

1 Chronicles 27

King James Version (KJV)

27 Now the children of Israel after their number, to wit, the chief fathers and captains of thousands and hundreds, and their officers that served the king in any matter of the courses, which came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year, of every course were twenty and four thousand. (This is the military. They were on duty for 1 month every year. When their rotation was done, they returned to their farms. 24,000 men per month – 12 months = 288,000 fighting men; It was a peace time army)

(Verses 2-15: the twelve military courses)

²Over the first course for the first month was Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel: and in his course were twenty and four thousand. (Jashobeam was one of David's 3 mightiest men) 2Samuel-23:8

³Of the children of Perez was the chief of all the captains of the host for the first month.

⁴And over the course of the second month was Dodai an Ahohite, and of his course was Mikloth also the ruler: in his course likewise were twenty and four thousand.

⁵The third captain of the host for the third month was Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, a chief priest: and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

⁶This is that Benaiah, who was mighty among the thirty, and above the thirty: and in his course was Ammizabad his son.

⁷The fourth captain for the fourth month was Asahel the brother of Joab, and Zebadiah his son after him: and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

⁸The fifth captain for the fifth month was Shamhuth the Izrahite: and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

⁹The sixth captain for the sixth month was Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite: and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

¹⁰ The seventh captain for the seventh month was Helez the Pelonite, of the children of Ephraim: and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

¹¹ The eighth captain for the eighth month was Sibbecai the Hushathite, of the Zarhites: and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

¹² The ninth captain for the ninth month was Abiezer the Anetothite, of the Benjamites: and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

¹³ The tenth captain for the tenth month was Maharai the Netophathite, of the Zarhites: and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

¹⁴ The eleventh captain for the eleventh month was Benaiah the Pirathonite, of the children of Ephraim: and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

¹⁵ The twelfth captain for the twelfth month was Heldai the Netophathite, of Othniel: and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

(Verses 16 – 22: Tribe princes – heads of the major families in each tribe)

¹⁶ Furthermore over the tribes of Israel: the ruler of the Reubenites was Eliezer the son of Zichri: of the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maachah:

¹⁷ Of the Levites, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel: of the Aaronites, Zadok:

¹⁸ Of Judah, Elihu, one of the brethren of David: of Issachar, Omri the son of Michael:

¹⁹ Of Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah: of Naphtali, Jerimoth the son of Azriel:

²⁰ Of the children of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Azaziah: of the half tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son of Pedaiah:

²¹ Of the half tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah: of Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner:

²² Of Dan, Azareel the son of Jeroham. These were the princes of the tribes of Israel.

²³ But David took not the number of them from twenty years old and under: because the LORD had said he would increase Israel like to the stars of the heavens. (This goes back in time to when David numbered the men of Israel in chapter-21. God punished him for it)

²⁴ Joab the son of Zeruiah began to number, but he finished not, because there fell wrath for it against Israel; neither was the number put in the account of the chronicles of King David. (Joab was against the numbering because he knew it was all about David's ego. He was right)

²⁵ And over the king's treasures was Azmaveth the son of Adiel: and over the storehouses in the fields, in the cities, and in the villages, and in the castles, was Jehonathan the son of Uzziah: (These two are major stewards for David's property; Azmaveth in Jerusalem; Jehonathan outside of Jerusalem)

²⁶ And over them that did the work of the field for tillage of the ground was Ezri the son of Chelub: (Overseeing the king's farms and gardens)

²⁷ And over the vineyards was Shimei the Ramathite: over the increase of the vineyards for the wine cellars was Zabdi the Shiphmite:

²⁸ And over the olive trees and the sycamore trees that were in the low plains was Baalhanan the Gederite: and over the cellars of oil was Joash: (Sycamore – a fig mulberry tree – planted along the sides of the roads for shade and also for fruit. They had large leaves that provided good shade from the hot desert sun)

²⁹ And over the herds that fed in Sharon was Shitrai the Sharonite: and over the herds that were in the valleys was Shaphat the son of Adlai:

³⁰ Over the camels also was Obil the Ishmaelite: and over the asses was Jehdeiah the Meronothite: (Ishmaelite- a descendant of Ishmael – nomadic people of the desert <not an Israelite>)

³¹ And over the flocks was Jaziz the Hagerite. All these were the rulers of the substance which was King David's. (There were 12 stewards over David's property)

NOTE: (You can see that even at this early stage of men kings, David was far richer than the average Israelite. It got worse and worse as the future kings came into power. They found new ways to put more wealth into their personal accounts. The same could be said about the tribal leaders. They became the upper class in Israel)

1Samuel-8:10-22 (God warned Israel that a man king would put their sons and daughters to his service. Still they wanted a man king instead of having God as their king)

(Men kings eventually led to Israel's descent into idolatry, and eventually, to its downfall as a free nation. They should have stayed loyal to God as their King. God doesn't need "lieutenants". HE can rule far better, and keep men more equal)

³² Also Jonathan David's uncle was a counsellor, a wise man, and a scribe: and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni was with the king's sons: (uncle = dod <Hebrew>; means either uncle or nephew. They are the same word in Hebrew. He was David's nephew, not his uncle) see chapter-20:7

³³ And Ahithophel was the king's counsellor: and Hushai the Archite was the king's companion: (Ahithophel later betrayed David to Absalom, but failed to have David killed. He hung himself when he was found out)

³⁴ And after Ahithophel was Jehoiada the son of Benaiah, and Abiathar: and the general of the king's army was Joab. (Joab was David's nephew)