***1 Chronicles***

***Chapter 27***

***Army Divisions***

**This is the list of the Israelites—heads of families, commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and their officers, who served the king in all that concerned the army divisions that were on duty month by month throughout the year. Each division consisted of 24,000 men.**

**2 In charge of the first division, for the first month, was Jashobeam son of Zabdiel. There were 24,000 men in his division. 3 He was a descendant of Perez and chief of all the army officers for the first month.**

**4 In charge of the division for the second month was Dodai the Ahohite; Mikloth was the leader of his division. There were 24,000 men in his division.**

**5 The third army commander, for the third month, was Benaiah son of Jehoiada the priest. He was chief and there were 24,000 men in his division. 6 This was the Benaiah who was a mighty man among the Thirty and was over the Thirty. His son Ammizabad was in charge of his division.**

**7 The fourth, for the fourth month, was Asahel the brother of Joab; his son Zebadiah was his successor. There were 24,000 men in his division.**

**8 The fifth, for the fifth month, was the commander Shamhuth the Izrahite. There were 24,000 men in his division.**

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

**10 The seventh, for the seventh month, was Helez the Pelonite, an Ephraimite. There were 24,000 men in his division.**

**11 The eighth, for the eighth month, was Sibbecai the Hushathite, a Zerahite. There were 24,000 men in his division.**

**12 The ninth, for the ninth month, was Abiezer the Anathothite, a Benjamite. There were 24,000 men in his division.**

**13 The tenth, for the tenth month, was Maharai the Netophathite, a Zerahite. There were 24,000 men in his division.**

**14 The eleventh, for the eleventh month, was Benaiah the Pirathonite, an Ephraimite. There were 24,000 men in his division.**

**15 The twelfth, for the twelfth month, was Heldai the Netophathite, from the family of Othniel. There were 24,000 men in his division.**

**27:1–15** The names of the commanders of David’s army are the same as those found in the list of his mighty men (see 11:11–47; see also 2Sa 23:8–39 and notes). Those who had served David while he fled from Saul became commanders in the regular army. (CSB)

**27:1** *24,000.* See note on 12:23–37. Although a national militia consisting of 12 units of 24,000 each (a total of 288,000) is not unreasonable, the stress in this passage on unit commanders and divisions suggests that here too the Hebrew word for “1,000” should perhaps be taken as the designation of a military unit. To designate a division as “1,000” would be to give the upper limit of the number of men in such a unit, though such units would ordinarily not have a full complement of men. If this approach is followed, the figures in the following verses would be read as “24 units” instead of 24,000. (CSB)

**27:2** *Jashobeam.* See 11:11. (CSB)

**27:4** *Dodai.* See 11:12. (CSB)

**27:5** *Benaiah.* See 11:22–25; 18:17. (CSB)

**27:7** *Asahel.* See 11:26; 2Sa 2:18–23. (CSB)

**27:9–15** The remainder of the commanders were selected from among the Thirty (see the names listed in 11:27–31). (CSB)

***Officers of the Tribes***

**16 The officers over the tribes of Israel:**

**over the Reubenites: Eliezer son of Zicri;**

**over the Simeonites: Shephatiah son of Maacah;**

**17 over Levi: Hashabiah son of Kemuel;**

**over Aaron: Zadok;**

**18 over Judah: Elihu, a brother of David;**

**over Issachar: Omri son of Michael;**

**19 over Zebulun: Ishmaiah son of Obadiah;**

**over Naphtali: Jerimoth son of Azriel;**

**20 over the Ephraimites: Hoshea son of Azaziah;**

**over half the tribe of Manasseh: Joel son of Pedaiah;**

**21 over the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead: Iddo son of Zechariah;**

**over Benjamin: Jaasiel son of Abner;**

**22 over Dan: Azarel son of Jeroham.**

**These were the officers over the tribes of Israel.**

**23 David did not take the number of the men twenty years old or less, because the Lord had promised to make Israel as numerous as the stars in the sky. 24 Joab son of Zeruiah began to count the men but did not finish. Wrath came on Israel on account of this numbering, and the number was not entered in the book of the annals of King David.**

**27:16–22** The Chronicler’s interest in “all Israel” appears in this list of officers who were over the 12 tribes (see Introduction: Purpose and Themes). The number is kept at 12 by omitting Gad and Asher (see note on 2:1–2). (CSB)

**27:17** *Zadok.* See note on 6:8; see also 12:28; 16:39. (CSB)

**27:18** *Elihu.* Not named elsewhere among the brothers of David. Perhaps he is the unnamed son from the list in 2:10–17 (see note there). Elihu could also be a variant of the name of Jesse’s oldest son, Eliab, or the term “brother” could be taken in the sense of “relative,” in which case Elihu would be a more distant kinsman. (CSB)

**27:21** *Abner.* A relative of King Saul (see 26:28; 1Sa 14:50–51; 17:55–58; 26:5–16; 2Sa 2:8–4:1). (CSB)

**27:23–24** *number.* Refers to the census narrative in ch. 21 (2Sa 24). (CSB)

**27:23** *twenty years old or less.* The figures reported in ch. 21 and 2Sa 24 were the numbers of those older than 20 years. (CSB)

*promised to make Israel as numerous as the stars.* The patriarchal promises of numerous descendants (Ge 12:2; 13:16; 15:5; 22:17) appear to have been the basis for the objections of Joab (v. 24) to the taking of a census (21:3; 2Sa 24:3). (CSB)

**27:24** *did not finish.* Joab did not count those under age 20, nor did he include the tribes of Levi and Benjamin (21:6). (CSB)

***The King’s Overseers***

**25 Azmaveth son of Adiel was in charge of the royal storehouses.**

**Jonathan son of Uzziah was in charge of the storehouses in the outlying districts, in the towns, the villages and the watchtowers.**

**26 Ezri son of Kelub was in charge of the field workers who farmed the land.**

**27 Shimei the Ramathite was in charge of the vineyards.**

**Zabdi the Shiphmite was in charge of the produce of the vineyards for the wine vats.**

**28 Baal-Hanan the Gederite was in charge of the olive and sycamore-fig trees in the western foothills.**

**Joash was in charge of the supplies of olive oil.**

**29 Shitrai the Sharonite was in charge of the herds grazing in Sharon.**

**Shaphat son of Adlai was in charge of the herds in the valleys.**

**30 Obil the Ishmaelite was in charge of the camels.**

**Jehdeiah the Meronothite was in charge of the donkeys.**

**31 Jaziz the Hagrite was in charge of the flocks.**

**All these were the officials in charge of King David’s property.**

**32 Jonathan, David’s uncle, was a counselor, a man of insight and a scribe. Jehiel son of Hacmoni took care of the king’s sons.**

**33 Ahithophel was the king’s counselor.**

**Hushai the Arkite was the king’s friend. 34 Ahithophel was succeeded by Jehoiada son of Benaiah and by Abiathar.**

**Joab was the commander of the royal army.**

**27:25–31** A list of the administrators of David’s property (v. 31). The large cities of the ancient Near East had three basic economic sectors: (1) royal, (2) temple and (3) private. There is no evidence of direct taxation during the reign of David; his court appears to have been financed by extensive landholdings, commerce, plunder from his many wars, and tribute from subjugated kingdoms. (CSB)

**27:32–34** A list of David’s cabinet members, supplementary to that in 18:14–17. (CSB)

**27:33** *Ahithophel.* Was replaced after he committed suicide, following his support of Absalom’s rebellion (2Sa 15:12, 31–37; 16:20–17:23). (CSB)

**27:34** *Benaiah.* See v. 5. (CSB)