

1 Chronicles 23

King James Version (KJV)

(Chapters 23 – 26 are the last two years of David's life)

23 So when David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel. (He named Solomon to be his successor, after his death. This was done publicly to avoid a power struggle after the king died)

² And he gathered together all the princes of Israel, with the priests and the Levites. (He gathered the rulers of the tribes and the temple based tribe of Levy to organize them – the ruling class and the religious class)

³ 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. (thirty years and upward = thirty to fifty years old; In Numbers-8:24, that age was dropped to 25 years old. In this chapter, verse 27, David changed it down to age of 20)

⁴ Of which, twenty and four thousand were to set forward the work of the house of the LORD; and six thousand were officers and judges: (Israel had become a large country. Officers also served as scribes. They were assigned to different cities throughout the country)

⁵ Moreover four thousand were porters; and four thousand praised the LORD with the instruments which I made, said David, to praise therewith. (Porters were security for the temple and its treasury)

⁶ And David divided them into courses among the sons of Levi, namely, Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. (The three main families of the tribe of Levi)

⁷ Of the Gershonites were, Laadan, and Shimei. (Families of Gershon)

⁸ The sons of Laadan; the chief was Jehiel, and Zetham, and Joel, three.

⁹ The sons of Shimei; Shelomith, and Haziel, and Haran, three. These were the chief of the fathers of Laadan.

¹⁰ And the sons of Shimei were, Jahath, Zina, and Jeush, and Beriah. These four were the sons of Shimei.

¹¹ And Jahath was the chief, and Zizah the second: but Jeush and Beriah had not many sons; therefore they were in one reckoning, according to their father's house.

¹² The sons of Kohath; Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel, four.
(Amram was the father of Moses, Miriam & Aaron)

¹³ The sons of Amram; Aaron and Moses: and Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons for ever, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister unto him, and to bless in his name for ever. **(All priests were Levites, but only the descendants of Aaron were priests. The other Levites did other duties around the temple)**

(Skip to verse 24)

¹⁴ Now concerning Moses the man of God, his sons were named of the tribe of Levi.

¹⁵ The sons of Moses were, Gershom, and Eliezer.

¹⁶ Of the sons of Gershom, Shebuel was the chief.

¹⁷ And the sons of Eliezer were, Rehabiah the chief. And Eliezer had none other sons; but the sons of Rehabiah were very many.

¹⁸ Of the sons of Izhar; Shelomith the chief.

¹⁹ Of the sons of Hebron; Jeriah the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.

²⁰ Of the sons of Uzziel; Micah the first and Jesiah the second.

²¹ The sons of Merari; Mahli, and Mushi. The sons of Mahli; Eleazar, and Kish.

²² And Eleazar died, and had no sons, but daughters: and their brethren the sons of Kish took them.

²³ The sons of Mushi; Mahli, and Eder, and Jeremoth, three.

²⁴ These were the sons of Levi after the house of their fathers; even the chief of the fathers, as they were counted by number of names by their polls, that did the work for the service of the house of the LORD,

from the age of twenty years and upward. (It is not known why the age was dropped from 30 <Moses time> to 25, and now to 20 by David)

²⁵ For David said, The LORD God of Israel hath given rest unto his people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem for ever: (The temple was a permanent structure, so the Levites would no longer need to pack it up and move it)

²⁶ And also unto the Levites; they shall no more carry the tabernacle, nor any vessels of it for the service thereof. (The temple was meant to be the permanent location for worship. Later when Israel brought in idolatry into the temple of God, HE ended His support for Israel and allowed the temple to be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar)

²⁷ For by the last words of David the Levites were numbered from twenty years old and above:

²⁸ Because their office was to wait on the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts, and in the chambers, and in the purifying of all holy things, and the work of the service of the house of God; (Their duties were changed, to serve in the temple, because they were no longer moving the mosaic temple around)

²⁹ Both for the shewbread, and for the fine flour for meat offering, and for the unleavened cakes, and for that which is baked in the pan, and for that which is fried, and for all manner of measure and size; (The Levites prepared these foods; the priests did the offering) (showbread = bread of the face <Hebrew>)

³⁰ And to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD, and likewise at even: (They made two offerings every day; morning & evening)

³¹ And to offer all burnt sacrifices unto the LORD in the sabbaths, in the new moons, and on the set feasts, by number, according to the order commanded unto them, continually before the LORD: (The priests made the offerings)

³² And that they should keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the holy place, and the charge of the sons of Aaron their brethren, in the service of the house of the LORD. (The Levites were responsible for all duties concerning the temple)

