

1 Chronicles

Chapter 24

David Organizes the Priests

The divisions of the sons of Aaron were these. The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. 2 But Nadab and Abihu died before their father and had no children, so Eleazar and Ithamar became the priests. 3 With the help of Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, David organized them according to the appointed duties in their service. 4 Since more chief men were found among the sons of Eleazar than among the sons of Ithamar, they organized them under sixteen heads of fathers' houses of the sons of Eleazar, and eight of the sons of Ithamar. 5 They divided them by lot, all alike, for there were sacred officers and officers of God among both the sons of Eleazar and the sons of Ithamar. 6 And the scribe Shemaiah, the son of Nethanel, a Levite, recorded them in the presence of the king and the princes and Zadok the priest and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar and the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and of the Levites, one father's house being chosen for Eleazar and one chosen for Ithamar.

7 The first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, 8 the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, 9 the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin, 10 the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah, 11 the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah, 12 the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, 13 the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, 14 the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, 15 the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizzes, 16 the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel, 17 the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul, 18 the twenty-third to Delaiah, the twenty-fourth to Maaziah. 19 These had as their appointed duty in their service to come into the house of the LORD according to the procedure established for them by Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him. 20 And of the rest of the sons of Levi: of the sons of Amram, Shubael; of the sons of Shubael, Jehdeiah. 21 Of Rehabiah: of the sons of Rehabiah, Isshiah the chief. 22 Of the Izharites, Shelomoth; of the sons of Shelomoth, Jahath. 23 The sons of Hebron: Jeriah the chief, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, Jekameam the fourth. 24 The sons of Uzziel, Micah; of the sons of Micah, Shamir. 25 The brother of Micah, Isshiah; of the sons of Isshiah, Zechariah. 26 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Jaaziah: Beno. 27 The sons of Merari: of Jaaziah, Beno, Shoham, Zaccur, and Ibri. 28 Of Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons. 29 Of Kish, the sons of Kish: Jerahmeel. 30 The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jerimoth. These were the sons of the Levites according to their fathers' houses. 31 These also, the head of each father's house and his younger brother alike, cast lots, just as their brothers the sons of Aaron, in the presence of King David, Zadok, Ahimelech, and the heads of fathers' houses of the priests and of the Levites.

24:1–19 There are several lists of priests from the postexilic period (see 6:3–15; 9:10–13; Ezr 2:36–39; Ne 10:1–8; 11:10–12; 12:1–7, 12–21). (CSB)

David organizes the priests before continuing with the ordinances for the other three groups of Levites (described in chs 25–26). David divided the descendants of Aaron's sons Eleazar and Ithamar into 24 courses, or work shifts, in order to provide for uninterrupted performance of the prescribed rituals. Each group would be on duty for about two weeks each year. (TLSB)

24:1–5 Lists Aaron's sons and explains why the priestly divisions are based on only Eleazar and Ithamar. Familiarity with the unseemly history of the other sons, Nadab and Abihu, and their early death (Lv 10:1–3) is assumed. Of the 24 divisions established, 8 were from the smaller family of Ithamar and 16 from the

large clan of Eleazar. This established the two-week-long annual periods of service for each division. (TLSB)

24:2 *Nadab and Abihu died.* The Chronicler alludes to the events recorded in Lev 10:1–3. (CSB)

24:3 *Zadok ... Ahimelech.* Zadok and Abiathar had served as David's high priests. Here, late in David's life, Abiathar's son Ahimelech appears to have taken over some of his father's duties. (CSB)

24:4 *sixteen ... eight.* A total of 24 divisions was selected by lot. This would allow for service either in monthly shifts, as was done by priests in Egyptian mortuary temples, or for two-week shifts once each year as found in NT times. The names of the first, second, fourth, ninth and 24th divisions have been found in a Dead Sea scroll from the fourth cave at Qumran (see "The Time between the Testaments," p. 1437). (CSB)

24:5 *sacred officers.* High priest and leading priestly families (cf "officers" and "princes" in 2Ch 36:14; Is 43:28). (TLSB)

officers of God. Perhaps synonym or term specific to high priests. (TLSB)

24:6–18 Lots having been drawn (v 5), the 24 divisions of priests are named and numbered. (TLSB)

24:6 *scribe ... recorded.* The Chronicler reveals one of his sources. (TLSB)

24:7 *Jehoiarib.* Mattathias, father of the Maccabees, was a member of the Jehoiarib division (in the Apocrypha see 1 Maccabees 2:1). (CSB)

24:10 *Abijah.* The father of John the Baptist "belonged to the priestly division of Abijah" (Lk 1:5). (CSB)

From this division would come the priest Zechariah, father of John the Baptist (Lk 1:5). (TLSB)

24:15 *Hezir.* The division from the family of Hezir was prominent in intertestamental times; the name appears on one of the large tombs in the Kidron Valley, east of Jerusalem. (CSB)

24:19 The families served in rotation. A vital fact is asserted here: these divisions ministered according to the pattern Aaron established, as the Lord had commanded him. The ministry of the OT, like that of the NT, had its origins not in human decision or organization skill but in divine decree. Temple personnel held offices from God. (TLSB)

24:20–31 This list supplements 23:7–23 by extending some of the lines mentioned there. (CSB)

List of additional Levites, an extension or supplement of those listed in 23:6–24. Through the casting of lots, each was placed into the various offices, just as the Aaronites had been (v 5) and the musicians (25:1–8) and gatekeepers (26:12–13) would be. (TLSB)

24:20 *the rest.* Entries not fully included in the previous catalog (23:7–23). Some names are repeated from there in altered form. (TLSB)

Ch 24 David organizes the Levites according to God's Law. Though the Lord may specially and directly call an individual, in most cases, He establishes the offices of His kingdom through the commands and

promises of the Word, as affirmed by the congregations. Today, regard faithful pastors with the full respect due their calling, and also show respect to those who assist and serve with them. God has established the ministry for your faithful instruction and blessing. • Dear Jesus, call faithful servants into the work of Your Church that I may receive the blessings You have ordained in the communion of saints. Amen. (TLSB)