

1 Chronicles 25 - Preparation for Temple Service: Singers & Musicians

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)

(D) Musicians (25:1-31)

(a) Musicians from the tribe of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthum (25:1-8)

(b) 288 musicians divided into 24 groups of 12 (25:9-31)

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(a) Musicians from the tribe of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthum (25:1-8)

1 Moreover, David and the **commanders of the army** set apart for the service *some* of the sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, who *were* to prophesy with lyres, harps, and cymbals; and the number of those who performed this service was:

1 Moreover, David and the commanders of the army set apart for the service *some* of the sons of Asaph and of Heman and of Jeduthun, who *were* to prophesy with lyres, harps and cymbals; and the number of those who performed their service was:

1 Along with officers in his army, David consecrated to assist in service to the descendants of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun those who prophesy with lyres, harps, and cymbals.

The list of those who participated in this service included:

1 Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was:

- "...commanders of the army" - David's "mighty men" (Cf. 1 Chr 11:10)

— Asaph was a Gershonite (6:39-43), Heman a Kohathite (6:33), and Jeduthun (Ethan) a Merarite (6:44-47)

— They and their descendants were responsible for singing praises to God and leading the people in worship

— These musicians also served in 24 divisions (v9-31)

- The re-establishment of temple worship was important in post-exilic Israel, and music played a large part in it. Consequently, David's organization would have been of great interest to them.

Miriam, Deborah, and Philip's four daughters are all called "prophetesses" in Scripture (Ex 15:20-21; Judges 4:4; Acts 21:8-9). Miriam and Deborah both composed songs recorded in Scripture; they did not just lead the people in singing, though Miriam did that, too. The sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun (25:1) also composed some of the psalms. We do not know if Philip's daughters composed songs, but in view of the other examples that we have of "prophets" and "prophetesses" they may have. In any case, the definition of "prophet" should probably be understood to mean "worship leader," not in the restricted sense of a song-leader, but of a person who also passed along messages (songs) that God had inspired.

2 Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asharelah; the sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied under the direction of the king.

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2 from the descendants of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asarelah, sons of Asaph mentored by Asaph himself, who prophesied under the supervision of the king;

2 Of the sons of Asaph; Zaccur, and Joseph, and Nethaniah, and Asarelah, the sons of Asaph under the hands of Asaph, which prophesied according to the order of the king.

3 Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six *in all*, under the direction of their father Jeduthun with the harp, who prophesied in giving thanks and praising the LORD.

3 Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun with the harp, who prophesied in giving thanks and praising the LORD.

3 from Jeduthun, these six of his descendants: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, mentored by their father Jeduthun, who played a lyre and prophesied, giving thanks and praise to the LORD;

3 Of Jeduthun: the sons of Jeduthun; Gedaliah, and Zeri, and Jeshaiiah, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the hands of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp, to give thanks and to praise the LORD.

4 Of Heman, the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti and Romamti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth.

4 Of Heman, the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti and Romamti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, Mahazioth.

4 from Heman, these descendants: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth.

4 Of Heman: the sons of Heman; Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, and Romamtiezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth:

5 All these *were* the sons of Heman the king's **seer** to exalt him according to the words of God, for God gave fourteen sons and three daughters to Heman.

5 All these *were* the sons of Heman the king's seer to exalt him according to the words of God, for God gave fourteen sons and three daughters to Heman.

5 All of these were descendants of Heman the king's seer, according to God's promise to exalt him, since God had given Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

5 All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer in the words of God, to lift up the horn. And God gave to Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

- "...seer" - a prophet; someone who knew and understood the ways and will of God

6 All of these were under the direction of their father to sing in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman *were* under the direction of the king.

6 All these were under the direction of their father to sing in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, harps and lyres, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman *were* under the direction of the king.

6 They were all under their father's supervision regarding music in the Temple of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres for the service of the Temple of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under command of the king.

6 All these were under the hands of their father for song in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, psalteries, and harps, for the service of the house of God, according to the king's order to Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman.

7 Their number who were trained in singing to the LORD, with their relatives, all who were skillful, *was* 288.

7 Their number who were trained in singing to the LORD, with their relatives, all who were skillful, *was* 288.

7 They and their relatives who had been skillfully trained in singing to the LORD, numbered 288.

7 So the number of them, with their brethren that were instructed in the songs of the LORD, even all that were cunning, was two hundred fourscore and eight.

- The organization of the temple choir is noteworthy because the Chronicler elsewhere presented Israel's worship as in compliance with the Mosaic Law, which had no provision for a choir

— However, Nathan and Gad had authorized this choir (2 Chr 29:25), and it was in harmony with other parts of the Mosaic Law directing praise of the Lord (Cf. Num 10:10; Deut 10:8; 18:5)

8 They cast lots for their duties, all alike, the small as well as the great, the teacher *as well* as the pupil.

8 They cast lots for their duties, all alike, the small as well as the great, the teacher *as well* as the pupil.

8 Their duties, whether significant or insignificant, whether performed by teacher or pupil alike, were assigned by lottery.

8 And they cast lots, ward against ward, as well the small as the great, the teacher as the scholar.

(b) 288 musicians divided into 24 groups of 12 (25:9-31)

9 Now the first lot came out for Asaph to Joseph, the second for Gedaliah, he with his relatives and sons *were* twelve;

9 Now the first lot came out for Asaph to Joseph, the second for Gedaliah, he with his relatives and sons *were* twelve;

9 Asaph's first lottery was cast in favor of Joseph; the second went to Gedaliah, that is, to him, to his relatives, and his sons, for a total of twelve;

9 Now the first lot came forth for Asaph to Joseph: the second to Gedaliah, who with his brethren and sons were twelve:

10 the third to Zaccur, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

10 the third to Zaccur, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

10 the third to Zaccur, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;

10 The third to Zaccur, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

11 the fourth to Izri, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

11 the fourth to Izri, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

11 the fourth to Izri, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;

11 The fourth to Izri, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

12 the fifth to Nethaniah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

12 the fifth to Nethaniah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

12 the fifth to Nethaniah, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;

12 The fifth to Nethaniah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

13 the sixth to Bukkiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

13 the sixth to Bukkiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

13 the sixth to Bukkiah, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;

13 The sixth to Bukkiah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

14 the seventh to Jesharelah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

14 the seventh to Jesharelah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

14 the seventh to Jesharelah, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;

14 The seventh to Jesharelah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

15 the eighth to Jeshaiiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

15 the eighth to Jeshaiiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

15 the eighth to Jeshaiiah, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;

15 The eighth to Jeshaiiah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

16 the ninth to Mattaniah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

16 the ninth to Mattaniah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

16 the ninth to Mattaniah, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;

16 The ninth to Mattaniah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

17 the tenth to Shimei, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

17 the tenth to Shimei, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

17 the tenth to Shimei, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;

17 The tenth to Shimei, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

18 the eleventh to Azarel, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

18 the eleventh to Azarel, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

18 the eleventh to Azarel, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;

18 The eleventh to Azareel, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

19 the twelfth to Hashabiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

19 the twelfth to Hashabiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

19 the twelfth to Hashabiah, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;

19 The twelfth to Hashabiah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

20 for the thirteenth, Shubael, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

20 for the thirteenth, Shubael, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
20 the thirteenth to Shubael, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;
20 The thirteenth to Shubael, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

21 for the fourteenth, Mattithiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
21 for the fourteenth, Mattithiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
21 the fourteenth to Mattithiah, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;
21 The fourteenth to Mattithiah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

22 for the fifteenth to Jeremoth, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
22 for the fifteenth to Jeremoth, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
22 the fifteenth to Jeremoth, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;
22 The fifteenth to Jeremoth, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

23 for the sixteenth to Hananiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
23 for the sixteenth to Hananiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
23 the sixteenth to Hananiah, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;
23 The sixteenth to Hananiah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

24 for the seventeenth to Joshbekashah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
24 for the seventeenth to Joshbekashah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
24 the seventeenth to Joshbekashah, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;
24 The seventeenth to Joshbekashah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

25 for the eighteenth to Hanani, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
25 for the eighteenth to Hanani, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
25 the eighteenth to Hanani, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;
25 The eighteenth to Hanani, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

26 for the nineteenth to Mallothi, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
26 for the nineteenth to Mallothi, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
26 the nineteenth to Mallothi, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;
26 The nineteenth to Mallothi, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

27 for the twentieth to Eliathah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
27 for the twentieth to Eliathah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
27 the twentieth to Eliathah, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;
27 The twentieth to Eliathah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

28 for the twenty-first to Hothir, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
28 for the twenty-first to Hothir, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
28 the twenty-first to Hothir, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;
28 The one and twentieth to Hothir, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

29 for the twenty-second to Giddalti, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
29 for the twenty-second to Giddalti, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
29 the twenty-second to Giddalti, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;
29 The two and twentieth to Giddalti, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

30 for the twenty-third to Mahazioth, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
30 for the twenty-third to Mahazioth, his sons and his relatives, twelve;
30 the twenty-third to Mahazioth, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve;
30 The three and twentieth to Mahazioth, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve:

31 for the twenty-fourth to Romamti-ezer, his sons and his relatives, twelve.
31 for the twenty-fourth to Romamti-ezer, his sons and his relatives, twelve.
31 the twenty-fourth to Romamti-ezer, his sons and his relatives, for a total of twelve.
31 The four and twentieth to Romamtiezer, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve.
- The courses of singers, like the courses of priests (24:7-18), number 24