

1 Chronicles Chapter 24

V: 1-2 Aaron had 4 sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

- The two older sons, Nadab and Abihu started out in the priesthood assisting their father as did the younger sons. Nadab and Abihu at one point stood up when the rest of the nation was humbled before God, they offered what is described as “strange fire” before the Lord and the Lord struck them down for their disobedience. (**Leviticus 10:1, Numbers 3:4-5**)
- The two younger sons, Eleazar and Ithamar continued in the priesthood having learned from their brother’s mistakes.

Eleazar: God’s helper, or “**Comforter.**”

Ithamar: Land of Palm, or “**Palm Tree.**” (Like a shady tree on a hot day...)

V: 3-5 Spreading the duties and needs of the Temple out by lots and rotations so that no one group would be over burdened.

Proverbs 18:18 “The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty.”

V: 6-19 24 courses of priests placed in 2 week rotations covering the 12 months of the year ministering the morning and the evening sacrifices, times of prayer, etc.

- All in all there were about 6,000 men in each course.

V: 10 “... *the eighth to Abijah...*”

Luke 1:5 “There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.”

- “Abia” is the Greek form of “Abijah.”
- David is setting up this rotational system that would still be used some 1,200 years later.
- Zacharias is the father of John the Baptist who would herald the coming of the Messiah. He was of the family of Abijah, and thus it was his course, He was serving his two week duty in Jerusalem. He drew the lot of offering incense / prayers at the altar of incense when an angel of the Lord spoke to him about having a son.

- David sets up this organizational system of service that is used up to New Testament times.
- David accomplished a lot of things, he wrote songs and composed music, he was a warrior, architect, and an administrator - and David readily acknowledges that God guided him.

1 Chronicles 28:19 “All this, said David, the Lord made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.”

- David acknowledges that it was all from the Lord, it was by inspiration of God.
- God gets the glory, we get the blessing!

V: 20-31 The rest of the sons of Levi, who were not the sons of Aaron.

- These Levites served in the Temple area, but not in the actual Temple; helping the priests, casting lots for the particular job they would perform.
- When these men weren't actually serving in the Temple on their yearly two week rotation, they were the teachers, and counsellors, and leaders throughout the country ministering to the people.
- 48 Levitical cities, 4 per tribe - spread through the nation.

1 Chronicles Chapter 25

V: 1 David and the other leaders separated out the worship leaders that they should prophesy with musical instruments.

- According to both **Romans 12** and **1 Corinthians 12** - prophesying is a gift of the Spirit; worship is often a conduit for the gift of prophesy as we see in this passage.

V: 2-7 Heman, the king's seer in the words of God - and those who were called / gifted in songs.

- There were two purposes for worship in the temple.
 1. One was to give God's Word to men, which is prophesy.
 2. The other was to direct praise to God.

- Those purposes have not changed. The highest calling of a worship leader is still to meet those two requirements.
- Heman was a gifted man who not only served the Lord, but at the same time raised a large family, teaching his children and including them in the ministry. Proof that these things don't have to be mutually exclusive.

V: 8-31 The casting of lots again and setting the rotation or shifts of those who would minister in song in the Temple courts.

- 4,000 men were involved and offered worship in the Temple 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Everything set in order, organized:

1 Corinthians 14:40 "Let all things be done decently and in order."

1 Chronicles Chapter 26

V: 1-12 The division of "porters" - the movers and shakers... the behind the scenes people, the cleaning and maintenance servants, logistics & support.

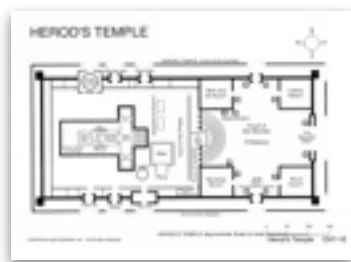
Admonishment:

Zechariah 4:10 "For who has despised the day of small things..."

- V: 4 This probably the same Obed-edom whose house was blessed when David left the Ark of the Covenant there while he figured out how to transport it.
- Part of that blessing for his faithfulness is that all 60+ of his descendants were employed in the Temple, involved in ministry.

V: 13-19 Lots were cast for those who would guard the gates of the Temple doing double duty on a rotational basis: All the gates were named, and manned. More guards on the Eastern gate probably due to increased traffic / prominence.

- Limitations were placed on who could go where, how far into the Temple courts people could go - Gentiles, women, Jewish men, Levites, Priests, the High Priest.



- Some of these men were described or recognized as being among David's mighty men of valor. They protected the treasures of the Temple, and the sanctity of the Temple, and the king - no one messed with the gate keepers!
- We still need gate keepers today; keeping the enemy out through prayer, protecting the treasure of God - His Word, His people.
- The gate keepers meet at 6 AM and 8:30 AM on Wednesdays and again at 6 AM on Fridays.

V: 20-28 Men were set over the treasury of the Lord. All the tithes, offerings, and dedicated offerings, spoils of war were accounted for, used for the needs of the Temple.

- Throughout Israel's history, the leaders of God's people, including Moses, Samuel, David, Saul, Abner, and Joab had dedicated the spoils of battle to the Lord. They left a continuing legacy.

V: 29-32 Levites were appointed to deal with the outward affairs of state.

- Notice that there was no separation of church and state, they were pretty much all one, notice the order as well: the affairs of God first, then the affairs of the king.

1 Chronicles Chapter 27

V: 1-15 Along with the Levites who served in the Temple there were others who in their own separate courses came and served the king on a rotational basis - 24,000 in each course. (Reserves - professional vs: non-professional)

- David had a standing military force, a rapid deployment force of 24,000 on hand at any moment which could quickly be expanded to 288,000 or to the full compliment after that as needed.

V: 16-22 Listing the leaders of the various tribes. There were 12 tribes to start with, then Ephraim and Manasseh took Joseph's place making it 13, then the tribe of Manasseh got split in half which in a practical sense made it 14 - but only 12 tribes including the two ½ tribes of Manasseh are listed.

- Gad and Asher are not listed.

Exodus 18:25 “And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds...”

- David is essentially affirming the order instituted by Moses.

V: 23-24 David ordered the census of the people / army, and apparently it was incomplete when God’s judgment fell upon the nation - then because David repented of his sin - he made it a point not to include the numbers of the census include the official records.

V: 25-34 Listing the various leaders of David’s cabinet or staff, those that watched over or were stewards over David’s personal estate.

Psalm 1:1-3 “¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

- David is certainly experiencing that blessing from God.
- After Ahithophel betrayed David over the issue with Bathsheba / Absalom, the men that replaced him as counsellor were all Levites, priests, Godly men.
- David was careful who he received counsel from. **Psalm 1:1**

Proverbs 24:6 “For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.”