

1 Chronicles

Chapter 26

Divisions of the Gatekeepers

As for the divisions of the gatekeepers: of the Korahites, Meshelemiah the son of Kore, of the sons of Asaph. 2 And Meshelemiah had sons: Zechariah the firstborn, Jediahel the second, Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth, 3 Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth, Eliehoenai the seventh. 4 And Obed-edom had sons: Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sachar the fourth, Nethanel the fifth, 5 Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, Peullethai the eighth, for God blessed him. 6 Also to his son Shemaiah were sons born who were rulers in their fathers' houses, for they were men of great ability. 7 The sons of Shemaiah: Othni, Rephael, Obed and Elzabad, whose brothers were able men, Elihu and Semachiah. 8 All these were of the sons of Obed-edom with their sons and brothers, able men qualified for the service; sixty-two of Obed-edom. 9 And Meshelemiah had sons and brothers, able men, eighteen. 10 And Hosah, of the sons of Merari, had sons: Shimri the chief (for though he was not the firstborn, his father made him chief), 11 Hilkiah the second, Tebaliah the third, Zechariah the fourth: all the sons and brothers of Hosah were thirteen. 12 These divisions of the gatekeepers, corresponding to their chief men, had duties, just as their brothers did, ministering in the house of the LORD. 13 And they cast lots by fathers' houses, small and great alike, for their gates. 14 The lot for the east fell to Shelemiah. They cast lots also for his son Zechariah, a shrewd counselor, and his lot came out for the north. 15 Obed-edom's came out for the south, and to his sons was allotted the gatehouse. 16 For Shuppim and Hosah it came out for the west, at the gate of Shallecheth on the road that goes up. Watch corresponded to watch. 17 On the east there were six each day, on the north four each day, on the south four each day, as well as two and two at the gatehouse. 18 And for the colonnade on the west there were four at the road and two at the colonnade. 19 These were the divisions of the gatekeepers among the Korahites and the sons of Merari.

26:1–19 The most extensive of the Chronicler's lists of gatekeepers (see 9:17–27; 16:37–38). A list of gatekeepers in the postexilic period is found in Ezr 2:42 (Ne 7:45). (CSB)

Unique to 1Ch. Provides a genealogical list (vv 1–11) and a listing of the duties of the gatekeepers (vv 12–19). (TLSB)

26:1 *gatekeepers*. A total of 93 men, recruited from two branches of the Levitical families (vv 1–11; cf 16:38, where as many as 68 guards/watchmen were put on duty after the transfer of the ark to Jerusalem). (TLSB)

Asaph. This name appears to be an abbreviation of Ebiasaph (6:23; 9:19); he should not be confused with the temple musician (25:1–2, 6). (CSB)

On the basis of 6:23 and 9:19, the name Asaph, son of Kore, is a variant of the name Ebiasaph and distinguished from Asaph the musician. (TLSB)

26:4–5 Numerous sons are again a sign of divine blessing. (CSB)

26:4 *Obed-Edom*. Had cared for the ark when it was left at his house. (CSB)

26:10 *made him chief*. Lit, “made him head.” The firstborn typically, though not necessarily, became head of the family. (TLSB)

26:12–13 Like the priests (24:1–18) and the musicians (25:9–31), the gatekeepers are chosen by lots. (TLSB)

26:12 *divisions*. Based on the gates and posts to which each of the working units was assigned (east, north, the gatehouse, west [gate of Shallecheth], and the colonnade; vv 12–19). (TLSB)

26:14 *East Gate*. The main entrance; it had six guard posts, as opposed to four at the other gates (v. 17). (CSB)

26:15 *South Gate*. The palaces of David and Solomon were south of the temple mount. The southern gate would be the main one used by the king, and this assignment probably reflects a particular honor for Obed-Edom (see notes on 26:4–5; see also Eze 46:1–10). (CSB)

26:16 *Shalleketh Gate*. The only reference to a gate by this name; presumably it was on the western side. The Chronicler writes to an audience familiar with these topographical details. (CSB)

26:1–19 David provides for the protection of the sanctuary and for those who go in and out of its gates. Today, congregations appoint ushers for greeting and guiding people at churches. This is important service, ensuring good order at worship and guiding people into the hearing of God’s life-giving Word. • O Lord, provide all manner of faithful servants for the work of Your kingdom. Amen. (TLSB)

Treasurers and Other Officials

20 And of the Levites, Ahijah had charge of the treasuries of the house of God and the treasuries of the dedicated gifts. 21 The sons of Ladan, the sons of the Gershonites belonging to Ladan, the heads of the fathers' houses belonging to Ladan the Gershonite: Jehieli. 22 The sons of Jehieli, Zetham, and Joel his brother, were in charge of the treasuries of the house of the LORD. 23 Of the Amramites, the Izharites, the Hebronites, and the Uzzielites— 24 and Shebuel the son of Gershom, son of Moses, was chief officer in charge of the treasuries. 25 His brothers: from Eliezer were his son Rehabiah, and his son Jeshaiiah, and his son Joram, and his son Zichri, and his son Shelomoth. 26 This Shelomoth and his brothers were in charge of all the treasuries of the dedicated gifts that David the king and the heads of the fathers' houses and the officers of the thousands and the hundreds and the commanders of the army had dedicated. 27 From spoil won in battles they dedicated gifts for the maintenance of the house of the LORD. 28 Also all that Samuel the seer and Saul the son of Kish and Abner the son of Ner and Joab the son of Zeruah had dedicated—all dedicated gifts were in the care of Shelomoth and his brothers. 29 Of the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons were appointed to external duties for Israel, as officers and judges. 30 Of the Hebronites, Hashabiah and his brothers, 1,700 men of ability, had the oversight of Israel westward of the Jordan for all the work of the LORD and for the service of the king. 31 Of the Hebronites, Jerijah was chief of the Hebronites of whatever genealogy or fathers' houses. (In the fortieth year of David's reign search was made and men of great ability among them were found at Jazer in Gilead.) 32 King David appointed him and his brothers, 2,700 men of ability, heads of fathers' houses, to have the oversight of the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of the Manassites for everything pertaining to God and for the affairs of the king.

26:20–28 Postexilic account (9:26–28) had already noted the continuing use of Levites in custody of the temple treasury. Treasure included material David dedicated through the plunder of war (cf 18:7; 20:1–3) as well as the material Samuel, Saul, Abner, and Joab gathered. The temple treasury likely also served as an archive (cf 2Ki 22:8–10; 1Macc 14:48–49), though royal archives were also kept in later years (cf Jer 36:12, 20). The king of Israel and other citizens might have copies of books of Scripture (Dt 17:18; 1Macc 1:54–57). The Copper Scroll from Qumran (3Q15) lists manuscripts along with other treasures that the Qumran community hid during a time of persecution, which illustrates how precious manuscripts were. (TLSB)

26:20 *treasuries of the house of God.* The Levites in charge of these treasuries received the offerings of the people and cared for the valuable temple equipment (9:28–29). (CSB)

Cf Ex 30:11–16; Lv 27; Nu 18:15–16; 2Ki 12:4, 18 for more about the contributions that flowed into these treasuries. (TLSB)

treasuries of the dedicated things. Received the plunder from warfare (vv. 27–28). Texts from Mesopotamian temples confirm the presence of temple officers who served as assayers to handle and refine the precious metals received as revenue and offerings. The procedure with reference to the offerings of the people may be seen in the reign of Joash (2Ch 24:4–14; 2Ki 12:4–16). Numerous passages reflect on the wealth collected in the temple (see, e.g., 29:1–9; 2Ch 4:1–22; 34:9–11; 36:7, 10, 18–19; 1Ki 14:25–28; 15:15, 18; 2Ki 12:4–18; 14:14; 16:8; 25:13–17). (CSB)

26:24 Moses' family received the powerful responsibility of handling the vast temple finances. (TLSB)

26:29–32 These verses designate the 6,000 officials and judges (23:4) who would work outside Jerusalem; they are drawn from two sub-clans of Kohath (6:18). Dt 17:8–13 envisages a judicial function for the priests and Levites (see 2Ch 19:4–11). (CSB)

Other Levitical officers. 6,000 Levites were deployed to serve as “officers and judges” throughout Israel. Jehoshaphat undertook a similar procedure in his judicial reforms when he sent, among others, priests and Levites to serve as judges (2Ch 19:4–11). See note about the Levites' burden as judges, Jsh 20:7–8. (TLSB)

26:29 *external duties.* While not directly connected with the temple, these were necessary for its internal order and stability. (TLSB)

26:31 *fortieth year.* The last year of David's reign. (CSB)

26:20–32 David entrusted many aspects of his rule to the Levites, who could teach and apply the Word in their services. God's Word applies to every aspect of life, every day of the week (see pp 775–78). No matter what your calling in life is, the Lord sanctifies that calling by His Word and prayer, making your work a sacred service. As a carpenter serving His earthly father, Joseph, Jesus sanctified the work of human hands. His labor on the cross sanctifies us wholly. • Merciful Jesus, grant me all diligence in my calling, no matter where You send me. Amen. (TLSB)