

When

- The Book of 1 Chronicles was written several hundred years after King David's reign.

- David became king of Judah in approximately 1055 B.C, the year Saul died. David's reign spanned approximately 40 years (1055-1015 B.C.). He reigned over Judah for 7 years and 6 months, before becoming king over all Israel. His reign over all Judah and Israel lasted 33 years.

- The final chapters of 1 Chronicles document events that occurred at the end of David's life.

Key Characters

- **David** – The second king over all Israel and Judah.

- **Levites** – The descendants of Jacob's son Levi. They were a special tribe dedicated to the service of the Lord. They helped the priests with worship and the holy things.

- **Priests** – The priests were the descendants of Aaron, Moses' brother. They were in charge of offering sacrifices in the Tabernacle/Temple. Aaron was the first High Priest, and he was followed by his sons. The priests were a special subsection of the Levites.

- **Zadok and Ahimelech** – Leaders among the priests who helped David divide the priests into groups.



Where

- David and Solomon were planning to build a temple to the Lord in Jerusalem. The priests and Levites would travel to Jerusalem to participate in the work at the temple.

Outline

- **DAVID ORGANIZES THE PRIESTS FOR SERVICE IN THE TEMPLE (24:1-31):**
 - + With the help of Zadok and Ahimelech the priests, David divided the priests by their father's houses. They were divided up based on which of Aaron's sons they descended from.
 - + Aaron had 4 sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar, but two of them (Nadab and Abihu) died without having children.
 - + David organized the sons of Eleazar and Ithamar according to their duties in the Lord's service.
 - + There were 16 groups within the sons of Eleazar and 8 groups from the sons of Ithamar.
 - + The groups were determined by casting lots.
 - + The heads of the 24 groups are recorded in verses 7-18.
 - + Verses 20-31 record further divisions of the Levites (non-priests) by their father's houses. These divisions were also made by casting lots.

Explanation

- Why did the priests and Levites need to be divided up into groups?
- Remember that the Levites didn't receive a portion of land like the other tribes when Joshua conquered the Promised Land. Instead, they were given cities scattered throughout the territory of Israel.
- Since the Temple was going to be in a fixed location, Jerusalem, Levites and priests had to be assigned a specific time to travel to Jerusalem to participate in their portion of the work. When their duties were fulfilled, they could return home to their cities.
- Having these assigned groups and an assigned schedule ensured there were always priests and Levites at the Temple to help complete the daily worship that was commanded in God's law.