

1 Chronicles 15

King James Version (KJV)

(David will bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. This time, he will do it the right way. This chapter lists the procession that will accompany the Ark, back to Jerusalem)

15 And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent. (Making preparations; he is rebuilding the Mosaic tabernacle) Exodus-25

²Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever. See Numbers-1:50, 4:15, 7:9, 10:17, etc...

(After the disaster with Uzza, David is educating himself on how the Ark is to be handled and moved)

³And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it. See 2Samuel-6

⁴And David assembled the children of Aaron, and the Levites: (Not all Levites are priests, but all priests are Levites)

⁵Of the sons of Kohath; Uriel the chief, and his brethren an hundred and twenty: (Kohath – one of the 3 sons of Levi)

(They were assigned by God to carry the Ark and the other holy items that go inside the temple. They used staves and carried the items on their shoulders)

⁶Of the sons of Merari; Asaiah the chief, and his brethren two hundred and twenty: (Merari – one of the 3 sons of Levi)

(They assembled and carried the boards, pillars and sockets of the tabernacle itself. They used 4 ox carts to move this heavy equipment)

⁷Of the sons of Gershon; Joel the chief and his brethren an hundred and thirty: (Gershon – one of the 3 sons of Levi)

(They moved the curtains <tent material>, hangings and ropes for the tabernacle. They used 2 ox carts to move this heavy equipment)

⁸ Of the sons of Elizaphan; Shemaiah the chief, and his brethren two hundred: (Elizaphan – a Kohathite, son of Uzziel; they became to be called Elizaphanites)

⁹ Of the sons of Hebron; Eliel the chief, and his brethren fourscore: (Hebron – another son of Kohath)

¹⁰ Of the sons of Uzziel; Amminadab the chief, and his brethren an hundred and twelve. (These are Kohathites, whom God had given the duties of moving the Mosaic Temple)

¹¹ And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab, (Temporarily, Zadok and Abiathar, were both high priests. Zadok had been with Saul, and Abiathar had been with David)

(Eventually, Zadok would be the only High Priest, after David united all of Israel. Zadok was the family of Eleazar – the true priest line. Abiathar was of Ithamar – not the proper priest line)

¹² And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. (They are doing this per God's Word. This time, they will move the Ark the right way)

¹³ For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order. (Their first attempt was not done by the Word of God, and Uzza died for it. The wrong people were moving the Ark, and on an ox cart; instead of on the staves, carried by Levites)

¹⁴ So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁵ And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD. Numbers-4

¹⁶ And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of musick, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy. (singers = musicians – better translation)

¹⁷ So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brethren, Ethan the son of Kushaiah; (Heman - a Koathite, was the grandson of Samuel, the prophet. Ethan was also called Jedathan in other chapters. These were the highest ranking of the musicians)

¹⁸ And with them their brethren of the second degree, Zechariah, Ben, and Jaaziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, Eliab, and Benaiah, and Maaseiah, and Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obedom, and Jeiel, the porters. (Porters acted as security guards for the temple and the temple treasury) (Ben = son; it is unusual as a name by itself)

¹⁹ So the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were appointed to sound with cymbals of brass; (These would act as conductors for the musicians)

²⁰ And Zechariah, and Aziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, and Eliab, and Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with psalteries on Alamoth; (Alamoth = virgins <Hebrew>; in this musical case, probably soprano singers – possibly young women)

²¹ And Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obedom, and Jeiel, and Azariah, with harps on the Sheminith to excel. (to excel = to lead - better translation)

²² And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skilful. (song = carriage – terrible translation)

(He was skilful in carrying heavy objects and in charge of the carriage of the temple to Jerusalem. He must have been a Koathite. They were the movers of the temple) Numbers-2-4

²³ And Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark. (Doorkeepers were also the security people)

²⁴ And Shebaniah, and Jehoshaphat, and Nethaneel, and Amasai, and Zechariah, and Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, did blow with the trumpets before the ark of God: and Obedom and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark. (These silver trumpets had been used all the way back to the days of Moses) Numbers-10

²⁵ So David, and the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands, went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the house of Obededom with joy. (The Ark had been there for 3 months, since Ussa had died) (Now, the presence of God was coming to Jerusalem)

NOTE: (Verses 16-25 describe a procession of the people that led the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. First, the singers with instruments; then the bearers of the furniture of the sanctuary; then the security people for the sanctuary; then priests with the trumpets; followed by the Ark itself and the 2 door keepers of the Ark; and finally, David the king and the elders of the 12 tribes)

²⁶ And it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bullocks and seven rams. (This is when they arrived in Jerusalem, to where the temple would be)

2Sanuel-6:13 (This is a separate offering, probably when they set the Ark on Mount Zion. God chose the location for the sanctuary)

²⁷ And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also had upon him an ephod of linen. (David was not dressed as a king. This was a type for the people who will be with God in heaven, dressed in fine linen) (singers = musicians – better translation) (Song = carriage – bad translation)

(David was wearing only fine linen, like the priests, instead of his kingly robes. He was humbling himself before Almighty God)

²⁸ Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, making a noise with psalteries and harps.

²⁹ And it came to pass, as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that Michal, the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw King David dancing and playing: and she despised him in her heart. (Michal didn't want David to humble himself before God and before the people. She liked the prestige of the kingship. She was raised as a princess <the daughter of Saul>. She was probably an elitist)

(She would end up not having any children – as a punishment from God? God will abase those who exalt themselves. He will exalt those who humble themselves) see 2Samuel-6:20-23