

1 Chronicles 24

King James Version (KJV)

24 Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron; Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. (These are the priests)

² But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children: therefore Eleazar and Ithamar executed the priest's office. (Nadab and Abihu were killed by God for bringing "strange fire" to the temple. They were drunk and used campfire embers for their censors. They were supposed to use embers from the altar of sacrifice. What they did was an insult to God) Leviticus-10

³ And David distributed them, both Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, according to their offices in their service. (Zadok was the true high priest, being a descendant of Eleazar)

⁴ And there were more chief men found of the sons of Eleazar than of the sons of Ithamar, and thus were they divided. Among the sons of Eleazar there were sixteen chief men of the house of their fathers, and eight among the sons of Ithamar according to the house of their fathers. (The priests were divided into 24 lots and 24 courses to serve in the temple. Each course served one week, twice per year- 48 courses total)

(The last 4 weeks or courses were the national feasts established by God to Moses. All of the priests served on these four feast days - Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Weeks, and Feast of Tabernacles or Booths – 52 courses per year total)

(The first day of the religious year or calendar year was at the Spring Equinox <March 21>. By contrast, the first day after the Feast of Tabernacles was the first day of the civil year <Oct 6>)

⁵ Thus were they divided by lot, one sort with another; for the governors of the sanctuary, and governors of the house of God, were of the sons of Eleazar, and of the sons of Ithamar. (They would be in charge of all of the other priests and Levites that were serving in the temple for that week or course. They were not the high priest)

⁶ And Shemaiah the son of Nethaneel the scribe, one of the Levites, wrote them before the king, and the princes, and Zadok the priest,

and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and before the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites: one principal household being taken for Eleazar, and one taken for Ithamar. (There were 24 governors of the House of God for 24 courses. Each course was 1 week long, twice per year)

⁷ Now the first lot came forth to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, (The first course <Jehoiarib> started on October 6)

⁸ The third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim,

⁹ The fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin,

¹⁰ The seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah, (The course of Abijah was the course that Zacharias served <one on June 13 - 19, one in December>. He was the father of John the Baptist. This documents John's and Jesus' conception days and their birth days) see Luke-1

¹¹ The ninth to Jeshuah, the tenth to Shecaniah,

¹² The eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim,

¹³ The thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab,

¹⁴ The fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer,

¹⁵ The seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Aphses,

¹⁶ The nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezekel,

¹⁷ The one and twentieth to Jachin, the two and twentieth to Gamul,

¹⁸ The three and twentieth to Delaiah, the four and twentieth to Maaziah.

¹⁹ These were the orderings of them in their service to come into the house of the LORD, according to their manner, under Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.

²⁰ And the rest of the sons of Levi were these: Of the sons of Amram; Shubael: of the sons of Shubael; Jehdeiah. (These were Levites who were not priests)

²¹ Concerning Rehabiah: of the sons of Rehabiah, the first was Isshiah.

²² Of the Izharites; Shelomoth: of the sons of Shelomoth; Jahath.

²³ And the sons of Hebron; Jeriah the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, Jekameam the fourth.

²⁴ Of the sons of Uzziel; Michah: of the sons of Michah; Shamir.

²⁵ The brother of Michah was Isshiah: of the sons of Isshiah; Zechariah.

²⁶ The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi: the sons of Jaaziah; Beno.

²⁷ The sons of Merari by Jaaziah; Beno, and Shoham, and Zaccur, and Ibri.

²⁸ Of Mahli came Eleazar, who had no sons.

²⁹ Concerning Kish: the son of Kish was Jerahmeel.

³⁰ The sons also of Mushi; Mahli, and Eder, and Jerimoth. These were the sons of the Levites after the house of their fathers.

(The Gershonites are missing from this list. They may have been given other duties, not with the priests)

³¹ These likewise cast lots over against their brethren the sons of Aaron in the presence of David the king, and Zadok, and Ahimelech, and the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites, even the principal fathers over against their younger brethren. (over against= equally with – better translation)