

2 Chronicles 31

King James Version (KJV)

31 Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the groves, and threw down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities. (The people were destroying all idolatrous places and idols. The Passover had a positive effect on the whole country)

² And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the tents of the LORD.

(Hezekiah reinstated the 24 courses in the temple as David had done. There were 24 courses repeated twice for 48 weeks. All of the Levites served on the four holiday weeks – Passover, Unleavened Bread, Weeks, Succoth)

³ He appointed also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, to wit, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as it is written in the law of the LORD. (These burnt offerings came from the king's personal herds) Numbers-28 & 29

(new moons = new months – bad translation; the word moon here is Kodesh. It means one new month, the 7th month<Tissery> – the feast of trumps) See Leviticus-23 & 24

⁴ Moreover he commanded the people that dwelt in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might be encouraged in the law of the LORD. (Encouraged = strengthened – better translation)

(To give the portion to the priests, not of the priests – bad translation)

(If the priests are going to work in the temple, they need to be supported by the people. Under Ahaz they had no support. Hezekiah reinstated their support)

⁵And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the first fruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly.

(This was done to support the priests and Levites who served in the temple. They had no land of their own, so the people gave them 10% of their own food and herds) see Numbers-18:21-24

⁶And concerning the children of Israel and Judah, that dwelt in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and the tithe of holy things which were consecrated unto the LORD their God, and laid them by heaps. (The people gave abundantly and willingly)

⁷In the third month they began to lay the foundation of the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month. (There were 5 months of gathering for the Levites who worked in and around the temple)

⁸And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD, and his people Israel. (Bless God and He will always bless you. God blessed Judah with great harvests)

⁹Then Hezekiah questioned with the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps. (He should have realized that God was blessing them; because they abandoned idolatry and returned to worshipping God)

¹⁰And Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok answered him, and said, Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat, and have left plenty: for the LORD hath blessed his people; and that which is left is this great store. (If we support His Word by supporting those who teach it correctly and completely - God's generosity in blessing us is so great that it is without measure) See Malachi-3:10

¹¹Then Hezekiah commanded to prepare chambers in the house of the LORD; and they prepared them, (To store the excess)

¹²And brought in the offerings and the tithes and the dedicated things faithfully: over which Cononiah the Levite was ruler, and Shimei his brother was the next. (Always put more than one person in charge of the treasury and the stores. It helps to guarantee honesty)

¹³ And Jehiel, and Azariah, and Nahath, and Asahel, and Jerimoth, and Jozabad, and Eliel, and Ismachiah, and Mahath, and Benaiah, were overseers under the hand of Cononiah and Shimei his brother, at the commandment of Hezekiah the king, and Azariah the ruler of the house of God. (Azariah was the high priest)

¹⁴ And Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, the porter toward the east, was over the freewill offerings of God, to distribute the oblations of the LORD, and the most holy things. (Most holy - the Incense offering, showbread offering, sin offering, meat or minka offering) (Holy – first born, first fruits, heave or thank offering)

¹⁵ And next him were Eden, and Miniamin, and Jeshua, and Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, in the cities of the priests, in their set office, to give to their brethren by courses, as well to the great as to the small: (They made sure that all the Levites received an equal portion. The great and the small = the older and the younger – better translation)

¹⁶ Beside their genealogy of males, from three years old and upward, even unto every one that entereth into the house of the LORD, his daily portion for their service in their charges according to their courses; (They started going to the temple at the age of three as observers in order to learn. Eventually they would replace their fathers in their duties)

¹⁷ Both to the genealogy of the priests by the house of their fathers, and the Levites from twenty years old and upward, in their charges by their courses;

¹⁸ And to the genealogy of all their little ones, their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, through all the congregation: for in their set office they sanctified themselves in holiness: (Only the tribes of Judah and of Levy kept good records of their genealogy)

(Centuries later, Mary would come from both of these tribes – the priest line <Levy>, her mother, and the king line <Judah>, her father. This is a part of what is called – the key of David. Jesus came into the world through Mary as King of kings, Lord of lords) Luke-3

¹⁹ Also of the sons of Aaron the priests, which were in the fields of the suburbs of their cities, in every several city, the men that were expressed by name, to give portions to all the males among the priests, and to all that were reckoned by genealogies among the

Levites. (The Levites were given a field just outside of every walled city for their flocks, because they received no inheritance of land for themselves as individuals) See Numbers-35:2

²⁰ And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the LORD his God. (God was pleased with them and blessed them greatly)

²¹ And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered. (Bless God and He will bless you)