

1 Chronicles 23 - Preparation for Temple Service: Levites

II. David prepares to build the temple (1 Chr 10:1—29:30)

(8) David sets in place personnel for future temple worship (1 Chr 23:1—27:34)

(A) Solomon (23:1)

(B) Levites (23:2-32)

(a) 4 groups and tasks (23:2-6)

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(c) Levites' mobile Tabernacle Ministry to be changed to stationary temple Ministry (23:24-32)

1 Chronicles 23

(8) David sets in place personnel for future temple worship (1 Chr 23:1—27:34)

(A) Solomon (23:1)

1 Now when David reached old age, he made his son Solomon king over Israel.

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1 After David had reached old age, and had completed his reign, he set his son Solomon as king over Israel.

1 So when David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel.

- For Solomon's coronation and attempts to seize his throne, see 1 Kings 1:1–2:9; 1 Chr 28-29

— David appointed Solomon as his co-regent in 973 BC

(B) Levites (23:2-32)

(a) 4 groups and tasks (23:2-6)

2 And he gathered together all the leaders of Israel with the priests and the Levites.

2 And he gathered together all the leaders of Israel with the priests and the Levites.

2 David then gathered together all of the leaders of Israel, including the priests and descendants of Levi.

2 And he gathered together all the princes of Israel, with the priests and the Levites.

- David adapted the service of the Levites, who assisted the priests, to the new temple ritual. This form of worship was a combination of tabernacle and divinely approved revised worship (23:3-32; Num 3).

— In all this, David was careful to abide within the guidelines of the Mosaic Law and other instructions he had received from the Lord (1 Chr 28:19)

— Previously the Levites had served mainly by carrying the tabernacle and its furnishings from place to place (Num 2-4) and by instructing the people in the Law (Lev 11-27). Now, their duty was also to maintain the temple and its worship, with the exception of matters reserved for the priests (v28-32).

3 Now the Levites were counted from thirty years old and upward, and their number by head count of men was thirty-eight thousand.

3 The Levites were numbered from thirty years old and upward, and their number by census of men was 38,000.

3 descendants of Levi 30 years old and above were counted for a total of 38,000.

3 Now 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.

- 2 Chr 29:25 tells us that David's plan for organizing the priests and Levites was given to him by the Lord through his two prophets, Gad and Nathan

— Not only the plan for the temple itself, but also what went on in the temple and how it was organized, were commanded by the Lord

- When the Israelites left Egypt, the Levites between age 30-50 numbered 8,580 (Num 4:47-48); in David's day, the Levites "from 30 years old upward" numbered 38,000

4 Of these, twenty-four thousand were to oversee the work of the house of the LORD; and six thousand *were* officers and judges,

4 Of these, 24,000 were to oversee the work of the house of the LORD; and 6,000 *were* officers and judges,

4 "24,000 of these," David said, "are to be set in charge of the work of the Temple of the LORD, with 6,000 serving as officers and judges,

4 Of which, twenty and four thousand were to set forward the work of the house of the LORD; and six thousand were officers and judges:

5 and four thousand *were* gatekeepers, and four thousand *were* praising the LORD with the instruments which David made for giving praise.

5 and 4,000 *were* gatekeepers, and 4,000 *were* praising the LORD with the instruments which David made for giving praise.

5 with 4,000 gatekeepers, and with 4,000 offering praises to the LORD with the musical instruments that I have had crafted."

5 Moreover four thousand were porters; and four thousand praised the LORD with the instruments which I made, said David, to praise therewith.

6 David divided them into divisions according to the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

6 David divided them into divisions according to the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

6 David divided them into divisions based on Gershon, Kohath, and Merari, Levi's sons.

6 And David divided them into courses among the sons of Levi, namely, Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

(b) Levites listed by clan and family (23:7-23)

7 Of the Gershonites *there were* Ladan and Shimei.

7 Of the Gershonites *were* Ladan and Shimei.

7 The descendants of Gershon were Ladan and Shimei.

7 Of the Gershonites were, Laadan, and Shimei.

8 The sons of Ladan *were* Jehiel the first, and Zetham and Joel, three.

8 The sons of Ladan *were* Jehiel the first and Zetham and Joel, three.

8 The three descendants of Ladan included Jehiel (their chief), Zetham, and Joel.

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

9 The sons of Shimei *were* Shelomoth, Haziel, and Haran, three. These were the heads of the fathers' *households* of Ladan.

9 The sons of Shimei *were* Shelomoth and Haziel and Haran, three. These were the heads of the fathers' *households* of Ladan.

9 The three descendants of Shimei included Shelomoth, Haziel, and Haran. These were the heads of families of Ladan.

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

- During the years of Israel's wandering, the descendants of Levi were assigned to take down the tabernacle and carry its various parts, reassembling the tabernacle at the place God told the people to camp (Cf. Num 3-4)

— Now that they would be serving in a permanent sanctuary, the three families of the sons of Levi were assigned to other duties

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

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

10 The descendants of Shimei included Jahath, Zina, Jeush, and Beriah. These four were sons of Shimei.

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

11 Jahath was the first and Zizah the second; but Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons, so they became a father's household, one group for duty.

11 Jahath was the first and Zizah the second; but Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons, so they became a father's household, one class.

11 Jahath served as chief and Zizah was second in rank, but since Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons, they were enrolled as a single family unit.

11 And 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.

12 The sons of Kohath were four *in number*: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

12 The sons of Kohath were four: Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

12 The four descendants of Kohath included Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

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

13 The sons of Amram were Aaron and Moses. And Aaron was set apart to sanctify him as most holy, he and his sons forever, to burn incense before the LORD, to serve Him and bless in His name forever.

13 The sons of Amram were Aaron and Moses. And Aaron was set apart to sanctify him as most holy, he and his sons forever, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister to Him and to bless in His name forever.

13 The descendants of Amram included Aaron and Moses. Aaron had been set apart to consecrate the most holy things, with the intent that he and his sons should present offerings in the LORD's presence forever, ministering to him and pronouncing blessings in his name forever.

13 The 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.

14 But *as for* Moses, the man of God, his sons were named among the tribe of Levi.

14 But *as for* Moses the man of God, his sons were named among the tribe of Levi.

14 Meanwhile, as for Moses the man of God, his sons were considered among the tribe of Levi.

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

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

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

15 The descendants of Moses included Gershom and Eliezer.

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

16 The son of Gershom *was* Shebuel the chief.

16 The son of Gershom *was* Shebuel the chief.

16 The descendants of Gershom included Shebuel as their chief.

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

17 The son of Eliezer *was* Rehabiah the chief; and Eliezer had no other sons, but the sons of Rehabiah *were* very many.

17 The son of Eliezer *was* Rehabiah the chief; and Eliezer had no other sons, but the sons of Rehabiah *were* very many.

17 The descendants of Eliezer included Rehabiah as their chief. Eliezer had no other sons, but Rehabiah had many descendants.

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

18 The son of Izhar *was* Shelomith the chief.

18 The son of Izhar *was* Shelomith the chief.

18 The descendants of Izhar included Shelomith their chief.

18 Of the sons of Izhar; Shelomith the chief.

19 The sons of Hebron *were* Jeriah the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.

19 The sons of Hebron *were* Jeriah the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third and Jekameam the fourth.

19 The descendants of Hebron included Jeriah their chief, Amariah their second in rank, Jahaziel their third, and Jekameam their fourth.

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

20 The sons of Uzziel *were* Micah the first and Isshiah the second.

20 The sons of Uzziel *were* Micah the first and Isshiah the second.

20 The descendants of Uzziel included Micah their chief and Isshiah their second in rank.

20 Of the sons of Uzziel; Michah the first, and Jesiah the second.

21 The sons of Merari *were* Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Mahli *were* Eleazar and Kish.

21 The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Mahli were Eleazar and Kish.

21 The descendants of Merari included Mahli and Mushi. The descendants of Mahli included Eleazar and Kish,

21 The sons of Merari; Mahli, and Mushi. The sons of Mahli; Eleazar, and Kish.

22 Eleazar died and had no sons, but only daughters; so their relatives, the sons of Kish, took them as *wives*.

22 Eleazar died and had no sons, but daughters only, so their brothers, the sons of Kish, took them as *wives*.

22 but Eleazar died having no sons, but only daughters. Their relatives (the descendants of Kish) married them.

22 And Eleazar died, and had no sons, but daughters: and their brethren the sons of Kish took them.

23 The sons of Mushi were three: Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth.

23 The sons of Mushi were three: Mahli, Eder and Jeremoth.

23 The three descendants of Mushi included Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth.

23 The sons of Mushi; Mahli, and Eder, and Jeremoth, three.

(c) Levites' mobile Tabernacle Ministry to be changed to stationary temple Ministry (23:24-32)

24 These were the sons of Levi according to their fathers' households, the heads of the fathers' *households* of those among them who were counted, in the number of names by their head count, doing the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from twenty years old and upward.

24 These were the sons of Levi according to their fathers' households, *even* the heads of the fathers' *households* of those of them who were counted, in the number of names by their census, doing the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from twenty years old and upward.

24 These were the descendants of Levi according to their ancestral households, with family heads documented according to the names of persons 20 years and older who were appointed to perform work in service to the Temple of the LORD.

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.

- Since these presupposed a much larger ecclesiastical burden, David lowered the age of Levitical service to 20 from the previously designated 30 (v24,27; Cf. v3)

25 For David said, "The LORD God of Israel has given rest to His people, and He dwells in Jerusalem forever.

25 For David said, "The LORD God of Israel has given rest to His people, and He dwells in Jerusalem forever.

25 For David had said "The LORD God of Israel has granted rest to his people, and he has taken Israel as his eternal residence.

25 For David said, The LORD God of Israel hath given rest unto his people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem for ever:

26 Also, the Levites will no longer need to carry the tabernacle and all its utensils for its service."

26 Also, the Levites will no longer need to carry the tabernacle and all its utensils for its service."

26 Therefore the descendants of Levi are no longer to carry the Tent or its service implements."

26 And also unto the Levites; they shall no more carry the tabernacle, nor any vessels of it for the service thereof.

27 For by the last words of David, the sons of Levi *were* counted from twenty years old and upward.

27 For by the last words of David the sons of Levi *were* numbered from twenty years old and upward.

27 Since, according to David's final instructions, the list above contains the total number of descendants of Levi from the age of 20 years and upward,

27 For by the last words of David the Levites were numbered from twenty years old and above:

28 For their office is to assist the sons of Aaron with the service of the house of the LORD, in the courtyards and in the chambers, and in the purification of all holy things, and the work of the service of the house of God,

28 For their office is to assist the sons of Aaron with the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts and in the chambers and in the purifying of all holy things, even the work of the service of the house of God,

28 David issued these orders:

"Instead, they are to assist by lending a hand to the descendants of Aaron regarding service to the Temple of the LORD relating to the courts, the chambers, purification of everything pertaining to holiness, and to anything else pertaining to service on behalf of the Temple of God,

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;

29 and with the showbread, and the fine flour for a grain offering, and unleavened wafers, or *what is baked in* the pan or what is well-mixed, and all measures of volume and size.

29 and with the showbread, and the fine flour for a grain offering, and unleavened wafers, or *what is baked in* the pan or what is well-mixed, and all measures of volume and size.

29 including assisting with the rows of showbread, selecting flour for the grain offerings, the unleavened bread, baked offerings, and oil-based offerings, no matter what the quantity or sizes.

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;

30 They are to stand every morning to thank and to praise the LORD, and likewise at evening,

30 They are to stand every morning to thank and to praise the LORD, and likewise at evening,

30 They are to take their stand morning by morning, thanking and praising the LORD right through until the evening,

30 And to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD, and likewise at even;

31 and to offer all burnt offerings to the LORD, on the Sabbaths, the new moons and the appointed festivals, in the number *determined* by the ordinance concerning them, continually before the LORD.

31 and to offer all burnt offerings to the LORD, on the sabbaths, the new moons and the fixed festivals in the number *set* by the ordinance concerning them, continually before the LORD.

31 whenever burnt offerings are presented to the LORD, whether on Sabbaths, New Moons, or scheduled festivals, regularly in the LORD's presence in accordance with the number required to conduct their service.

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:

32 So they are to perform the duties of the tent of meeting, the holy place, and of *assisting* the sons of Aaron their relatives, for the service of the house of the LORD.

32 Thus they are to keep charge of the tent of meeting, and charge of the holy place, and charge of the sons of Aaron their relatives, for the service of the house of the LORD.

32 By doing this, they will fulfill their obligation as trustees over the Tent of Assembly and the Sanctuary, attending to the needs of their relatives, who are descendants of Aaron, in keeping with their service on behalf of the Temple of the LORD.”

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.