***1 Chronicles***

***Chapter 6***

***Levi***

**The sons of Levi:**

**Gershon, Kohath and Merari.**

**2 The sons of Kohath:**

**Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.**

**3 The children of Amram:**

**Aaron, Moses and Miriam.**

**The sons of Aaron:**

**Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.**

**4 Eleazar was the father of Phinehas,**

**Phinehas the father of Abishua,**

**5 Abishua the father of Bukki,**

**Bukki the father of Uzzi,**

**6 Uzzi the father of Zerahiah,**

**Zerahiah the father of Meraioth,**

**7 Meraioth the father of Amariah,**

**Amariah the father of Ahitub,**

**8 Ahitub the father of Zadok,**

**Zadok the father of Ahimaaz,**

**9 Ahimaaz the father of Azariah,**

**Azariah the father of Johanan,**

**10 Johanan the father of Azariah (it was he who served as priest in the temple Solomon built in Jerusalem),**

**11 Azariah the father of Amariah,**

**Amariah the father of Ahitub,**

**12 Ahitub the father of Zadok,**

**Zadok the father of Shallum,**

**13 Shallum the father of Hilkiah,**

**Hilkiah the father of Azariah,**

**14 Azariah the father of Seraiah,**

**and Seraiah the father of Jehozadak.**

**15 Jehozadak was deported when the Lord sent Judah and Jerusalem into exile by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.**

**16 The sons of Levi:**

**Gershon, Kohath and Merari.**

**17 These are the names of the sons of Gershon:**

**Libni and Shimei.**

**18 The sons of Kohath:**

**Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.**

**19 The sons of Merari:**

**Mahli and Mushi.**

**These are the clans of the Levites listed according to their fathers:**

**20 Of Gershon:**

**Libni his son, Jehath his son,**

**Zimmah his son, 21 Joah his son,**

**Iddo his son, Zerah his son and Jeatherai his son.**

**22 The descendants of Kohath:**

**Amminadab his son, Korah his son,**

**Assir his son, 23 Elkanah his son,**

**Ebiasaph his son, Assir his son,**

**24 Tahath his son, Uriel his son,**

**Uzziah his son and Shaul his son.**

**25 The descendants of Elkanah:**

**Amasai, Ahimoth,**

**26 Elkanah his son, Zophai his son,**

**Nahath his son, 27 Eliab his son,**

**Jeroham his son, Elkanah his son**

**and Samuel his son.**

**28 The sons of Samuel:**

**Joel the firstborn**

**and Abijah the second son.**

**29 The descendants of Merari:**

**Mahli, Libni his son,**

**Shimei his son, Uzzah his son,**

**30 Shimea his son, Haggiah his son**

**and Asaiah his son.**

**6:1–81** This chapter is devoted to a series of lists, all pertaining to the tribe of Levi. The first section (vv. 1–15) records the line of the high priests down to the exile; the clans of Levi follow (vv. 16–30). David’s appointees as temple musicians came from the three clans of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari (vv. 31–47). The generations between Aaron and Ahimaaz are given a separate listing (vv. 49–53), reinforcing the separate duties of priests and Levites (see note on Ex 32:26). The listing of the Levitical possessions among the tribes concludes the chapter (vv. 54–81). (CSB)

**6:1–3** A short segmented genealogy narrows the descendants of Levi to the lineage of Eleazar, in whose line the high priests are presented in linear form (vv. 4–15). The sons of Levi (v. 1) always appear in this order, based on age (v. 16; Ge 46:11; Ex 6:16; Nu 3:17; 26:57). Of Aaron’s four sons (v. 3), the first two died as a result of sacrilege (Lev 10:2; Nu 26:61); succeeding generations of priests would trace their lineage to either Eleazar or Ithamar. (CSB)

**6:4–15** This list of high priests from the time of Eleazar to the exile has been sharply telescoped. The following high priests known from the OT are not mentioned: Jehoiada (2Ki 12:2), Uriah (2Ki 16:10–16), possibly two other Azariahs (2Ch 26:17, 20; 31:10–13), Eli (1Sa 1:9; 14:3) and Abiathar (2Sa 8:17). The list is repeated with some variation in Ezr 7:1–5 (see notes there). (CSB)

**6:8** *Ahitub the father of Zadok.* This Zadok was one of David’s two priests (18:16; 2Sa 8:17). When David’s other priest, Abiathar (see note on vv. 4–15), supported the rebellion of Adonijah, Zadok supported Solomon (1Ki 1). After the expulsion of Abiathar (1Ki 2:26–27), Zadok alone held the office (1Ch 29:22), which continued in his line (1Ki 4:2). The Ahitub mentioned here should not be confused with the priest who was the grandson of Eli (1Sa 14:3) and grandfather of Abiathar (1Sa 22:20); the line of Zadok replaced the line of Eli (1Sa 2:27–36; 1Ki 2:26–27). For the importance of the line of Zadok see Eze 40:46; 43:19; 44:15; 48:11. Ezra was concerned to trace his own priestly lineage to this house (Ezr 7:1–5). (CSB)

**6:13** *Hilkiah.* Discovered the Book of the Law in the temple at the time of Josiah (2Ki 22; 2Ch 34). (CSB)

**6:14** *Seraiah.* Executed by the Babylonians after the conquest of Jerusalem in 586 b.c. (2Ki 25:18–21). *Jehozadak.* Father of Jeshua, the high priest in the first generation of the restoration (Ezr 3:2; 5:2; 10:18; Hag 1:1; 2:2; Zec 3:1; 6:11); his name is also spelled “Jozadak.” (CSB)

**6:16–19a** Repeated from Ex 6:16–19; Nu 3:17–20; 26:57–61. (CSB)

**6:22–23** *Assir … Elkanah … Ebiasaph.* Ex 6:24 names these men as sons of Korah, but here they are presented in the form ordinarily used for a linear genealogy of successive generations (see vv. 20–21, 25–26, 29–30). Either this is another example of genealogical fluidity, or one must understand “his son” as referring to Kohath and not to the immediately preceding name. (CSB)

**6:22** *Amminadab.* The almost parallel genealogy later in this chapter lists Izhar in the place of Amminadab—who is nowhere else listed as a son of Kohath, while every other list includes Izhar (vv. 2, 37–38; Ex 6:18, 21). Either Amminadab is an otherwise unattested alternative name of Izhar, or he is an otherwise unknown son. Or this may be another example of genealogical fluidity in which the Levites are linked with the tribe of Judah and the lineage of David (see Ru 4:18–22; see also Mt 1:4; Lk 3:33) in view of Aaron’s marriage to the daughter of Amminadab of Judah (Ex 6:23; see 1Ch 2:10). (CSB)

**6:24** *Uriel.* Possibly the one who led the Kohathites in David’s day (15:5). (CSB)

**6:26–27** *Zophai … Nahath … Eliab.* Apparently variant names for Zuph, Toah and Eliel (vv. 34–35(CSB)

**6:27** *Samuel.* His lineage is also given in 1Sa 1:1, where his family is identified as Ephraimite (see note there). Either this is an example of genealogical fluidity, in which Samuel’s involvement in the tabernacle (1Sa 3) and performance of priestly duties (9:22; 1Sa 2:18; 3:1) resulted in his incorporation into the Levites, or the term “Ephraimite” is to be understood as a place of residence, not as a statement of lineage. (CSB)

***The Temple Musicians***

**31 These are the men David put in charge of the music in the house of the Lord after the ark came to rest there. 32 They ministered with music before the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, until Solomon built the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. They performed their duties according to the regulations laid down for them. 33 Here are the men who served, together with their sons:**

**From the Kohathites:**

**Heman, the musician,**

**the son of Joel, the son of Samuel,**

**34 the son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham,**

**the son of Eliel, the son of Toah,**

**35 the son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah,**

**the son of Mahath, the son of Amasai,**

**36 the son of Elkanah, the son of Joel,**

**the son of Azariah, the son of Zephaniah,**

**37 the son of Tahath, the son of Assir,**

**the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah,**

**38 the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel;**

**39 and Heman’s associate Asaph, who served at his right hand:**

**Asaph son of Berekiah, the son of Shimea,**

**40 the son of Michael, the son of Baaseiah,**

**the son of Malkijah, 41 the son of Ethni,**

**the son of Zerah, the son of Adaiah,**

**42 the son of Ethan, the son of Zimmah,**

**the son of Shimei, 43 the son of Jahath, the son of Gershon, the son of Levi;**

**44 and from their associates, the Merarites, at his left hand:**

**Ethan son of Kishi, the son of Abdi,**

**the son of Malluch, 45 the son of Hashabiah,**

**the son of Amaziah, the son of Hilkiah,**

**46 the son of Amzi, the son of Bani,**

**the son of Shemer, 47 the son of Mahli,**

**the son of Mushi, the son of Merari, the son of Levi.**

**48 Their fellow Levites were assigned to all the other duties of the tabernacle, the house of God. 49 But Aaron and his descendants were the ones who presented offerings on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense in connection with all that was done in the Most Holy Place, making atonement for Israel, in accordance with all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.**

**50 These were the descendants of Aaron:**

**Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son,**

**Abishua his son, 51 Bukki his son,**

**Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son,**

**52 Meraioth his son, Amariah his son,**

**Ahitub his son, 53 Zadok his son**

**and Ahimaaz his son.**

**54 These were the locations of their settlements allotted as their territory (they were assigned to the descendants of Aaron who were from the Kohathite clan, because the first lot was for them):**

**55 They were given Hebron in Judah with its surrounding pasturelands. 56 But the fields and villages around the city were given to Caleb son of Jephunneh.**

**57 So the descendants of Aaron were given Hebron (a city of refuge), and Libnah, Jattir, Eshtemoa, 58 Hilen, Debir, 59 Ashan, Juttah and Beth Shemesh, together with their pasturelands. 60 And from the tribe of Benjamin they were given Gibeon, Geba, Alemeth and Anathoth, together with their pasturelands.**

**These towns, which were distributed among the Kohathite clans, were thirteen in all.**

**61 The rest of Kohath’s descendants were allotted ten towns from the clans of half the tribe of Manasseh.**

**62 The descendants of Gershon, clan by clan, were allotted thirteen towns from the tribes of Issachar, Asher and Naphtali, and from the part of the tribe of Manasseh that is in Bashan.**

**63 The descendants of Merari, clan by clan, were allotted twelve towns from the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Zebulun.**

**64 So the Israelites gave the Levites these towns and their pasturelands. 65 From the tribes of Judah, Simeon and Benjamin they allotted the previously named towns.**

**66 Some of the Kohathite clans were given as their territory towns from the tribe of Ephraim.**

**67 In the hill country of Ephraim they were given Shechem (a city of refuge), and Gezer, 68 Jokmeam, Beth Horon, 69 Aijalon and Gath Rimmon, together with their pasturelands.**

**70 And from half the tribe of Manasseh the Israelites gave Aner and Bileam, together with their pasturelands, to the rest of the Kohathite clans.**

**71 The Gershonites received the following:**

**From the clan of the half-tribe of Manasseh**

**they received Golan in Bashan and also Ashtaroth, together with their pasturelands;**

**72 from the tribe of Issachar**

**they received Kedesh, Daberath, 73 Ramoth and Anem, together with their pasturelands;**

**74 from the tribe of Asher**

**they received Mashal, Abdon, 75 Hukok and Rehob, together with their pasturelands;**

**76 and from the tribe of Naphtali**

**they received Kedesh in Galilee, Hammon and Kiriathaim, together with their pasturelands.**

**77 The Merarites (the rest of the Levites) received the following:**

**From the tribe of Zebulun**

**they received Jokneam, Kartah, Rimmono and Tabor, together with their pasturelands;**

**78 from the tribe of Reuben across the Jordan east of Jericho**

**they received Bezer in the desert, Jahzah, 79 Kedemoth and Mephaath, together with their pasturelands;**

**80 and from the tribe of Gad**

**they received Ramoth in Gilead, Mahanaim, 81 Heshbon and Jazer, together with their pasturelands.**

**6:31–48** Each of the three Levitical clans contributed musicians for the temple: Heman from the family of Kohath, Asaph from Gershon, and Ethan from Merari. The Chronicler makes frequent reference to the appointment of the musical guilds by David (15:16, 27; 25:1–31; 2Ch 29:25–26; see Ne 12:45–47). The frequent mention of the role of the Levites has led many to assume that the author was a member of the musicians. Non-Biblical literature also attests to guilds of singers and musicians in Canaanite temples. This genealogy appears to function as a means of legitimizing the Levites of the restoration period (Ezr 2:40–41; Ne 7:43–44; 10:9–13, 28–29; 11:15–18; 12:24–47). (CSB)

**6:49–53** Repeats vv. 4–8 but presumably serves a different function: to legitimize the line of Zadok, which is traced down to Solomon’s time, as the only Levitical division authorized to offer sacrifices. (CSB)

**6:54–81** This list of Levitical possessions is taken from Jos 21 with only minor differences (see notes there). The Levites, who were given no block of territory of their own, were distributed throughout Israel. (CSB)