Moses: Gershom and Eliezer; ¹⁶ the sons of Gershom had Shebuel as the head; ¹⁷ the sons of Eliezer came to have Rehabiah as the head; no other sons came to Eliezer; yet the sons of Rehabiah were surpassingly numerous.

¹⁸ The sons of Izhar had Shelomith as the head.

¹⁹ The sons of Hebron: Jeriah the head, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.

²⁰ The sons of Uzziel: Micah the head, and Isshiah the second.

²¹ **The sons of Merari:** Mahli and Mushi; the sons of Mahli: Eleazar and Kish. ²² Eleazar died, and there were no sons for him, but rather daughters; the sons of Kish, their kinsmen, married them; ²³ the sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder and Jeremoth, three in all.

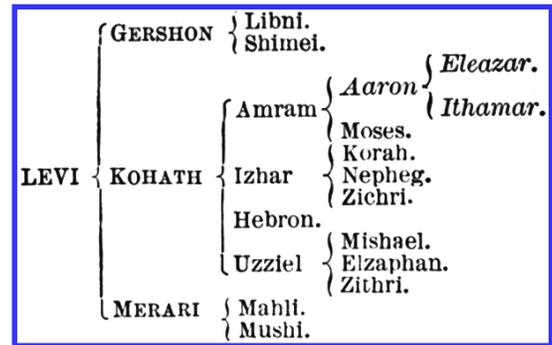
²⁴ These were **the sons of Levi** according to their fathers' houses, the heads of the fathers' houses as they were enrolled with the number of names by their polls, who did the work for the service of the House of Yahweh, from twenty years old and upward. ²⁵ For David had said:

“Yahweh Elohim of Israel has granted rest to His people, and He is tabernacling in Jerusalem still for the eon. ²⁶ So the Levites too are not to carry the tabernacle or any of its vessels for its service.”

²⁷ For by the last instructions of David these were the number of the sons of Levi from twenty years old and upward. ²⁸ For their officiation was at the side of the sons of Aaron, for the service of the House of Yahweh, taking care of the courts and the rooms, and the cleansing of everything that is holy, the performance of the service of the House of the One, Elohim, ²⁹ also the bread of array and the flour for the approach present, and the unleavened wafers and flat cakes and well-mixed offerings, as well as every kind of quantity and size.

³⁰ They were to stand morning by morning to acclaim and to praise Yahweh, and likewise at evening, ³¹ and whenever ascent approaches were offered up to Yahweh, on sabbaths, new moons and appointed festivals, by number, according to their custom, continually before Yahweh. ³² Thus they kept the charge of the tent of appointment and the charge of the sanctuary and the charge of the sons of Aaron, their kinsmen, for the service of the House of Yahweh.

[end text]



Tribe of Levi, Family Genealogy

Verse 1. David was only 70 years old. At later times in history life expectancy was mid-30s, but compared to the Old Testament patriarchs, David was not that old, except in body. David was a warrior and even though he never lost a battle, he must have been battered from his many hand-to-hand combats with the enemy. It was not until later in his life that David's military leaders and the entire army insisted he no longer engage in direct combat, even though it was expected for a leader in those times to be first and foremost into the fight. Also, David reminds everyone that Solomon was David's designated successor. (See [“Israel and Judah: 14. David's Life Nears its End”](#) where the matter of David's successor is settled.)

Verses 3–4. Apparently all males from the tribe of Levi had some administrative capacity or assigned job to do in the new Temple administration. In other words, they were part of the Temple bureaucracy that

was starting up again on a massive scale. They did not work full-time, but were assigned duties at regular times during the year, with shifts increasing during the spring and fall feasts. Here is the breakdown:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 24,000 | overseers |
| 6,000 | superintendents and judges |
| 4,000 | gatekeepers |
| + 4,000 | musicians |
| Total 38,000 Levites available | |

Verse 5. King David supplied each of those “**praising YHWH with instruments,**” thus showing his commitment to music as part of religious ritual (see below 1 Chronicles chapter 25). This meant that he had a possible orchestra and chorus on the Jewish feasts of up to 4,000 musicians and singers that could perform. One wonders if they ever performed as the same time, perhaps at the feasts.

Verse 6. They were four administrative categories determined by the families of Aaron and Moses. Recall that Moses was a Levite, but he was not a Levitical priest. The Priesthood could only come through the lineage of Aaron, the brother of Moses. Only priests could conduct sacrifices and other specified functions within the Holy Place of the Temple.

Verses 7–13. The Levites are divided into three branches of Levites: the Gershonites, the clan of Kohath, and the clan of Amram, through which the Aaronic priesthood came.

Verse 12. “**For the eon**” not “for ever” as the King James Version says.

Verse 13. Amram was the father of Aaron, his brother Moses and sister Miriam (Exodus 6:20; Numbers 26:59; 1 Chronicles 6:3; 23:13); Amram was himself the son of Kohath, the son of Levi (Exodus 6:18; Numbers 3:19, and other verses). Scholars are uncertain if the genealogy is complete or if there are gaps with unmentioned fathers.

Verse 15. “**The sons of Moses: Gershom and Eliezer,**” are mentioned here for the first time, but not much is said about them.

Verses 18–20. Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel are sons of Kohath just like Amram in verse 12.

Verse 24. Once a Levitical son was 20 years of age he was expected to serve in some capacity, unless he had a deformity (Leviticus 21:16–24).

Verse 25. Once the Temple was built, the tabernacle was to permanently reside within the Temple. David’s plan was to transition from a temporary, portable sanctuary to a permanent sanctuary. The Tabernacle would not be traveling again, and neither would the Ark of the Covenant.

Verse 28–29. They were caretakers and cleaners of “**everything that is holy.**” They also took care of the baked goods that were presented to God.

Verse 30. At appointed times, particularly in the morning and evening, the Levites gathered to praise YHWH. After the Temple’s construction and Solomon’s dedication, a male chorus of all who worked in the Temple sang in accord with David’s instructions that he received from God (as we will read below).

Verse 31. The “**ascent approaches**” were the burnt offerings made at the designated times.

TEXT: Organization of the Priests, the Sons of Aaron

1 Chronicles 24:1–19

¹ As for the sons of Aaron, these were their apportionments: Aaron’s sons were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. ² Yet Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and there were no sons for them; so Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests. ³ David, acting with Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, apportioned them for their supervision in their service.

⁴ Since the sons of Eleazar were found to have more head men than the sons of Ithamar, they apportioned them: sixteen to the sons of Eleazar as heads for their fathers’ houses, and eight to the sons of Ithamar for their fathers’ houses. ⁵ They apportioned them by lots, these along with those, for they were all chiefs of the

sanctuary and chiefs of the One, Elohim, from the sons of Eleazar and from the sons of Ithamar.

⁶ Shemaiah the scribe, a Levite, son of Nethanel, wrote them down before the king, the chief officials, Zadok the priest, Ahimelech son of Abiathar, the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and of the Levites. One father's house was held by Eleazar, and one was held by Ithamar.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ⁷ The first lot came forth for Jehoiarib, | the second for Jedaiah, |
| ⁸ the third for Harim, | the fourth for Seorim, |
| ⁹ the fifth for Malchijah, | the sixth for Mijamin, |
| ¹⁰ the seventh for Hakkoz, | the eighth for Abijah , |
| ¹¹ the ninth for Jeshua, | the tenth for Shecaniah, |
| ¹² the eleventh for Eliashib, | the twelfth for Jakim, |
| ¹³ the thirteenth for Huppah, | the fourteenth for Jeshebeab, |
| ¹⁴ the fifteenth for Bilgah, | the sixteenth for Immer, |
| ¹⁵ the seventeenth for Hezir, | the eighteenth for Happizez, |
| ¹⁶ the nineteenth for Pethahiah, | the twentieth for Jehezkel, |
| ¹⁷ the twenty-first for Jakin, | the twenty-second for Gamul, |
| ¹⁸ the twenty-third for Delaiah, | the twenty-fourth for Maaziah. |

¹⁹ This was their roster for their service, to enter the House of Yahweh according to their due right by the hand of Aaron their father, just as Yahweh Elohim of Israel had instructed him. [\[end text\]](#)

Verses 1–2. A brief history of the Aaronic priesthood (with understandable gaps) is given.

Verse 3. There were two high priestly families who served David through their patriarchs during his reign, Zadok and Ahimelech. The priestly services were apportioned between these two clans of priests.

Verses 4–5. The number 24 is used in the distribution of service along with the Hebrew calendar, as well as being a representative number of a heavenly pattern of service before God's throne in heaven (Revelation 4:2–4, 10, 5:8, 11:16, 19:4), which the Temple represented on earth. Again, lots were chosen to determine when the families served during the year at the altar and later at the Temple, when completed.

Verse 6. Shemaiah validated the lots and certified the process before King David. Ahimelech's son was Abiathar, who in turn named his son Ahimelech after his grandfather.

Verses 7–18. The 24 courses of Levitical priestly families, not individuals, are designated. With some differences, it effectively links David's administration to the historical organizational structure of Moses.^a These are the 24 courses of the Levitical priests.

Verse 10. Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, was of "the course of Abijah" (Luke 1:5).

Verse 19. The author reminds the reader/listener that these men and their families were appointed to serve and enter YHWH's House.

TEXT: Other Levites

1 Chronicles 24:20–31

²⁰ As for the rest of the sons of Levi: for the sons of Amram, Shubael; for the sons of Shubael, Jehdeiah.

²¹ As for Rehabiah: for the sons of Rehabiah, Isshiah the head.

²² For the Izharite: Shelomoth; for the sons of Shelomoth, Jahath.

²³ And the sons of Hebrons: Jeriah the head, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, Jekameam the fourth.

²⁴ The sons of Uzziel: Micah; for the sons of Micah, Shamir.

²⁵ The brother of Micah, Isshiah; for the sons of Isshiah, Zechariah.

^a J.A. Thompson, *1, 2 Chronicles*, vol. 9, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 173–174.

²⁶ The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi with the sons of Jaaziah, his son.

²⁷ The sons of Merari by Jaaziah, his son: Shoham, Zaccur and Ibri.

²⁸ For Mahli: Eleazar; yet there were no sons to him.

²⁹ As for Kish: the sons of Kish, Jerahmeel.

³⁰ The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder and Jerimoth. These were the sons of the Levites by their fathers' houses.

³¹ They also cast lots to correspond with their kinsmen, the sons of Aaron, before David the king and Zadok and Ahimelech and the heads of the fathers of the priests and of the Levites, the head of the fathers to correspond with his youngest brother. [end text]

Verses 20–31. This list extends another generation from 1 Chronicles 23:6–23.^b The priests were in 24 courses for Temple service, so were the rest of the Levites. Each course lasted one week, 2 times per year.

Verse 31. Again lots were cast before the officials to fairly determine the positions and responsibilities.

TEXT: Musical Divisions for Religious Services

1 Chronicles 25:1–31

¹ David and the chief officials of the Levitical host also set apart for service the sons of **Asaph**, of **Heman** and **Jeduthun**, the ones prophesying with harps, zithers and cymbals. Their roster of workmen according to their service was:

² From **the sons of Asaph**: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah and Asharelah; Asaph's sons were under the hand of Asaph who prophesied under the hands of the king.

³ As for Jeduthun, from **the sons of Jeduthun**: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah and Mattithiah, six in all under the hands of their father Jeduthun who prophesied with the harp to acclaim and to praise Yahweh.

⁴ As for Heman, from **the sons of Heman**: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romanti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir and Mahazioth; ⁵ all these were sons of Heman, the vision seer of the king by the words of the One, Elohim, to raise up a horn. The One, Elohim, gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

⁶ All these were under the hands of their father in song at the House of Yahweh with cymbals, zithers and harps for the service of the House of the One, Elohim, under the hands of the king and Asaph and Jeduthun and Heman. ⁷ Their number, with their kinsmen, who had been taught the song for Yahweh, was 288 [24 x 12], everyone being proficient. ⁸ They cast lots for their term of duty, the youngest to correspond with the oldest, the proficient [teacher] with the learner.

⁹ The **first** lot for Asaph came forth for Joseph, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;

Gedaliah the **second**, he and his kinsmen and his sons, twelve;

¹⁰ the **third** Zaccur, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;

¹¹ the **fourth** for Izri, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;

¹² the **fifth** Nethaniah, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;

¹³ the **sixth** Bukkiah, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;

¹⁴ the **seventh** Jesharelah, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;

¹⁵ the **eighth** Jeshaiiah, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;

¹⁶ the **ninth** Mattaniah, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;

¹⁷ the **tenth** Shimei, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;

¹⁸ the **eleventh** Azarel, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;

^b Thompson, *1, 2 Chronicles*, 174.

- ¹⁹ the **twelfth** for Hashabiah, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;
²⁰ for the **thirteenth**, Shubael, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;
²¹ for the **fourteenth**, Mattithiah, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;
²² for the **fifteenth**, for Jerimoth, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;
²³ for the **sixteenth**, for Hananiah, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;
²⁴ for the **seventeenth**, for Joshbekashah, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;
²⁵ for the **eighteenth**, for Hanani, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;
²⁶ for the **nineteenth**, for Mallothi, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;
²⁷ for the **twentieth**, for Eliathah, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;
²⁸ for the **twenty-first**, for Hothir, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;
²⁹ for the **twenty-second**, for Giddalti, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;
³⁰ for the **twenty-third**, for Mahazioth, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve;
³¹ for the **twenty-fourth**, for Romanti-ezer, his sons and his kinsmen, twelve.

[end text]

Verse 1. Music was very important to David personally and to the religious life of Israel. King David was a master of music and psalms, both in writing, performing, and arranging, collaborating with Nathan the prophet, Gad the Seer, and Asaph the leader of music to arrange music for the Temple to be built by Solomon (1 Chronicles 6:31–53, 15:16–22, and here in 25:1–7; as well as 2 Chronicles 8:14).

“The period of Samuel, David, and Solomon was the golden age of Hebrew music, as it was of Hebrew poetry. Music was now for the first time systematically cultivated. It was an essential part of training in the schools of the prophets 1Sa 10:5, 19:19-24, 2Ki 3:15, 1Ch 25:6. There now arose also a class of professional singers 2Sa 19:35, Ec 2:8. The temple, however, was the great school of music. In the conducting of its services large bands of trained singers and players on instruments were constantly employed 2Sa 6:5, 1Ch (Chaps 15 16 23 5), 1Ch 25:1-6 In private life also music seems to have held an important place among the Hebrews Ec 2:8, Am 6:4-6, Isa 5:11-12, 24:8-9 Ps 137:1 ... Jer 48:33, Lu 15:25.”

• **“Music,” Easton’s Bible Dictionary**

Although no provision is given in the Mosaic Law for music accompanying the rituals and Tabernacle operations, God commanded it through Gad and Nathan, as told retrospectively from Hezekiah’s time.

“He made the Levites stand in the House of Yahweh with cymbals, zithers and harps in accordance with the instruction of David, Gad the king’s vision seer, and Nathan the prophet, for such was the instruction by the hand of Yahweh by means of His prophets.”

• **2 Chronicles 29:25**

Verse 2. According to titles, Asaph is identified as the author of Psalms 50 and 73–83.

Verses 4–6. Yes, Heman had 14 sons, all of whom were singers. Note the special designation of Heman (a grandson of the prophet Samuel) as **“the vision seer of the king by the words of the One, Elohim.”**

Verses 9–31. Similar to the Levitical priests in 1 Chronicles 24:7–18 above, these are 24 courses of the Levitical singers in the Temple.

Great and profound teaching can come through music.^c As David wrote in 1 Chronicles 16:9: **“Sing to Him! Make melody to Him! Meditate on all His marvelous works!”** He encouraged singing and music to glorify God (Psalm 95:1–2, 96:1–2, 98:1–6). David happily made music and song part of worship in the Temple.

^c See Dr. Martin’s article [“Psalms, Music and Prophecy”](#) as well as [“Appendix 1: Preliminary Suggestions for the Structure of Psalms”](#) from his book *Restoring the Original Bible*, and [“The Significance of the Song of Solomon.”](#) Together these articles demonstrate the importance of music and song to the worship at the Temple. It was also the case in the Herodian Temple in the time of Christ and the apostles. Organizing musicians and singers, as well as the composition and performance of music and song

“Come, do let us be jubilant before Yahweh; Do let us raise a joyful shout before the Rock of our salvation. Do let us go before His presence with acclamation; In melodies may we raise a joyful shout before Him.”

• *Psalm 95:1–2*

“Sing to Yahweh a new song; Sing to Yahweh, all the earth! Sing to Yahweh; bless His Name; Bear the tidings of His salvation day after day!”

• *Psalm 96:1–2*

TEXT: *The Gatekeepers*

1 Chronicles 26:1–19

¹ For the apportionments of the gatekeepers: To the Korahites, Meshelemiah son of Kore, from the sons of Asaph.

² Meshelemiah had sons: Zechariah the firstborn, Jediael the second, Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth, ³ Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth, Eliehoenai the seventh.

⁴ Obed-edom also had sons: Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sacar the fourth, Nethanel the fifth, ⁵ Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, Peullethai the eighth, for Elohim had blessed him.

⁶ Sons were also born to his son Shemaiah; they were the rulers of their father’s house, for they were masters of valor. ⁷ The sons of Shemaiah: Othni, Rephael, Obed and Elzabad; his brothers, sons of valor, were Elihu and Semakiah.

⁸ All these were of the sons of Obed-edom, they and their sons and their brothers, men of valor with vigor for the service, sixty-two belonging to Obed-edom.

⁹ Meshelemiah had sons and brothers, sons of valor, eighteen in all.

¹⁰ Hosah from the sons of Merari had sons: Shimri the head; though he was not the firstborn, his father appointed him as head; ¹¹ Hilkiyah the second, Tebaliah the third, Zechariah the fourth. All the sons and brothers of Hosah were thirteen.

¹² These were the apportionments of the gatekeepers by their headmen, whose term of duty was to correspond with their kinsmen to minister in the House of Yahweh. ¹³ They cast lots, whether young or old in their fathers’ houses, gate by gate.

¹⁴ The lot for the east gate fell to Shelemiah. Then they cast lots for Zechariah his son, a counselor with intelligence; and his lot came forth to be the north gate.

¹⁵ To Obed-edom went the south gate, and to his sons the house of gatherings.

¹⁶ To Shupim and to Hosah went the west gate with the Shallecheth gate on the ascending entranceway. Guard group was to correspond with guard group:

¹⁷ At the east were six for a day, at the north four for a day, at the south four for a day, and at the house of gatherings, two by two.

¹⁸ At the precinct to the west, four at the entranceway and two at the precinct.

¹⁹ These were the apportionments of the gatekeepers, of the sons of the Korahite and of the sons of Merari.

[end text]

became central to the worship of God in the Temple.

The night Jesus was arrested, He and His apostles went to the Mount of Olives singing hymns (Matthew 26:30 and Mark 14:26). The apostle Paul encouraged the congregations in Ephesians 5:19: “... speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing music in your hearts to the Lord, ...” In Colossians 3:16 Paul wrote:

“Let the word of Christ be making its home in you richly, in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing yourselves; in psalms, in hymns, in spiritual songs, singing, with grace in your hearts to God.”

Verses 1–19. These were the gatekeepers who took shifts standing guard at the gates of the City of David, the Tabernacle, and later the Temple.

“What precisely did the gatekeepers do? ... Recent study suggests the gatekeepers were a paramilitary security force. They possessed three significant roles in the Jerusalem temple-state: (1) the governance of the state, (2) the administration of temple revenue, and (3) the maintenance of the temple and its paraphernalia. There is evidence for this in 1 Chr 26:1–19, and further confirmation is found in the activities of these individuals throughout Chronicles. ... They were stationed at entry ways to buildings and intersections within the city. They functioned as guards for the temple and its precincts from theft or from illegal entry into sacred areas. The vocabulary used by the Chronicler in relation to the gatekeepers ties them firmly to the Judean military establishment. ... The priests and Levites were thus related to David’s military organization in 1 Chronicles 12, which explains why chap. 27 fits into these chapters.”

• *Thompson, 1, 2 Chronicles, 180*

In other words, the **“gatekeepers”** provided security within the City of David and Temple, but not for David’s palace.

Verse 12. The phrase **“the House of YHWH”** confirms that these assignments pertained to the Temple.

Verse 13. Note again the casting of lots was widely used.

Verse 14. **“A counselor with intelligence”!** What a recommendation!

TEXT: *Treasurers and Other Levitical Officials*

1 Chronicles 26:20–32

²⁰ Fellow Levites were in charge of the treasuries of the House of the One, Elohim, and of the treasuries of holy donations:

²¹ The sons of Ladan, the sons of the Gershonite belonging to Ladan, the heads of the fathers’ houses belonging to Ladan, the Gershonite: Jehieli. ²² The sons of Jehieli, Zetham and Joel his brother were in charge of the treasuries of the House of Yahweh.

²³ As for the Amramite, the Izharite, the Hebronite, the Uzzielite:

²⁴ Shebuel son of Gershom son of Moses was governor in charge of the treasuries. ²⁵ His brothers, through Eliezer: Rehabiah his son, Jeshaiiah his son, Joram his son, Zichri his son and Shelomith his son. ²⁶ This Shelomith and his brothers were in charge of all the treasuries of the holy donations that David the king, the heads of the fathers’ houses, the chiefs of thousands and hundreds, and chiefs of the military host had sanctified. ²⁷ From the battles and from the loot they sanctified gifts to maintain the House of Yahweh.

²⁸ All that Samuel the seer had sanctified and Saul son of Kish and Abner son of Ner and Joab son of Zeruiah, or what any other man had sanctified, was under the hand of Shelomith and his brothers.

²⁹ The Izharite: Kenaniah and his sons were designated for the outside work over Israel as superintendents and judges.

³⁰ The Hebronite: Hashabiah and his brothers, 1,700 sons of ability, were in charge of the supervision of Israel, from this side of the Jordan westward, for all the work of Yahweh and for the king’s service. ³¹ As for the Hebronite, Jerijah was the head of the Hebronite according to the genealogical records of the fathers. In the fortieth year of David’s reign they were sought out, and masters of valor were found among them in Jazer-gilead. ³² And his brothers, 2,700 sons of ability, were heads of the fathers’ houses; David the king gave them supervision over the Reubenite, the Gadite, and the half-tribe of Manasseh for all matters of the One, Elohim, and matters of the king. [end text]

Verses 20–32. These Levites were responsible for the treasuries likely kept in or near the palace.

Verse 20. There were two kinds of treasuries: [1] those of **“House of the One, Elohim,”** meaning the Temple (translated in the KJV as **“the house of God”**), and [2] **“the treasuries of holy donations”** (translated

as “**the treasures of the dedicated things**”).

Verse 22. “**The House of Yahweh**” is another name for the Temple that was soon to be built.

Verses 26–27. These treasuries held the donations from David and the leaders of Israel who “**sanctified**” or set apart as “holy” their contributions for the Temple. (See below, 1 Chronicles 29:5–9.) Some of this treasure was plunder and booty from conquests and other sources.

Verse 28. Some treasure from Samuel was probably from his time as a Judge in Israel. His contribution was “sanctified” and to help fund the Temple. What those items were is not specified. Neither are the items from Saul and Abner (both opponents of David), or from Joab, David’s long-time military commander.

Verse 29. These men worked outside of the Temple throughout Israel, for the benefit of the Temple.

Verses 30–32. The Hebronites were also assigned outside of Jerusalem, working both for the Temple and for David as King.

Verse 31. The phrase “**according to the genealogical records of the fathers**” tells us that the author of Chronicles was working from written sources from earlier in David’s reign.

TEXT: Other Lists of Levites and Other Officials

1 Chronicles 27:1–34

¹ These were the sons of Israel according to their roster of heads of the fathers’ houses, the chiefs of thousands and hundreds, and their militia clerks, who were ministering to the king in every matter of the army divisions that entered and that went out month by month during all the months of the year. Each army division had 24,000 conscripts.

- [1] ² Over **the first army division for the first month** was Jashobeam son of Zabdiel with 24,000 in his army division. ³ He was from the sons of Perez, the head of all chiefs of the military host for the first month.
- [2] ⁴ Over **the army division of the second month** was Dodai the Ahohite (his army division had Mikloth as chief officer) with 24,000 in his army division.
- [3] ⁵ The chief of **the third militia host for the third month** was Benaiah son of Jehoiada the principal priest, with 24,000 in his army division. ⁶ This Benaiah was a masterful man among the thirty and over the thirty, and over his army division was Ammizabad his son.
- [4] ⁷ **The fourth, for the fourth month**, was Asahel brother of Joab, and his son Zebadiah after him, with 24,000 in his army division.
- [5] ⁸ **The fifth chief, for the fifth month**, was Shamhuth the Izrahite, with 24,000 in his army division.
- [6] ⁹ **The sixth, for the sixth month**, was Ira son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, with 24,000 in his army division.
- [7] ¹⁰ **The seventh, for the seventh month**, was Helez the Pelonite of the sons of Ephraim, with 24,000 in his army division.
- [8] ¹¹ **The eighth, for the eighth month**, was Sibbecai the Hushathite of the Zerahite, with 24,000 in his army division.
- [9] ¹² **The ninth, for the ninth month**, was Abiezer the Anathothite of the Benjamite, with 24,000 in his army division.
- [10] ¹³ **The tenth, for the tenth month**, was Maharai the Netophathite of the Zerahite, with 24,000 in his army division.
- [11] ¹⁴ **The eleventh, for the eleventh month**, was Benaiah the Pirathonite of the sons of Ephraim, with 24,000 in his army division.
- [12] ¹⁵ **The twelfth, for the twelfth month**, was Heldai the Netophathite of Othniel, with 24,000 in his army division.

¹⁶ In charge of the tribes of Israel were chief officer Eliezer son of Zichri **for the Reubenite**; Shephatiah son of Maacah **for the Simeonite**;

¹⁷ Hashabiah son of Kemuel **for the Levite**; Zadok for Aaron;

¹⁸ Elihu, one of the brothers of David, **for Judah**; Omri son of Michael **for Issachar**;

¹⁹ Ishmaiah son of Obadiah **for Zebulun**; Jerimoth son of Azriel **for Naphtali**;

²⁰ Hoshea son of Azaziah **for the sons of Ephraim**; Joel son of Pedaiiah **for the half-tribe of Manasseh**;

²¹ Iddo son of Zechariah **for the Gilead half of Manasseh**; Jaasiel son of Abner **for Benjamin**;

²² Azarel son of Jeroham **for Dan**. These were the chief officers of the tribes of Israel.

²³ David did not obtain the number of those twenty years old and below, for Yahweh had promised to make Israel as numerous as the stars of the heavens. ²⁴ Joab son of Zeruah started to count them, but he did not finish; wrath came on Israel on account of this, and the number did not come up in the scroll of the Chronicles of king David.

- ²⁵ Azmaveth son of Adiel was in charge of the royal storehouses;
- Jonathan son of Uzziah was in charge of the storehouses in the fields, in the cities, in the shelters and in the towers.
- ²⁶ Over those doing the work of the field, the servicing of the ground, was Ezri son of Kelub.
- ²⁷ Shimei the Ramathite was in charge of the vineyards;
- Zabdi the Shiphmite was in charge of products from the vineyards for the wine vats.
- ²⁸ Baal-hanan the Gederite was in charge of the olive trees and the mulberry trees which were in the low foothills, and
- Joash had charge of the oil storehouses.
- ²⁹ Shitrai the Sharonite was overseeing the grazing herd in Sharon, and
- Shaphat son of Adlai the herd in the vales [valleys].
- ³⁰ Obil the Ishmaelite was overseeing the camels, and
- Jehdeiah the Meronothite on the jennies [donkeys or asses].
- ³¹ Jaziz the Hagrite was overseeing the flock.

All these were the chief officials in charge of the goods that belonged to king David.

³² Jonathan, David's uncle, was a counselor, a man of understanding; he was also a scribe. Jehiel son of Hachmoni was with the king's sons. ³³ Ahithophel was also a counselor of the king. Hushai the Archite had been the king's associate. ³⁴ After Ahithophel were Jehoiada son of Benaiah and Abiathar; and Joab was chief of the king's militia host. [end text]

Verses 27:1–15. David's kingdom was protected by the core of professional military; some Israelite and some mercenary units. They protected the David and his household. Other facilities in the City of David and other military locations outside Jerusalem were guarded and protected by a rotating conscript militia force of 24,000 per month, distributed throughout Israel. On paper, Israel could muster 288,000 troops.

Verses 27:16–22. Each of the tribal leaders are named.

“The order of the tribes in these verses does not correspond exactly to any other listing in the Old Testament, although the verses contain some parallels with 1 Chr 2:1–2 and Numbers 1, especially vv. 20–22. The present list differs from the list in 1 Chronicles [chapter] 2 in several ways. It places Naphtali in Dan's position and sets Dan at the end of the list; Joseph in 1 Chronicles [chapter] 2 becomes Ephraim, Half-Manasseh (east), and Half-Manasseh (west); and Gad and Asher in 1 Chronicles [chapter] 2 are lacking in 1 Chronicles 27, probably to maintain the number of tribes at twelve.”

- *Thompson, 1, 2 Chronicles, 186*

There are no good explanations why these lists differ.

King David ruled Israel and each tribe had its leader. After He returns, Christ will rule the Kingdom of God on earth. Under Him David will again rule Israel (Ezekiel 34:23–24, 37:24–28), and each of the apostles will rule one of the twelve tribes as Christ told them (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30).

Verse 25. The royal storehouses were apparently all around Israel.

Verses 27:23–24. These verses refer to David’s disastrous census of the people and army of Israel (2 Samuel 24:1–25 and 1 Chronicles 21:1–22:1).^d It resulted in God inflicting a plague upon the people of Jerusalem and led to David purchasing the future site of the Temple.

Verse 31. These providers of supplies were not just for the palace, but they also likely coordinated supplies for the army when it was in country, and when it was on the march.

Verses 32–34. These men were counselors of David who found great favor with David for their sage advice:

- Jonathan, note his three descriptions: counselor, man of understanding, and scribe.
- Jehiel, his description **“with the king’s sons”** probably meant he was their tutor.
- Ahithophel was a valued counselor until he followed David’s son, the usurper Absalom.
- Hushai supported David and helped defeat the counsel of Ahithophel to Absalom.
- Jehoiada was the son of David’s loyal military commander Benaiah. (Benaiah’s father was also named Jehoiada).
- Abiathar, a high priest under David, sided with Adonijah to succeed David as king rather than Solomon.
- Joab, of course, was for several decades David’s chief military leader and advisor until he sided with David’s son Adonijah to succeed to David’s throne.

Together these advisors to David are evidence of the proverb: **“When there are no strategies a people shall fall, Yet in many counselors there is safety”** (Proverbs 11:14).

TEXT: Before All Israel David Addresses His Officials and Solomon

1 Chronicles 28:1–21

¹ David assembled at Jerusalem all the chief officials of Israel, the chief officers of the tribes, the chiefs of the army divisions who were ministering to the king, the chiefs of thousands, the chiefs of hundreds, and the chief officials in charge of all the goods and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, with the court officials, the masterful men and every master of valor.

² King David rose to his feet in the midst of the assembly and said:

“Hear me, my brothers and my people. As for myself, it was in my heart to build a House of rest for the coffer of the covenant of Yahweh, for the footstool of our Elohim; and I laid in stores for building. ³ But the One, Elohim, He said to me, ‘Not you shall build the House for My Name, for you are a man of wars, and you have shed blood.’

⁴ **Yahweh Elohim of Israel chose me out of all my father’s house to be king over Israel for the eon; for it was Judah that He chose as governor, and in the house of Judah my father’s house, and among my father’s sons it pleased Him to make me king over all Israel.**

⁵ **Out of all my sons, (for many are the sons whom Yahweh has given me), He chose Solomon my son to sit on the throne of the kingdom of Yahweh over Israel. ⁶ Further, He said to me,**

‘Solomon your son, he shall build My House and My courts; for I have chosen him to be for Me like a son, and I Myself shall become for him like a father. ⁷ I will establish

^d See [“Israel and Judah: 13. Mighty Men and the Census.”](#)

his kingdom for the eon if he holds fast to the observance of My instructions and My ordinances, as at this day.’

⁸ Now therefore, [1] in the eyes of all Israel, [2] the assembly of Yahweh, and [3] in the ears of our Elohim, observe and seek after all the instructions of Yahweh your Elohim in order that you may tenant the good land and may give it as an allotment to your sons after you for the eon.

⁹ And you, Solomon my son, know the Elohim of your fathers, and serve Him wholeheartedly and with a delighting soul, for Yahweh inquires into all hearts, and He understands every form of devisings. If you seek after Him, He shall be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He shall cast you off for the future. ¹⁰ See now that Yahweh has chosen you to build a House as a Sanctuary. Be steadfast and do it!”

¹¹ Then David gave Solomon his son a pattern of the portico, a pattern of the House, its storerooms, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the housing for the propitiatory shelter; ¹² also the pattern of all that had come to him by the spirit

for the courts of the House of Yahweh and for all the surrounding rooms,
for the treasuries of the House of the One, Elohim, and
for the treasuries of the holy donations;

¹³ for the apportionments of the priests and the Levites,
for all the work of the service of the House of Yahweh and
for all the vessels of the service of the House of Yahweh;

¹⁴ for the gold by weight for all the gold vessels used in service by service,
for all the silver vessels by weight, for all the vessels used in service by service;

¹⁵ for the weight of the gold lampstands and their gold lamps with the weight of lampstand by lampstand
and its lamps;

for the silver lampstands by weight for each lampstand and its lamps according to the service of
lampstand by lampstand;

¹⁶ for the gold by weight for the tables of the bread in array, table by table, as well as silver for the silver
tables;

¹⁷ for the pure gold of the forks, the sprinkling bowls and the chalices,
for the gold by weight for the small bowls, small bowl by small bowl, and
for the small silver bowls by weight, small bowl by small bowl;

¹⁸ for the refined gold by weight for the altar of incense; also
for the gold for the model of the chariot of the cherubim spreading their wings and overshadowing the
coffer of the covenant of Yahweh.

¹⁹ “All this, into which Yahweh gave me insight by His hand on me, is in writing, all the details of the pattern.” ²⁰ Further, David said to Solomon his son:

“Be steadfast, be resolute, and do it! Do not be fearful, and do not be dismayed, for Yahweh Elohim, my Elohim, is with you. He shall not neglect you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the House of Yahweh is finished. ²¹ Here are the apportionments [courses] of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the House of the One, Elohim. And with you for all the work will be every willing man with wisdom for every kind of service; also the chief officials and all the people will be wholly at your command.”

[end text]

Verses 1–2. Although old, frail, and close to dying, David rose to his feet, indicating the importance of his message. David gathered the officials and administrators to give them important information and to publicly affirm the work he expected Solomon to do. David operates his royal court much like YHWH holds court over the divine assembly. David speaks to his assembly, just as God speaks to His in Psalm 82:1.

Verse 4–5. God chose David and made him king to rule Israel. God also chose Solomon to rule **“the kingdom of YHWH over Israel.”** (This phrase occurs only once more in 2 Chronicles 13:8.) David warns them, do not oppose Solomon after David dies. He will be God’s chosen king doing God’s will.

Verses 6–7. All will go well for everyone and Solomon shall be God’s son if he obeys.

Verse 8. David makes his statement before witnesses which include the greatest powers in creation. Not only does David make his pronouncement before [1] **“all Israel”** and [3] before God, but also before the [2] **“assembly of YHWH,”** all subordinate to God.^e David says he is fulfilling God’s will that the Temple will be constructed by Solomon, all according to God’s plan. Israel’s only hope is in God.

Verses 9. David’s specific instructions for Solomon are: God knows you well, don’t be too clever, obey Him and good things will happen. **“Forsake Him”** and bad things will happen.

Verse 10. Fulfill your God-given commission to build God’s Sanctuary.

Verses 11–18. Details about the Temple rooms and implements for the sacrifices are given to Solomon according to the pattern that God gave to David for those details.

Verse 19. According to the Concordant Literal Version, **“Yahweh gave me insight by His hand on me.”** Most other translations render this passage more like the King James Version:

“‘All this,’ said David [words not in the Hebrew texts], ‘the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.”

• *1 Chronicles 28:19, KJV*

“All this he made clear to me in writing from the hand of the LORD, all the work to be done according to the plan.”

• *1 Chronicles 28:19, ESV*

On the other hand, the New American Standard Version and the New Revised Standard Version are ambiguous on the subject, while the NET Bible agrees with the Concordant Literal Version:

“‘All this,’ said David, ‘the LORD made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, all the details of this pattern.”

• *1 Chronicles 28:19, NAS*

“All this, in writing at the LORD’S direction, he made clear to me — the plan of all the works.”

• *1 Chronicles 28:19, NRSV*

“All of this I put in writing as the LORD directed me and gave me insight regarding the details of the blueprints.”

• *1 Chronicles 28:19, NET*

The KJV and the ESV renderings could very well be correct. After all, Moses received the commandments from God in writing on the two stone tablets.^f Moses also saw the details of the Tabernacle and gave them to the construction crew. The Temple would have been much more elaborate and would have required much greater detail. David was given insight into God’s desires how the Temple should be constructed.

Verse 21. David gave Solomon a written list of “apportionments,” likely the lists shown in chapters 23, 24, 26 and 27 for gatekeepers, the operations of the Temple, and the administration of the kingdom.

^e The “Divine Assembly,” as it is sometimes called, is composed of the heavenly host, sons of God, and Satan (Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:4–7; 1 Kings 22:19–23; Psalms 29:1–2, Psalms 82 and 89; Daniel 7:9–10; Revelation 5:11), as well as beings identified merely as principalities and powers (Romans 8:38; Ephesians 3:10, 6:12; Colossians 1:16, 2:15; Titus 3:1), archangels, cherubim, seraphim, angels, and even demons — all are *elohim* under the rule of the **“El Supreme”** or as the King James Version puts it, the **“most High God,”** who is YHWH (Genesis 14:18–22). God’s creation is populated and those holding power have great responsibilities, offices, and powers. Many are enemies of the *ekklesia*, the body of Christ, and to Israel.

^f Exodus 24:12, 31:18, 32:16, 34:1, 28; Deuteronomy 4:13, 5:22, 9:10. Read how small those tablets were in Dr. Martin’s first article [“The Ten Commandments were Pocket Size”](#) in [101 Bible Secrets](#). Read the entire book free online.

TEXT: David Describes his Temple Plans and People Bring Offerings for the Temple

1 Chronicles 29:1–9

¹ Then David the king said to the entire assembly:

“Solomon my son, the one whom Elohim has chosen, is youthful and tender. Yet the work to be done is great, not just for a man’s castle, but for Yahweh Elohim.

² With all my resources I have laid in stores for the House of my Elohim, gold for the goldwork, silver for the silver, copper for the copper, iron for the iron, and wood for the wooden work; onyx stones and setting-stones, stones of antimony and variegated colors as well as every precious stone and marble stones in abundance.

³ Furthermore, since I hold dear the House of my Elohim, I give the valuable treasure of gold and silver that I have to the House of my Elohim, above and beyond all that I have laid in stores for the holy House: ⁴ 3,000 gold talents of Ophir-gold and 7,000 talents of refined silver for coating the sidewalls inside; ⁵ gold for the goldwork and silver for the silver and for all the work by the hand of the craftsmen. Now who will voluntarily consecrate himself today for Yahweh?”

⁶ Then the chiefs of the fathers’ houses, the chief officers of the tribes of Israel, the chiefs of thousands and hundreds, as well as the chief officials in charge of the king’s work volunteered ⁷ to give for the service of the House of the One, Elohim: 5,000 talents and 10,000 **darics** of gold, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of copper, and 100,000 talents of iron. ⁸ Those to whom precious stones were available gave them to the treasury of the House of Yahweh, under the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite.

⁹ And the people rejoiced because of their voluntary offerings, for they [the people] had willingly and wholeheartedly given to Yahweh. David the king also rejoiced with great joy. [end text]

Verse 1. Speaking to the leaders and to the people, again, David repeats that God chose Solomon.

Verse 2. David states he has already collected everything necessary for the construction of the Temple (1 Chronicles 22:14–19).

Verse 5. David challenges the leaders and the people to contribute to the Temple’s construction.

Verse 6. The chiefs of Israel pitched in to fund the Temple, giving more than David did.

Verse 7. What is a “daric”? Thompson tells us:

“A daric was a Persian coin and was in current use in the days of the Chronicler. In terms of the way money was counted in Solomon’s day, the use of the term was an anachronism; but it was no doubt an attempt to express money value in terms of a later equivalent, ... [as] Bible translators express ancient measures in terms of a modern equivalent.”

• *Thompson, 1, 2 Chronicles, 195*

This reinforces the idea that Ezra the Priest wrote Chronicles during the Persian period.

Verse 8. In the time of Moses (Exodus 35:20–29), some Israelites gave jewelry to participate in contributing to the Tabernacle construction.

Verse 9. My reading of this verse is that in addition to the chiefs of Israel, the people also gave voluntary offerings, as they did in the days of Moses (and as the *ekklesia* in Corinth later gave freely and generously, 2 Corinthians 9:7). To prove my point, if you read on to verse 14, David himself said the people contributed generously. But those details are for next time.

David Sielaff, January 2016