

1 Chronicles 27 - Preparation for Temple Service: Army, Tribal Leaders, Administrators, Counselors & Advisers

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)

(F) Civil servants (27:1-34)

(a) Soldiers (27:1-15)

(b) Rulers of various tribes (27:16-22)

(c) David's abstention from the census (27:23-24)

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(f) David's family and friends (27:32-34)

1 Chronicles 27

(F) Civil servants (27:1-34)

(a) Soldiers (27:1-15)

1 Now *this is* the number of the sons of Israel, the heads of fathers' *households*, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and their officers who served the king in all the affairs of the divisions which came in and went out month by month throughout the months of the year, each division *numbering* twenty-four thousand:

1 Now *this is* the enumeration of the sons of Israel, the heads of fathers' *households*, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and their officers who served the king in all the affairs of the divisions which came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year, each division *numbering* 24,000:

1 The Israelis, according to the number of the leaders of their families, the officers of groups of thousands and groups of hundreds, and their leaders who served the king on behalf of the army divisions of 24,000 soldiers on duty month by month throughout the year, consisted of the following.

1 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.

- Here is an account of the standing military force of Israel. A militia formed, it would seem, at the beginning of David's reign, and was raised in the following order:
 - 12 legions, corresponding to the number of tribes, were enlisted in the king's service
 - Each legion comprised a body of 24,000 men, whose term of service was a month in rotation, and who were stationed either at Jerusalem or in any other place where they might be required
 - They had responsibility to guard the nation and the temple
- David did all this to ensure future stability so what God had promised could happen without unnecessary opposition or confusion

2 Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel was in charge of the first division for the first month; and in his division *were* twenty-four thousand.

2 Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel had charge of the first division for the first month; and in his division *were* 24,000.

2 Zabdiel's son Jashobeam was responsible for the first division of 24,000 soldiers for the first month.

2 Over the first course for the first month was Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel: and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

3 *He was* from the sons of Perez, *and was* chief of all the commanders of the army for the first month.

3 *He was* from the sons of Perez, *and was* chief of all the commanders of the army for the first month.

3 A descendant of Perez, he was chief of all the commanders of the army for the first month.

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

4 Dodai the Ahohite and his division was in charge of the division for the second month, Mikloth *being* the chief officer; and in his division *were* twenty-four thousand.

4 Dodai the Ahohite and his division had charge of the division for the second month, Mikloth *being* the chief officer; and in his division *were* 24,000.

4 Dodai the Ahohite was responsible for the division of the second month. Mikloth served as chief officer of his division, consisting of 24,000 soldiers.

4 And 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.

- If you compare 1 Chr 11:10ff with the list of leaders in v2-15, you will see that David's "mighty men" were in charge of the army

5 The third commander of the army for the third month was Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada the priest, as chief; and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

5 The third commander of the army for the third month was Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada the priest, as chief; and in his division were 24,000.

5 Jehoiada's son Benaiah the priest was commander of the third division for the third month, consisting of 24,000 soldiers.

5 The 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.

6 This Benaiah was the mighty man of the thirty, and was in charge of thirty; and over his division was his son Ammizabad.

6 This Benaiah was the mighty man of the thirty, and had charge of thirty; and over his division was Ammizabad his son.

6 This was the same Benaiah who was one of the elite men of the Thirty and in command of the Thirty. His son Ammizabad was responsible for his division.

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

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

7 The fourth for the fourth month was Asahel the brother of Joab, and Zebadiah his son after him; and in his division were 24,000.

7 Joab's brother Asahel was fourth for the fourth month, assisted by his son Zebadiah, with 24,000 soldiers in his division.

7 The 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.

8 The fifth, for the fifth month was the commander Shamhuth the Izrahite; and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

8 The fifth for the fifth month was the commander Shamhuth the Izrahite; and in his division were 24,000.

8 The fifth commander for the fifth month was Shamhuth the Izrahite. His division consisted of 24,000 soldiers.

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

9 The sixth, for the sixth month was Ira the son of Ikesh the Tekoite; and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

9 The sixth for the sixth month *was* Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite; and in his division *were* 24,000.

9 Ikkesh's son Ira from Tekoa was sixth for the sixth month; there were 24,000 soldiers in his division.

9 The 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, for the seventh month *was* Helez the Pelonite of the sons of Ephraim; and in his division *were* twenty-four thousand.

10 The seventh for the seventh month *was* Helez the Pelonite of the sons of Ephraim; and in his division *were* 24,000.

10 Helez the Pelonite, an Ephraimite, was seventh for the seventh month; 24,000 soldiers served in his division.

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, for the eighth month *was* Sibbecai the Hushathite of the Zerahites; and in his division *were* twenty-four thousand.

11 The eighth for the eighth month *was* Sibbecai the Hushathite of the Zerahites; and in his division *were* 24,000.

11 Sibbecai the Hushathite, a Zerahite, was eighth for the eighth month; 24,000 soldiers served in his division.

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, for the ninth month *was* Abiezer the Anathothite of the Benjaminites; and in his division *were* twenty-four thousand.

12 The ninth for the ninth month *was* Abiezer the Anathothite of the Benjamites; and in his division *were* 24,000.

12 Abiezer from Anathoth, a descendant of Benjamin, was ninth for the ninth month; 24,000 soldiers served in his division.

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, for the tenth month *was* Maharai the Netophathite of the Zerahites; and in his division *were* twenty-four thousand.

13 The tenth for the tenth month *was* Maharai the Netophathite of the Zerahites; and in his division *were* 24,000.

13 Mahari from Netophah, a Zerahite, was tenth for the tenth month; 24,000 soldiers served in his division.

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, for the eleventh month was Benaiah the Pirathonite of the sons of Ephraim; and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

14 The eleventh for the eleventh month was Benaiah the Pirathonite of the sons of Ephraim; and in his division were 24,000.

14 Benaiah from Pirathon, an Ephraimite, was eleventh for the eleventh month; 24,000 soldiers served in his division.

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, for the twelfth month was Heldai the Netophathite of Othniel; and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

15 The twelfth for the twelfth month was Heldai the Netophathite of Othniel; and in his division were 24,000.

15 Heldai the Netophathite, from Othniel, was twelfth for the twelfth month; 24,000 soldiers served in his division.

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

- Not only were there capable soldiers to lead each of the twelve units of the army, but there were capable officers assigned to the tribes of Israel

- David's "chain of command": each tribe had a representative before the king

(b) Rulers of various tribes (27:16-22)

16 Now in charge of the tribes of Israel: chief officer for the Reubenites was Eliezer the son of Zichri; for the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maacah;

16 Now in charge of the tribes of Israel: chief officer for the Reubenites was Eliezer the son of Zichri; for the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maacah;

16 Wielding the scepters of Israel for the descendants of Reuben, there was Zichri's son Eliezer as chief officer; for the descendants of Simeon there was Maacah's son Shephatiah;

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 for Levi, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel; for Aaron, Zadok;

17 for Levi, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel; for Aaron, Zadok;
17 for Levi there was Kemuel's son Hashabiah; for Aaron there was Zadok;
17 Of the Levites, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel: of the Aaronites, Zadok:

18 for Judah, Elihu, *one* of David's brothers; for Issachar, Omri the son of Michael;
18 for Judah, Elihu, *one* of David's brothers; for Issachar, Omri the son of Michael;
18 for Judah there was Elihu, one of David's brothers; for Issachar there was Michael's son Omri;
18 Of Judah, Elihu, one of the brethren of David: of Issachar, Omri the son of Michael:

19 for Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah; for Naphtali, Jeremoth the son of Azriel;
19 for Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah; for Naphtali, Jeremoth the son of Azriel;
19 for Zebulun there was Obadiah's son Ishmaiah; for Naphtali, there was Azriel's son Jeremoth;
19 Of Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah: of Naphtali, Jeremoth the son of Azriel:

20 for the sons of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Azaziah; for the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son of Pedaiiah;
20 for the sons of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Azaziah; for the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son of Pedaiiah;
20 for the descendants of Ephraim, there was Azaziah's son Hoshea; for the half-tribe of Manasseh, there was Pedaiiah's son Joel;
20 Of the children of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Azaziah: of the half tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son of Pedaiiah:

21 for the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah; for Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner;
21 for the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah; for Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner;
21 for the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, there was Zechariah's son Iddo; for Benjamin, there was Abner's son Jaasiel;
21 Of the half tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah: of Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner:

- How interesting that a son of Abner was one of David's trusted officers. Abner had tried to maintain Saul's dynasty after Saul was slain and had created problems for David (2 Sam 1-4)

— David obeyed Deut 24:16: "...sons not to be put to death for the sins of father..."

22 for Dan, Azarel the son of Jeroham. These *were* the leaders of the tribes of Israel.
22 for Dan, Azarel the son of Jeroham. These *were* the princes of the tribes of Israel.
22 for Dan, there was Jeroham's son Azarel. These were the leaders of the tribes of Israel.
22 Of Dan, Azareel the son of Jeroham. These were the princes of the tribes of Israel.
- The tribes of Asher and Gad are not mentioned, for unknown reasons; included are Levi and both halves of Manasseh

(c) David's abstention from the census (27:23-24)

23 But David did not count those twenty years of age and under, because the LORD had said He would multiply Israel as the stars of heaven.

23 But David did not count those twenty years of age and under, because the LORD had said He would multiply Israel as the stars of heaven.

23 David did not complete a census of those younger than 20 years of age, since the LORD had said he would make Israel as numerous as the stars of heaven.

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.

24 Joab the son of Zeruiah had begun to count *them*, but did not finish; and because of this, wrath came upon Israel, and the number was not included in the **account of the chronicles** of King David.

24 Joab the son of Zeruiah had begun to count *them*, but did not finish; and because of this, wrath came upon Israel, and the number was not included in the account of the chronicles of King David.

24 Zeruiah's son Joab began the census, but never completed it. Nevertheless, God became angry with Israel because of this, so the number was never entered into the official records of the Annals of King David.

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.

- A further comment on David's sin of taking a census (1 Chr 21:1-30)

— This helps us understand why the numbers differ in the two accounts of David's census (2 Sam 24; 1 Chr 20)—Joab didn't finish the census and not all the numbers were recorded (Cf. 21:6)

- "...account of the chronicles" - daily records were kept of the king's reign, however there were no records of this calamity because the record was too painful

(d) Collectors of revenue (27:25)

25 Now Azmaveth the son of Adiel was responsible for the king's storehouses. And Jonathan the son of Uzziah was responsible for the storehouses in the country, the cities, the villages, and the towers.

25 Now Azmaveth the son of Adiel had charge of the king's storehouses. And Jonathan the son of Uzziah had charge of the storehouses in the country, in the cities, in the villages and in the towers.

25 Adiel's son Azmaveth was responsible for the king's treasuries. Uzziah's son Jonathan was in charge of treasuries located in the country, in cities, in villages, and in towers.

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:

- v25-31 is a summary of officials who looked over David's various agricultural assets

(e) Managers of agriculture (27:26-31)

26 Ezri the son of Chelub was responsible for the agricultural workers who tilled the soil.

26 Ezri the son of Chelub had charge of the agricultural workers who tilled the soil.

26 Chelub's son Ezri supervised the field workers who tilled the soil.

26 And over them that did the work of the field for tillage of the ground was Ezri the son of Chelub:

- We should recognize that, since there were no taxes on the citizens, the king had to use much of his income for the administration of his own government. All of these holdings had to be supervised, the laborers paid, and the profits guarded.

27 Shimei the Ramathite was responsible for the vineyards; and Zabdi the Shiphmite was responsible for the produce of the vineyards *stored* in the wine cellars.

27 Shimei the Ramathite had charge of the vineyards; and Zabdi the Shiphmite had charge of the produce of the vineyards *stored* in the wine cellars.

27 Shimei the Ramathite supervised the vineyards. In charge over the produce of the vineyards for the wine cellars was Zabdi the Shiphmite.

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

28 Baal-hanan the Gederite was responsible for the olive and sycamore trees in the Shephelah; and Joash was responsible for the stores of oil.

28 Baal-hanan the Gederite had charge of the olive and sycamore trees in the Shephelah; and Joash had charge of the stores of oil.

28 Baal-hanan the Gederite supervised the olive and sycamore trees in the Shephelah. Joash supervised the oil reserves.

28 And over the olive trees and the sycomore trees that were in the low plains was Baalhanan the Gederite: and over the cellars of oil was Joash:

29 Shitrai the Sharonite was responsible for the cattle which were grazing in Sharon; and Shaphat the son of Adlai was responsible for the cattle in the valleys.

29 Shitrai the Sharonite had charge of the cattle which were grazing in Sharon; and Shaphat the son of Adlai had charge of the cattle in the valleys.

29 Shitrai the Sharonite supervised the herds that were pastured in Sharon. Adlai's son Shaphat supervised the herds in the valleys.

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 Obil the Ishmaelite was responsible for the camels; and Jehdeiah the Meronothite was responsible for the donkeys.

30 Obil the Ishmaelite had charge of the camels; and Jehdeiah the Meronothite had charge of the donkeys.

30 Obil the Ishmaelite supervised the camels. Jehdeiah the Meronothite supervised the donkeys. Jaziz the Hagrite supervised the flocks.

30 Over the camels also was Obil the Ishmaelite: and over the asses was Jehdeiah the Meronothite:

31 Jaziz the Hagrite was responsible for the flocks. All these were overseers of the property which belonged to King David.

31 Jaziz the Hagrite had charge of the flocks. All these were overseers of the property which belonged to King David.

31 All of these served as stewards over King David's property.

31 And over the flocks was Jaziz the Hagerite. All these were the rulers of the substance which was king David's.

(f) David's family and friends (27:32-34)

32 Also Jonathan, David's uncle, was a counselor, a man of understanding, and a scribe; and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni tutored the king's sons.

32 Also Jonathan, David's uncle, was a counselor, a man of understanding, and a scribe; and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni tutored the king's sons.

32 David's uncle Jonathan was a counselor, since he was a man of understanding and a scribe, and Hachmoni's son Jehiel was an attendant to the king's sons.

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:

33 Ahithophel *was* counselor to the king; and Hushai the Archite *was* the king's friend.

33 Ahithophel *was* counselor to the king; and Hushai the Archite *was* the king's friend.

33 Ahithophel served as an advisor to the king, Hushai the Archite was the king's trusted associate,

33 And Ahithophel was the king's counsellor: and Hushai the Archite was the king's companion:

34 Jehoiada the son of Benaiah, and Abiathar succeeded Ahithophel; and Joab was the commander of the king's army.

34 Jehoiada the son of Benaiah, and Abiathar succeeded Ahithophel; and Joab was the commander of the king's army.

34 and under Ahithophel there was Benaiah's son Jehoiada and Abiathar. Joab served as commander of the king's army.

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