

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. (David named Solomon to be his successor, after his death. This was done publicly to avoid a power struggle after the king died)

(Yet a power struggle still happened with Adoniah. He failed in the end, but he caused a lot of division in the meantime) See 2Kings-1

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

³Now 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 the age of 20)

⁴Of 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, to keep public records. The judges ruled in legal matters. They were assigned to different cities throughout the country)

(Because Levites didn't have a geographical region of their own, they could be neutral in their decisions)

⁵Moreover 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)

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

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

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

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

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

¹¹And 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.

¹²The sons of Kohath; Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel, four.
(Families of Kohath)

(Amram was the father of Moses, Miriam & Aaron)

¹³The 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 descendents of Amram were priests. The other Levites did other duties around the temple)

(Skip to verse 24)

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

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

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

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

¹⁸Of the sons of Izhar; Shelomith the chief.

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

²⁰Of 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. (The families of Merari)

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: (they = He – God <Moffat translation>; the permanent temple would not be moved again, going forward)

(rest unto the people - 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; (shewbread = bread of the face <Hebrew>; it was prepared from

sabbath to sabbath. The Levites prepared these foods; but only the priests did the offering)

³⁰ And to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD, and likewise at even: (They made two offerings to God 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 all of 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)