THE FIRST BOOK OF THE CHRONICLES

Genealogies from Adam to Saul

1ADAM, SETH, ENOSH, 2 [vv2-4: cp Gen. 5.9-32] Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, 3Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, 4Noah.

The sons of Noah: Shem, Ham and Japheth.


8 [vv8-10: cp Gen. 10.6-8] The sons of Ham: Cush, Mizraim [Or Egypt], Put and Canaan. 9The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabta, Raama and Sabtecha. The sons of Raama: Sheba and Dedan. 10Cush was the father of Nimrod, who began to show himself a man of might on earth. 11 [vv11-16: cp Gen. 10.13-18] From Mizraim sprang the Lydians, Anamites, Lehobites, Naphtuhites, 12Pathrusites, Casluhites, and the Caphtorites, from whom the Philistines were descended.

13Canaan was the father of Sidon, who was his eldest son, and Heth [Or the Hittites], 14the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgasites, 15the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, 16the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites.

17 [vv17-23: cp Gen. 10.22-29] The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud [Or the Lydians] and Aram. The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether and Mash. 18Arphaxad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah the father of Eber. 19Eber had two sons: one was named Peleg [That is Division], because in his time the earth was divided, and his brother’s name was Joktan. 20Joktan was the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmoth, Jerah, 21Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, 22Ebal [Or Obal, cp Gen. 10.28], Abimael, Sheba, 23Ophir, Havilah and Jobab. All these were sons of Joktan.


29 [vv29-31: cp Gen. 25.13-16] The sons of Ishmael in the order of their birth: Nebaioth the eldest, then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, 30Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Teman, 31Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. These were Ishmael’s sons.

32 [vv32, 33: cp Gen. 25.1-4] The sons of Keturah, Abraham’s concubine: she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah. The sons of Jokshan: Sheba and Dedan. 33The sons of Midian: Ephah, Epher, Enoch, Abida and Eldaah. All these were descendants of Keturah.
Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac's sons were Esau and Israel.  

The sons of Esau: Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam and Korah.  
The sons of Eliphaz: Teman, Omar, Zephi, Gatam, Kenaz, Timna and Amalek.  
The sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah and Mizzah.  

The sons of Seir: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer and Dishan.  
The sons of Lotan: Hori and Homam; and Lotan had a sister named Timna.  
The son [prob. rdg, Heb sons; the same correction is made in several other places in chapters 1-9] of Anah: Dishon. The sons of Dishon: Amram, Eshban, Ithran and Cheran.  
The sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zavan and Akan. The sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.  

These are the kings who ruled over Edom before there were kings in Israel: Bela son of Beor, whose city was named Dinhabah.  

When he died, he was succeeded by Jobab son of Zerah of Bozrah.  

When Jobab died, he was succeeded by Hadad son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in Moabite country. His city was named Avith.  

When Hadad died, he was succeeded by Samlah of Masrekah.  

When Samlah died, he was succeeded by Saul of Rehoboth on the River.  

When Saul died, he was succeeded by Baal-hanan son of Akbor.  

When Baal-hanan died, he was succeeded by Hadad. His city was named Pai; his wife’s name was Mehetabel daughter of Matred a woman of Me-zahab [Or daughter of Mezahab].  

After Hadad died the chiefs in Edom were: chief Timna, chief Aliah, chief Jetheth, chief Oholibamah, chief Elah, chief Pinon, chief Kenaz, chief Teman, chief Mibzar, chief Magdiel and chief Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom.  

These were the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad and Asher.  

The sons of Judah: Er, Onan and Shelah; the mother of these three was a Canaanite woman, Bathshua [Bathshua: or daughter of Shua] Er, Judah’s eldest son, displeased the LORD and the LORD slew him.  

Then Tamar, Judah’s daughter-in-law, bore him Perez and Zerah, making in all five sons of Judah.  
The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul.  
The sons of Zerah: Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol and Darda, five in all. The son of Zimri: Carmi [The son ... Carmi: prob. rdg, (cp Josh. 7.1, 18); Heb omitted].  
The son of Carmi: Achar, who troubled Israel by his violation of the sacred ban.  
The son of Ethan: Azariah.  
The sons of Hezron: Jerahmeel, Ram and Caleb.  
Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab father of Nahshon prince of Judah.  
Nahshon was the father of Salma, Salma father of Boaz, Boaz father of Obed, Obed father of Jesse.  
The eldest son of Jesse was Eliab, the second Abinadab, the third Shimea, the fourth Nethaneel, the fifth Raddai, the sixth Ozem, the seventh David; their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. The sons of Zeruiah: Abishai, Joab and Asahel, three in all.  
Abigail was the mother of Amasa; his father was Jether the Ishmaelite.
18 Caleb son of Hezron had Jerioth by Azubah his wife [his wife: prob. rdg, Heb a woman and]; these were her sons: Jesher, Shobab and Ardon. 19 When Azubah died, Caleb married Ephrath, who bore him Hur. 20 Hur was the father of Uri, and Uri father of Bezalel. 21 Later, Hezron, then sixty years of age, had intercourse with the daughter of Machir father of Gilead, having married her, and she bore Segub. 22 Segub was the father of Jair, who had twenty-three cities in Gilead. 23 Geshur and Aram took from them Havvoth-jair, and Kenath and its dependent villages, a total of sixty towns. All these were descendants of Machir father of Gilead. 24 After the death of Hezron, Caleb had intercourse with Ephrathah and she bore him Ashhur the founder of Tekoa.

25 The sons of Jerahmeel eldest son of Hezron by [by: prob. rdg, Heb omitted] Ahijah were Ram the eldest, Bunah, Oren and Ozem. 26 Jerahmeel had another wife, whose name was Atarah; she was the mother of Onam. 27 The sons of Ram eldest son of Jerahmeel: Maaz, Jamin and Eker. 28 The sons of Onam: Shammi and Jada. The sons of Shammai: Nadab and Abishur. 29 The name of Abishur’s wife was Abihail; she bore him Ahban and Molid. 30 The sons of Nadab: Seled and Ephraim; Seled died without children. 31 Ephraim’s son was Ishi, Ishi’s son Sheshan, Sheshan’s son Ahlai. 32 The sons of Jada brother of Shammai: Jether and Jonathan; Jether died without children. 33 The sons of Jonathan: Peleth and Zaza. These were the descendants of Jerahmeel.

34 Sheshan had daughters but no sons. He had an Egyptian servant named Jarha; he gave his daughter in marriage to this Jarha, and she bore him Attai. 35 Attai was the father of Nathan, Nathan father of Zabad. 36 Zabad father of Ephlal, Ephlal father of Obed, 37 Obed father of Jehu, Jehu father of Azariah, 38 Azariah father of Helez, Helez father of Elasah, 39 Elasah father of Sisamai, Sisamai father of Shallum, 40 Shallum father of Jekamiah, and Jekamiah father of Elishama.

42 The sons of Caleb brother of Jerahmeel: Mesha the eldest, founder of Ziph, and [prob. rdg, Heb adds the sons of] Mareshah founder of Hebron. 43 The sons of Hebron: Korah, Tappuah, Rekem and Shema. 44 Shema was the father of Raham father of Jorkoam, and Rekem was the father of Shammai. 45 The son of Shammai was Maon, and Maon was the founder of Beth-zur. 46 Ephah, Caleb’s concubine, was the mother of Haran, Moza and Gazez; Haran was the father of Gazez. 47 The sons of Jahdai: Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah and Shaaph. 48 Maacah, Caleb’s concubine, was the mother of Sheber and Tirhanah; 49 she bore also Shaaph founder of Madmannah, and Sheva founder of Machbenah and Gibea. Caleb also had a daughter named Achsah.

50 The descendants of Caleb: the sons of Hur, the eldest son of Ephrathah: Shobal the founder of Kiriath-jeiraim, 51 Salma the founder of Bethlehem, and Hareph the founder of Beth-gader. 52 Shobal the founder of Kiriathjearim was the father of Reaiah [prob. rdg, cp 4.2; Heb the seer] and the ancestor of half the Manahethites [prob. rdg, cp v54; Heb Menuhoth].

53 The clans of Kiriath-jearim: Ithrites, Puhites, Shumathites, and Mishraitites, from whom were descended the Zareathites and the Eshtaulites.
The descendants of Salma: Bethlehem, the Netophathites, Ataroth, Beth-joab, half the Manahethites, and the Zorites.

The clans of Sophrites [Or secretaries] living at Jabez: Tirathites, Shimeathites, and Suchathites. These were Kenites who were connected by marriage with the ancestor of the Rechabites.

These were the sons of David, born at Hebron: the eldest Amnon, whose mother was Ahinoam of Jezreel; the second Daniel, whose mother was Abigail of Carmel; the third Absalom, whose mother was Maacah daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; the fourth Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith; the fifth Shephatiah, whose mother was Abital; the sixth Ithream, whose mother was David’s wife Eglah. These six were born at Hebron, where David reigned seven years and six months. In Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years, and there the following sons were born to him: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan and Solomon; these four were sons of Bathsheba daughter of Amriuel. There were nine others: Ibhar, Elishama, Eliphelet, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Elisheva, Eliada and Eliphelet. These were all the sons of David, with their sister Tamar, in addition to his sons by concubines.

Solomon’s son was Rehoboam, his son Abia, his son Asa, his son Jehoshaphat, his son Joram, his son Ahaziah, his son Azariah, his son Joatham, his son Ahaz, his son Hezekiah, his son Manasseh, his son Amon, and his son Josiah. The sons of Josiah: the eldest was Johanan, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, the fourth Shallum. The sons of Jehoiakim: Jecohiah and Zedekiah. The sons of Jeconiah, a prisoner: Shealtiel, Malchiram, Pedaias, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama and Nedabiah. The sons of Pedaias: Zerubbabel and Shimi. The sons of Zerubbabel: Meshullam and Hananiah; they had a sister, Shelomith. There were five others: Hashubah, Ohel, Berechiah, Hasadiah and Jushab-hesed. The sons of Hananiah: Pelatiah and Isaiah; his son was Rephaiah, his son Arnan, his son Obadiah, his son Shecaniah. The sons of Shecaniah: Shemaiah, Hattush, Igeal, Bariah, Nearih and Shaphat, six in all. The sons of Neariah: Elionai, Hezekiah and Azrikam, three in all. The sons of Elionai: Hodaiah, Elishib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Dalaiah and Anani, seven in all.

The sons of Judah: Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hut and Shobal. Reaiah son of Shobal was the father of Jahath, Jahath father of Ahumai and Lahad. These were the clans of the Zorathites.

The sons of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma, Idbash, Penuel the founder of Gedor, and Ezer the founder of Hushah; they had a sister named Hazelelponi. These were the sons of Hur: Ephrathath the eldest, the founder of Bethlehem.

Ashshur the founder of Tekoa had two wives, Helah and Naarah. Naarah bore him Ahuzam, Hepher, Temeni and Haahashtari [Temeni and Haahashtari: or the Temanite...
and the Ahashtarite]. These were the sons of Naarah. 7 The sons of Helah: Zereth, Jezoar, Ethnan and Coz. 8 Coz was the father of Anub and Zobebah and the clans of Aharhel son of Harum.

9 Jabez ranked higher than his brothers; his mother called him Jabez because, as she said, she had borne him in pain. 10 Jabez called upon the God of Israel and said, ‘I pray thee, bless me and grant me wide territories. May thy hand be with me, and do me no harm, I pray thee, and let me be free from pain’; and God granted his petition.

11 Kelub brother of Shuah was the father of Mehir the father of Eshton. 12 Eshton was the father of Beth-rapha, Paseah, and Tehinnah father of Ir-nahash. These were the men of Rechah.

13 The sons of Kenaz: Othniel and Seraiah. The sons of Othniel: Hathath and Meonothai.

14 Meonothai was the father of Ophrah.

Seraiah was the father of Joab founder of Ge-harashim [Or the Valley of Craftsmen], for they were craftsmen.


16 The sons of Jehaleleel: Ziph and Ziphah, Tiria and Asareel.

17-18 The sons of Ezra: Jether, Mered, Epher and Jalon. These were the sons of Bithiah daughter of Pharaoh, whom Mered had married; she conceived and gave birth to [and gave birth to: prob. rdg, Heb omitted] Miriam, Shammai and Ishbah founder of Eshtemoa. His Jewish wife was the mother of Jered founder of Gedor, Heber founder of Soco, and Jekuthiel founder of Zanoah. 19 The sons of his [his: prob. rdg, Heb omitted] wife Hodiah sister of Naham were Daliah father of Keilah the Garmite, and Eshtemoa the Maacathite.

20 The sons of Shimon: Amnon, Rinnah, Ben-hanan and Tilon.

The sons of Ishi: Zoheth and Ben-zoheth.

21 The sons of Shelah son of Judah: Er founder of Lecah, Laadah founder of Mareshah, the clans of the guild of linen-workers at Ashbea, 22 Joakim, the men of Kozeba, Joash, and Saraph who fell out with Moab and came back to Bethlehem [and came ... Bethlehem: prob. rdg, Heb unintelligible]. (The records are ancient.) 23 They were the potters, and those who lived at Netaim and Gederah were there on the king’s service.

24 The sons of Simeon: Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, Saul, 25 his son Shallum, his son Mibsam and his son Mishma. 26 The sons of Mishma: his son Hamuel, his son Zaccur and his son Shimei. 27 Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters, but others of his family had fewer children, and the clan as a whole did not increase as much as the tribe of Judah. 28 They lived at Beersheba, Moladah, Hazar-shual, 29 Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad, 30 Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag, 31 Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susim, Beth-birei, and Shaaraim.
These were their cities until David came to the throne. Their settlements were Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Tochen, and Ashan, five cities in all. They had also hamlets round these cities as far as Baal. These were the places where they lived.

The names on their register were: Meshobab, Jamlech, Josiah son of Amaziah, Joel, Jehu son of Joshibiah, son of Seraiah, son of Asiel, Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohai, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, Benai, Ziza son of Shiph, son of Allon, son of Jedai, son of Shemai, whose names are recorded as princes in their clans, and their families had greatly increased. They then went from the approaches to Gedor east of the valley in search of pasture for their flocks. They found rich and good pasture in a wide stretch of open country where everything was quiet and peaceful; before then it had been occupied by Hamites. During the reign of Hezekiah king of Judah these whose names are written above came and destroyed the tribes of Ham and the Meunites whom they found there. They annihilated them so that no trace of them has remained to this day; and they occupied the land in their place, for there was pasture for their flocks. Of their number five hundred Simeonites invaded the hill-country of Seir, led by Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah, and Uziel, the sons of Ishi. They destroyed all who were left of the surviving Amalekites; and they live there still.

The sons of Reuben, the eldest of Israel's sons. (He was, in fact, the first son born, but because he had committed incest with a wife of his father's the rank of the eldest was transferred to the sons of Joseph, Israel's son, who, however, could not be registered as the eldest son. Judah held the leading place among his brothers because he fathered a ruler, and the rank of the eldest was his, not Joseph's.) The sons of Reuben, the eldest of Israel's sons: Enoch, Pallu, Hezron and Carmi. The sons of Joel: his son Shemai, his son Gog, his son Shimi, his son Micah, his son Reaia, his son Baal, his son Beerah, whom Tigrath-pileser king of Assyria carried away into exile; he was a prince of the Reubenites. His kinsmen, family by family, as registered in their tribal lists: Jeiel the chief, Zechariah, Bela son of Azaz, son of Shema, son of Joel. They lived in Aroer, and their lands stretched as far as Nebo and Baal-meon. Eastwards they occupied territory as far as the edge of the desert which stretches from the river Euphrates, for they had large numbers of cattle in Gilead. During Saul's reign they made war on the Hagarites, whom they conquered, occupying their encampments over all the country east of Gilead.

Adjoining them were the Gadites, occupying the district of Bashan as far as Salkah: Joel the chief; second in rank, Shapham; then Jaanai and Shaphat in Bashan. Their fellow-tribesmen belonged to the families of Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jachan, Zia and Heber, seven in all. These were the sons of Abihail son of Huri, son of Jaroah, son of Gilead, son of Michael, son of Jeshishai, son of Jahdo, son of Buz. Ahi son of Abdiel, son of Guni, was head of their family; they lived in Gilead, in Bashan and its villages, in all the common land of Sharon as far as it stretched. These registers were all compiled in the reigns of Jotham king of Judah and Jeroboam king of Israel.

The sons of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh: of their fighting men armed
with shield and sword, their archers and their battle-trained soldiers, forty-four thousand seven hundred and sixty were ready for active service. 

They made war on the Hagarites, Jetur, Nephish, and Nodab. They were given help against them, for they cried to their God for help in the battle, and because they trusted him he listened to their prayer, and the Hagarites and all their allies surrendered to them [They were ... surrendered to them: or They attacked them boldly, and the Hagarites and all their allies surrendered to them, for they cried ... to their prayer]. They drove off their cattle, fifty thousand camels, two hundred and fifty thousand sheep, and two thousand asses, and they took a hundred thousand captives. Many had been killed, for the war was of God’s making, and they occupied the land instead of them until the exile.

Half the tribe of Manasseh lived in the land from Bashan to Baalhermon, Senir, and Mount Hermon, and were numerous also in Lebanon. The heads of their families were: Epher, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel, all men of ability and repute, heads of their families. But they sinned against the God of their fathers, and turned wantonly to worship the gods of the peoples whom God had destroyed before them. So the God of Israel stirred up Pul king of Assyria, that is Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and he carried into exile Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh. He took them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river Gozan, where they are to this day.

16 The sons of Levi: Gershom [Gershom in vv16 and 17], Kohath and Merari. 17 The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel. 18 The sons of Gershom: Libni and Shimei. 19 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. 20 The clans of Levi, family by family: Gershom: his son Libni, his son Jahath, his son Zimmah, his son Joah, his son Iddo, his son Zerah, his son Jeaterai. Kohath: his son Amminadab, his son Korah, his son Assir, his son Elkanah, his son Ebiah, his son Assir, his son Tahath, his son Uriel, his son Uzziyah, his son Saul. The sons of Elkanah: Amasai and Ahimoth, his son Elkanah, his son Zophai, his son Nahath, his son Eliab, his son Jeroham, his son Elkanah. 21 The sons of Samuel: Joel the eldest and Abia the second. 22 The sons of Shimea, his son Haggiah, his son Asaiah.
These are the men whom David appointed to take charge of the music in the house of the LORD when the Ark should be deposited there. They performed their musical duties before the Tent of the Presence until Solomon built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, and took their regular turns of duty there. The following, with their descendants, took this duty. Of the line of Kohath: Heman the musician, son of Joel, son of Samuel, son of Elkanah, son of Jeroham, son of Eliel, son of Toah, son of Zuph, son of Elkanah, son of Mahath, son of Amasai, son of Elkanah, son of Joel, son of Azariah, son of Zephaniah, son of Tahath, son of Assir, son of Ebiasaph, son of Korah, son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, son of Israel. Heman’s colleague Asaph stood at his right hand. He was the son of Berachiah, son of Shimea, son of Michael, son of Baaseiah, son of Malchiah, son of Ethni, son of Zerah, son of Adaiah, son of Ethni, son of Zimmah, son of Shimei, son of Jahath, son of Gershom, son of Levi. On their left stood their colleague of the line of Merari: Ethan son of Kishi, son of Abdi, son of Malluch, son of Hashabiah, son of Amaziah, son of Hilkiah, son of Amzi, son of Bani, son of Shamer, son of Mahli, son of Mushi, son of Merari, son of Levi. Their kinsmen the Levites were dedicated to all the service of the Tabernacle, the house of God.

But it was Aaron and his descendants who burnt the sacrifices on the altar of whole-offering and the altar of incense, in fulfilment of all the duties connected with the most sacred gifts, and to make expiation for Israel, exactly as Moses the servant of God had commanded.

The sons of Aaron: his son Eleazar, his son Phinehas, his son Abishua, his son Bukki, his son Uzzi, his son Zerahiah, his son Meraioth, his son Amariah, his son Ahitub, his son Zadok, his son Ahimaaz.

These are their settlements in encampments in the districts assigned to the descendants of Aaron, to the clan of Kohath, for it was to them that the lot had fallen: they gave them Hebron in Judah, with the common land round it, but they assigned to Caleb son of Jephunneh the open country belonging to the town and its hamlets. They gave to the sons of Aaron: Hebron the city of refuge, Libnah, Jattir, Eshtemoa, Hilen, Debir, Ashan, and Beth-shemesh, each with its common land. And from the tribe of Benjamin: Geba, Alemeth, and Anathoth, each with its common land, making thirteen cities in all by their clans.

They gave to the remaining clans of the sons of Kohath ten cities by lot from the half tribe of Manasseh. To the sons of Gershom according to their clans they gave thirteen cities from the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Manasseh in Bashan. The sons of Merari according to their clans they gave by lot twelve cities from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun. Israel gave these cities, each with its common land, to the Levites. (The cities mentioned above, from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin, were assigned by lot.)

Some of the clans of Kohath had cities allotted to them. They gave them the city of refuge, Shechem in the hill-country of Ephraim, Gezer, Jokmeam, Beth-
horon, 69Aijalon, and Gath-rimmon, each with its common land. 70From the half tribe of Manasseh, Aner and Bileam, each with its common land, were given to the rest of the clans of Kohath.

71To the sons of Gershom they gave from the half tribe of Manasseh: Golan in Bashan, and Ashtaroth, each with its common land. 72From the tribe of Issachar: Kedesh, Daberath, 73Ramoth, and Anem, each with its common land. 74From the tribe of Asher: Mashal, Abdon, 75Hukok, and Rehob, each with its common land. 76From the tribe of Naphtali: Kedesh in Galilee, Hammon, and Kiriathaim, each with its common land.

77To the rest of the sons of Merari they gave from the tribe of Zebulun: Rimmon and Tabor, each with its common land. 78On the east of Jordan, opposite Jericho, from the tribe of Reuben: Bezer-in-the-wilderness, Jahzah, 79Kedemoth, and Mephaath, each with its common land. 80From the tribe of Gad: Ramoth in Gilead, Mahanaim, 81Heshbon, and Jazer, each with its common land.

7 [vv1, 6, 13, 30 and 8.1-5: cp Gen. 46.13, 17, 21-24]The sons of Issachar: Tola, Pua, Jashub and Shimron, four. 2The sons of Tola: Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Jibsam, and Samuel, all able men and heads of families by paternal descent from Tola according to their tribal lists; their number in David’s time was twenty-two thousand six hundred. 3The son of Uzzi: Izrahiah. The sons of Izrahiah: Michael, Obadiah, Joel and Isshiah, making a total of five, all of them chiefs. 4In addition there were bands of fighting men recorded by families according to the tribal lists to the number of thirty-six thousand, for they had many wives and children. 5Their fellow-tribesmen in all the clans of Issachar were able men, eighty-seven thousand; every one of them was registered.

6The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher and Jediael, three. 7The sons of Bela: Ezbon, Uzzi, Uziel, Jerimoth and Iri, five. They were heads of their families and able men; the number registered was twenty-two thousand and thirty-four. 8The sons of Becher: Zemira, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jeremoth, Abiah, Anathoth and Alemeth; all these were sons of Becher 9according to their tribal lists, heads of their families and able men; and the number registered was twenty thousand two hundred. 10The son of Jediael: Bilhan. The sons of Bilhan: Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Kenaanah, Zethan, Tarshish and Ahishahar. 11All these were descendants of Jediael, heads of [prob. rdg, Heb to the heads of] families and able men. The number was seventeen thousand two hundred men, fit for active service in war.

12The sons of Dan [The sons of Dan: prob. rdg, cp Gen. 46.23, Heb And Shuppim and Huppim, the sons of Ir]: Hushim and the sons of Aher [Or another].

13The sons of Naphtali: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, Shallum. These were sons of Bilhah.

14 [vv14-19: cp Num. 26.29-33]The sons of Manasseh [prob. rdg, Heb adds Asriel], born of his concubine, an Aramaean: Machir father of Gilead. 15Machir married a woman whose name was [whose name was: prob. rdg, Heb to Huppim and Shuppim, and his sister’s name was] Maacah. The second son was named Zelophehad, and Zelophehad had daughters. 16Maacah wife of Machir had a son whom she named Peresh. His brother’s
name was Sheresh, and his sons were Ulam and Rakem. They were the sons of Gilead son of Machir, son of Manasseh. His sister Hammoleketh was the mother of Ishhod, Abiezer and Mahalah. The sons of Shemida: Ahian, Shechem, Likhi and Aniam.

The sons of Ephraim: Shuthelah, his son Bered, his son Tahath, his son Eladah, his son Tahath, his son Zabad, his son Shuthelah. Ephraim’s other sons Ezer and Elead were killed by the native Gittites when they came down to lift their cattle. Their father Ephraim long mourned for them, and his kinsmen came to comfort him. Then he had intercourse with his wife; she conceived and had a son whom he named Beriah (because disaster had come on his family). He had a daughter named Sherah; she built Lower and Upper Beth-horon and Uzzen-sherah. He also had a son named Rephah; his son was Resheph, his son Telah, his son Tahan, his son Laadan, his son Ammihud, his son Elishama, his son Nun, his son Joshua.

Their lands and settlements were: Bethel and its dependent villages, to the east Naaran, to the west Gezer, Shechem, and Gaza, with their villages. In the possession of Manasseh were Beth-shean, Taanach, Megiddo, and Dor, with their villages. In all of these lived the descendants of Joseph the son of Israel.

The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi and Beriah, together with their sister Serah. The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel father of Birzavith. Heber was the father of Japhlet, Shomer, Hotham, and their sister Shua. The sons of Japhlet: Pasach, Birnhal and Ashvath. These were the sons of Japhlet. The sons of Shomer: Ahi, Rohgah, Jehubbah and Aram. The sons of his brother Hotham: Zophah, Imna, Shelesh and Amal. The sons of Zophah: Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah, Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Ithran and Beera. The sons of Jether: Jephunneh, Pispah and Ara. The sons of Ulla: Arah, Haniel and Rezia. All these were descendants of Asher, heads of families, picked men of ability, leading princes. They were enrolled among the fighting troops; the total number was twenty-six thousand men.
Jobab were sons of Elpaal; 19Jakim, Zichri, Zabdi, 20Elienai, Zilthai, Eliel, 21Adaiah, Beraiah, and Shimrath were sons of Shimei; 22Ishpan, Heber, Eliel, 23Abdon, Zichri, Hanan, 24Hananiah, Elam, Antothiah, 25Iphedeiah, and Penuel were sons of Shashak; 26Shamsherai, Shehariah, Athaliah, 27Jaresiah, Eliah, and Zichri were sons of Jeroham. 28These were enrolled in the tribal lists as heads of families, chiefs living in Jerusalem.

29 [vv29-38: cp 9.35-44]Jehiel founder of Gibeon lived at Gibeon; his wife’s name was Maacah. 30His eldest son was Abdon, followed by Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab, 31Gedor, Ahio, Zacher 32and Mikloth. Mikloth was the father of Shimeah; they lived alongside their kinsmen in Jerusalem.

33Ner was the father of Kish, Kish father of Saul, Saul father of Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab and Eshbaal. 34Jonathan’s son was Meribbaal, and he was the father of Micah; 35The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tarea and Ahaz. 36Ahaz was the father of Jehoaddah, Jehoaddath father of Alemeth, Azmoth and Zimri. Zimri was the father of Moza, 37and Moza father of Binea; his son was Raphah, his son Elasar, and his son Azel. 38Azel had six sons, whose names were Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah and Hanan. All these were sons of Azel. 39The sons of his brother Eshek: the eldest Ulam, the second Jeush, the third Eliphelet. 40The sons of Ulam were able men, archers, and had many sons and grandsons, a hundred and fifty. All these were descendants of Benjamin.

**The restored community**

9 SO ALL ISRAEL WERE REGISTERED and recorded in the book of the kings of Israel; but Judah for their sins were carried away to exile in Babylon. 2 [vv2-22: cp Neh. 11.3-22]The first to occupy their ancestral land in their cities were lay Israelites, priests, Levites, and temple-servitors. 3Jerusalem was occupied partly by Judahites, partly by Benjaminites, and partly by men of Ephraim and Manasseh. Judahites [prob. rdg, Heb omitted]: 4Uthai son of Ammihud, son of Omri, son of Imri, son of Bani, a descendant of Perez son of Judah. 5Shelanites: Asaiah the eldest and his sons. 6The sons of Zerah: Jeuel and six hundred and ninety of their kinsmen. 7Benjamites: Sallu son of Meshullam, son of Hodaviah, son of Hassenuah, 8Ibneiah son of Jeroham, Elah son of Uzzi, son of Micri, Meshullam son of Shephatiah, son of Reuel, son of Ibniiah, 9and their recorded kinsmen numbering nine hundred and fifty-six, all heads of families.

10Priests: Jedaiah, Jehoiarib, Jachin, 11Azariah son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Merari, son of Ahitub, the officer in charge of the house of God, 12Adaiah son of Jeroham, son of Pashhur, son of Malchiah, Maasai son of Adiel, son of Jahzerah, son of Meshullam, son of Meshillemith, son of Immer, 13and their colleagues, heads of families numbering one thousand seven hundred and sixty, men of substance and fit for the work connected with the service of the house of God.

14Levites: Shemaiah son of Hasshub, son of Azrikam, son of Hashabiah, a descendant of Merari, 15Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal, Mattaniah son of Mica, son of Zichri, son of Asaph,
Obadiah son of Shemaiah, son of Galal, son of Jeduthun, and Berechiah son of Asa, son of Elkanah, who lived in the hamlets of the Netophathites.

The door-keepers were Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, and Ahiman; their brother Shallum was the chief. Until then they had all been door-keepers in the quarters of the Levites at the king’s gate, on the east. Shallum son of Kore, son of Ebiasaph, son of Korah, and his kinsmen of the Korahite family were responsible for service as guards of the thresholds of the Tabernacle; their ancestors had performed the duty of guarding the entrances to the camp of the LORD. Phinehas son of Eleazar had been their overseer in the past – the LORD be with him! Zechariah son of Meshelemiah was the door-keeper of the Tent of the Presence. Those picked to be door-keepers numbered two hundred and twelve in all, registered in their hamlets. David and Samuel the seer had installed them because they were trustworthy. They and their sons had charge, by watches, of the gates of the house, the tent-dwelling of the LORD. The door-keepers were to be on four sides, east, west, north, and south. Their kinsmen from their hamlets had to come on duty with them for seven days at a time in turn. The four principal door-keepers were chosen for their trustworthiness; they were Levites and had charge of the rooms and the stores in the house of God. They always slept in the precincts of the house of God (for the watch was their duty) and they had charge of the key for opening the gates every morning. Some of them had charge of the vessels used in the service of the temple, keeping count of them as they were brought in and taken out. Some of them were detailed to take charge of the furniture and all the sacred vessels, the flour, the wine, the oil, the incense, and the spices.

Some of the priests compounded the ointment for the spices. Mattithiah the Levite, the eldest son of Shallum the Korahite, was in charge of the preparation of the wafers because he was trustworthy. Some of their Kohathite kinsmen were in charge of setting out the rows of the Bread of the Presence every sabbath.

These, the musicians, heads of Levite families, were lodged in rooms set apart for them, because they were liable for duty by day and by night.

These are the heads of Levite families, chiefs according to their tribal lists, living in Jerusalem.

Jehiel founder of Gibeon lived at Gibeon; his wife’s name was Maacah, and his sons were Abdon the eldest, Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab, Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah and Mikloth. Mikloth was the father of Shimeam; they lived alongside their kinsmen in Jerusalem. Ner was the father of Kish, Kish father of Saul, Saul father of Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab and Eshbaal. The son of Jonathan was Meribbaal, and Meribbaal was the father of Micah. The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tahrea and Ahaz. Ahaz was the father of Jarah, Jarah father of Alemeth, Azmoth, and Zimri; Zimri father of Moza, and Moza father of Binea; his son was Rephaiah, his son Elasar, his son Azel. Azel had six sons, whose names were Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah and Hanan. These were the sons of Azel.
The death of Saul

10 [vv1-12: cp 1Sam. 31.1-13] THE PHILISTINES FOUGHT A BATTLE against Israel, and the men of Israel were routed, leaving their dead on Mount Gilboa. 2 The Philistines hotly pursued Saul and his sons and killed the three sons, Jonathan, Abinadab and Malchishua. 3 The battle went hard for Saul, for some archers came upon him and he was wounded by them. 4 So he said to his armour-bearer, ‘Draw your sword and run me through, so that these uncircumcised brutes may not come and make sport of me.’ But the armour-bearer refused, he dared not; whereupon Saul took his own sword and fell on it. 5 When the armour-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his sword and died. 6 Thus Saul died and his three sons; his whole house perished at one and the same time. 7 And all the Israelites in the Vale, when they saw that their army had fled and that Saul and his sons had perished, fled likewise, abandoning their cities, and the Philistines went in and occupied them.

8 Next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his sons lying dead on Mount Gilboa. 9 They stripped him, cut off his head and took away his armour; then they sent messengers through the length and breadth of their land to take the good news to idols and people alike. 10 They deposited his armour in the temple of their god [Or gods], and nailed up his skull in the temple of Dagon. 11 When the people of Jabesh-gilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul, 12 the bravest of them set out together to recover the bodies of Saul and his sons; they brought them back to Jabesh and buried their bones under the oak-tree there, and fasted for seven days. 13 Thus Saul paid with his life for his unfaithfulness: he had disobeyed the word of the LORD and had resorted to ghosts for guidance. 14 He had not sought guidance of the LORD, who therefore destroyed him and transferred the kingdom to David son of Jesse.

David king over Israel

11 [vv1-9: cp 2Sam. 5.1-3, 6-10] THEN ALL ISRAEL ASSEMBLED, at Hebron to wait upon David. ‘We are your own flesh and blood,’ they said. 2 In the past, while Saul was still king, you led the forces of Israel to war, and you brought them home again. And the LORD your God said to you, “You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be their prince.” 3 All the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; there David made a covenant with them before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel, as the LORD had said through the lips of Samuel.

4 Then David and all Israel went to Jerusalem (that is Jebus, where the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, lived). 5 The people of Jebus said to David, ‘Never shall you come in here’; none the less David did capture the stronghold of Zion, and it is now known as the City of David. 6 David said, ‘The first man to kill a Jebusite shall become a commander or an officer’, and the first man to go up was Joab son of Zeruiah; so he was given the command.

7 David took up his residence in the stronghold: that is why they called it the City of David. 8 He built the city round it, starting at the Millo and including its neighbourhood,
while Joab reconstructed the rest of the city.  

9 So David steadily grew stronger, for the LORD of Hosts was with him.

10 [vv10-41: cp 2 Sam. 23.8-39] Of David’s heroes these were the chief, men who lent their full strength to his government and, with all Israel, joined in making him king; such was the LORD’s decree for Israel.  

11 First came Jashoboam the Hachmonite, chief of the three; he it was who brandished his spear over three hundred, all slain at one time.  

12 Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the heroic three.  

13 He was with David at Pas-dammim where the Philistines had gathered for battle in a field carrying a good crop of barley; and when the people had fled from the Philistines he stood his ground in the field, saved it [saved it: or cleared it of the Philistines] and defeated them. So the LORD brought about a great victory.

15 Three of the thirty chiefs went down to the rock to join David at the cave of Adullam, while the Philistines were encamped in the Vale of Rephaim.  

16 At that time David was in the stronghold, and a Philistine garrison held Bethlehem.  

17 One day a longing came over David, and he exclaimed, ‘If only I could have a drink of water from the well [Or cistern] by the gate of Bethlehem!’  

18 At this the three made their way through the Philistine lines and drew water from the well by the gate of Bethlehem, and brought it to David.  

But David refused to drink it; he poured it out to the LORD  

19 and said, ‘God forbid that I should do such a thing! Can I drink the blood of these men? They have brought it at the risk of their lives.’ So he would not drink it. Such were the exploits of the heroic three.

20 Abishai the brother of Joab was chief of the thirty. He once brandished his spear over three hundred dead, and he was famous among the thirty.  

21 He held higher rank than the rest of the thirty and became their captain, but he did not rival the three.  

22 Benaiyah son of Jehoiada, from Kabzeel, was a hero of many exploits. It was he who smote the two champions of Moab, and who went down into a pit and killed a lion on a snowy day.  

23 It was he who also killed the Egyptian, a giant seven and a half feet high armed with a spear as big as the beam of a loom; he went to meet him with a club, snatched the spear out of the Egyptian’s hand and killed him with his own weapon.  

24 Such were the exploits of Benaiyah son of Jehoiada, famous among the heroic thirty [prob. rdg, Heb three].  

25 He was more famous than the rest of the thirty, but did not rival the three. David appointed him to his household.

26 These were his valiant heroes:  

Asahel the brother of Joab, and Elhanan son of Dodo from Bethlehem;  

Shammoth from Harod [prob. rdg, cp 2Sam. 23.25, Heb Haror], and Helez from a place unknown;  

Ira son of Ikkesh from Tekoa, and Abiezer from Anathoth;  

Sibbecai from Hushah, and Ilai the Ahohite,  

Maharai from Netophah, and Heled son of Baanah from Netophah;  

Ichai son of Ribai from Gibeah of Benjamin, and Benaiyah from Pirathon;  

Hurai from the ravines of Gaash, and Abiel from Beth-arabah;  

Azmoth from Bahurim, and Eliahu from Shaalbon;  

Hashem the Gizonite, and Jonathan son of Shage the Hararite;  

Ahiam son of Sacar the Hararite, and Eliphal son of Ur;  

Hepher from Mecherah, and Ahijah from a place unknown;  

Hezro from Carmel, and Naarai son of Ebzai;  

Joel the brother of Nathan, and Mibhar the son of Haggeri;  

Zelek the Ammonite, and Naharai from Beeroth, armour-bearer to Joab son
of Zeruiah; 40Ira the Ithrite, and Gareb the Ithrite; 41Uriah the Hittite, and Zabad son of Ahlai. 42Adina son of Shiza the Reubenite, a chief of the Reubenites, was over these thirty. 43Also Hanan son of Maacah, and Josaphat the Mithnite; 44Uzzia from Ashtaroth, Shama and Jeiel the sons of Hotham from Aroer; 45Jediael son of Shimri, and Joha his brother, the Tizite; 46Elieel the Mahavite, and Jeribai and Joshaviah sons of Elnaam, and Ithmah the Moabite; 47Elieel, Obed, and Jasiel, from Zobah [from Zobah: prob. rdg, Heb obscure].

12

These are the men who joined David at Ziklag while he was banned from the presence of Saul son of Kish. They ranked among the warriors valiant in battle. 2They carried bows and could sling stones or shoot arrows with the left hand or the right; they were Benjamites, kinsmen of Saul. 3The foremost were Ahiezer and Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; Jeziel and Pelet, men of Beth-azmoth; Berachah and Jehu of Anathoth; 4Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a hero among the thirty and a chief among them; Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, and Josabad of Gederah; 5Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite; 6Elkanah, Isshiah, Azareel, Joezer, Jashobeam, the Korahites; 7and Joelah and Zebadiah sons of Jeroham, of Gedor.

8Some Gadites also joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness, valiant men trained for war, who could handle the heavy shield and spear, grim as lions and swift as gazelles on the hills. 9Ezer was their chief, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third; 10Mishmannah the fourth and Jeremiah the fifth; 11Attai the sixth and Eliel the seventh; 12Johanan the eighth and Elzabad the ninth; 13Jeremiah the tenth and Machbanai the eleventh. 14These were chiefs of the Gadites in the army, the least of them a match for a hundred, the greatest a match for a thousand. 15These were the men who in the first month crossed the Jordan, which was in full flood in all its reaches, and wrought havoc in the valleys, east and west.

16Some men of Benjamin and Judah came to David at the stronghold. 17David went out to them and said, 'If you come as friends to help me, join me and welcome; but if you come to betray me to my enemies, innocent though I am of any crime of violence, may the God of our fathers see and judge.' 18At that a spirit took possession of Amasai, the chief of the thirty, and he said:

We are on your side, David!
We are with you, son of Jesse!
Greetings, greetings to you
and greetings to your ally!
For your God is your ally.

So David welcomed them and attached them to the columns of his raiding parties.

19Some men of Manasseh had deserted to David when he went with the Philistines to war against Saul, though he did not, in fact, fight on the side of the Philistines. Their princes brusquely dismissed him, saying to themselves that he would desert them for his master Saul, and that would cost them their heads. 20The men of Manasseh who deserted to him when he went to Ziklag were these: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zilthai, each commanding his thousand in Manasseh. 21It was they who stood valiantly by David against the raiders, for they were all good fighters, and
they were given commands in his forces. 22 From day to day men came in to help David, until he had gathered an immense army.

23 These are the numbers of the armed bands which joined David at Hebron to transfer Saul’s sovereignty to him, as the LORD had said: 24 men of Judah, bearing heavy shield and spear, six thousand eight hundred, drafted for active service; 25 of Simeon, fighting men drafted for active service, seven thousand one hundred; 26 of Levi, four thousand six hundred, 27 together with Jehoiada prince of the house of Aaron and three thousand seven hundred men, 28 and Zadok a valiant fighter, with twenty-two officers of his own clan; 29 of Benjamin, Saul’s kinsmen, three thousand, though most of them had hitherto remained loyal to the house of Saul, 30 of Ephraim, twenty thousand eight hundred, fighting men, famous in their own clans; 31 of the half tribe of Manasseh, eighteen thousand, who had been nominated to come and make David king; 32 of Issachar, whose tribesmen were skilled in reading the signs of the times to discover what course Israel should follow, two hundred chiefs, with all their kinsmen under their command; 33 of Zebulun, fifty thousand troops well-drilled for battle, armed with every kind of weapon, bold and single-minded; 34 of Naphtali, a thousand officers with thirty-seven thousand men bearing heavy shield and spear; 35 of the Danites, twenty-eight thousand six hundred well-drilled for battle; 36 of Asher, forty thousand troops well-drilled for battle; 37 of the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh east of Jordan, a hundred and twenty thousand, armed with every kind of weapon.

38 All these warriors, bold men in battle, came to Hebron, loyally determined to make David king over the whole of Israel; the rest of Israel, too, had but one thought, to make him king. 39 They spent three days there with David, eating and drinking, for their kinsmen made provision for them. 40 Their neighbours also round about, as far away as Issachar, Zebulun, and Naphtali, brought food on asses and camels, on mules and oxen, supplies of meal, fig-cakes, raisin-cakes, wine and oil, oxen and sheep, in plenty; for there was rejoicing in Israel.

13 DAVID CONSULTED THE OFFICERS over units of a thousand and a hundred on every matter brought forward. 2 Then he said to the whole assembly of Israel, ‘If you approve, and if the LORD our God opens a way, let us [and if ... let us: or and if it is from the LORD our God, let us seize the opportunity and] send to our kinsmen who have stayed behind, in all the districts of Israel, and also to the priests and Levites in the cities where they have common lands, bidding them join us. 3 Let us fetch the Ark of our God, for while Saul lived we never resorted to it.’ 4 The whole assembly resolved to do this; the entire nation approved it.

5 So David assembled all Israel from the Shihor in Egypt to Lebo-hamath, in order to fetch the Ark of God from Kiriath-jearim. 6 [vv6-14: cp 2Sam. 6.2-11] Then David and all Israel went up to Baalah, to Kiriath-jearim, which belonged to Judah, to fetch the Ark of God, the LORD enthroned upon the cherubim, the Ark which bore his name [which bore his name: prob. rdg, Heb obscure]. 7 And they conveyed the Ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, with Uzza and Ahio guiding the cart. 8 David and all Israel danced for joy before God without restraint to the sound of singing, of harps and lutes,
of tambourines, and cymbals and trumpets. But when they came to the threshing-floor of Kidon, the oxen stumbled, and Uzza put out his hand to hold the Ark. The LORD was angry with Uzza and struck him down because he had put out his hand to the Ark. So he died there before God. David was vexed because the LORD’s anger had broken out upon Uzza, and he called the place Perez-uzza [That is Outbreak on Uzza], the name it still bears. David was afraid of God that day and said, ‘How can I harbour the Ark of God after this?’ So he did not take the Ark with him into the City of David, but turned aside and carried it to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. Thus the Ark of God remained beside the house of Obed-edom, in its tent [Or in his tent], for three months, and the LORD blessed the family of Obed-edom and all that he had.

Hiram king of Tyre sent an embassy to David; he sent cedar logs, and masons and carpenters with them to build him a house. David knew by now that the LORD had confirmed him as king over Israel and had made his royal power stand higher for the sake of his people Israel.

David married more wives in Jerusalem, and more sons and daughters were born to him. These are the names of the children born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Beeliada and Eliphelet.

When the Philistines learnt that David had been anointed king over the whole of Israel, they came up in force to seek him out. David, hearing of this, went out to face them. Now the Philistines had come and raided the Vale of Rephaim. So David inquired of God, ‘If I attack the Philistines, wilt thou deliver them into my hands?’ And the LORD answered, ‘Go; I will deliver them into your hands.’ So he went up and attacked them at Baal-perazim and defeated them there. ‘God has used me to break through my enemies’ lines,’ David said, ‘as a river breaks its banks’; that is why the place was named Baal-perazim [That is Baal of Break-through]

The Philistines left their gods behind them there, and by David’s orders these were burnt.

The Philistines made another raid on the Vale. Again David inquired of God, and God said to him, ‘No, you must go up towards their rear; wheel round without making contact and come upon them opposite the aspens. Then, as soon as you hear a rustling sound in the tree-tops, you shall give battle, for God will have gone out before you to defeat the Philistine army.’ David did as God commanded, and they drove the Philistine army in flight all the way from Gibeon to Gezer. So David’s fame spread through every land, and the LORD inspired all nations with dread of him.

DAVID BUILT HIMSELF QUARTERS in the City of David, and prepared a place for the Ark of God and pitched a tent for it. Then he decreed that only Levites should carry the Ark of God, since they had been chosen by the LORD to carry it and to serve him for ever. Next David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem, to bring up the Ark of the LORD to the place he had prepared for it. He gathered together the sons of Aaron and the Levites: of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief with a hundred and twenty of his kinsmen; of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief with two hundred and twenty of his
kinsmen; 7 of the sons of Gershom, Joel the chief with a hundred and thirty of his kinsmen; 8 of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief with two hundred of his kinsmen; 9 of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief with eighty of his kinsmen; 10 of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief with a hundred and twelve of his kinsmen. 11 And David summoned Zadok and Abiathar the priests, together with the Levites, Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab, 12 and said to them, 'You who are heads of families of the Levites, hallow yourselves, you and your kinsmen, and bring up the Ark of the LORD to the place which I have prepared for it. 13 It was because you were not present the first time, that the LORD our God broke out upon us. For we had not sought his guidance as we should have done.' 14 So the priests and the Levites hallowed themselves to bring up the Ark of the LORD the God of Israel, 15 and the Levites carried the Ark of God, bearing it on their shoulders with poles as Moses had prescribed at the command of the LORD.

David also ordered the chiefs of the Levites to install as musicians those of their kinsmen who were players skilled in making joyful music on their instruments, lutes and harps and cymbals. 17 So the Levites installed Heman son of Joel and, from his kinsmen, Asaph son of Berechiah; and from their kinsmen the Merarites, Ethan son of Kushaiah, together with their kinsmen of the second degree, Zechariah, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaijah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, and Mikneiah, and the door-keepers Obed-edom and Jeiel. 19 They installed the musicians Heman, Asaph, and Ethan to sound the cymbals of bronze; 20 Zechariah, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaijah to play on lutes [prob. rdg, Heb adds al alamoth, possibly a musical term]; 21 Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah to play on harps [prob. rdg, Heb adds al hashsheminith lenasseah, possibly musical terms]. 22 Kenaniah, officer of the Levites, was precentor in charge of the music because of his proficiency. 23 Berechiah and Elkanah were door-keepers for the Ark, while the priests 24 Shebaniah, Jehoshaphat, Nethaneel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaijah, and Eliezer sounded the trumpets before the Ark of God; and Obed-edom and Jehiah also were door-keepers for the Ark.

Then David and the elders of Israel and the captains of units of a thousand went to bring up the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD with much rejoicing from the house of Obed-edom. 26 Because God had helped the Levites who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams.

Now David and all the Levites who carried the Ark, and the musicians, and Kenaniah the precentor [the precentor: prob. rdg, Heb obscure], were arrayed in robes of fine linen; and David had on a linen ephod. 28 All Israel escorted the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD with shouts of acclamation, blowing on horns and trumpets, clashing cymbals and playing on lutes and harps. 29 But as the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD was entering the city of David, Saul’s daughter Michal looked down through a window and saw King David dancing and making merry, and she despised him in her heart.

When they had brought in the Ark of God, they put it inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and they offered whole-offerings and shared-offerings before God. 2 After David had completed these sacrifices, he blessed the people
in the name of the LORD \(^3\)and gave food, a loaf of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins, to each Israelite, man or woman. \(^4\)He appointed certain Levites to serve before the Ark of the LORD, to repeat the Name, to confess and to praise the LORD the God of Israel. \(^5\)Their leader was Asaph; second to him was Zechariah; then came Jaaziel [prob. rdg, cp 15.18, 20; Heb Jeiel], Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom, and Jeiel, with lutes and harps, Asaph, who sounded the cymbals; \(^6\)and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests, who blew the trumpets before the Ark of the Covenant of God continuously throughout that day. \(^7\)It was then that David first ordained the offering of thanks to the LORD by Asaph and his kinsmen:

8 [vv8-22: cp Ps. 105.1-15] Give the LORD thanks and invoke him by name, make his deeds known in the world around.
9 Pay him honour with song and psalm and think upon all his wonders.
10 Exult in his hallowed name; let those who seek the LORD be joyful in heart.
11 Turn to the LORD, your strength [your strength: or the symbol of his strength; literally and his strength], seek his presence always.
12 Remember the wonders that he has wrought, his portents and the judgements he has given,
13 O offspring of Israel his servants, O chosen sons of Jacob.

14 He is the LORD our God; his judgements fill the earth.
15 He called to mind his covenant from long ago [from long ago: or for ever], the promise he extended to a thousand generations –
16 the covenant made with Abraham, his oath given to Isaac,
17 the decree by which he bound himself for Jacob, his everlasting covenant with Israel:
18 'I will give you the land of Canaan’, he said, 'to be your possession, your patrimony.’
19 A small company it was, few in number, strangers in that land,
20 roaming from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another;
21 but he let no man ill-treat them, for their sake he admonished kings:
22 'Touch not my anointed servants, do my prophets no harm.’

23 [vv23-33: cp Ps. 96.1-13] Sing to the LORD, all men on earth, proclaim his triumph day by day.
24 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples.
25 Great is the LORD and worthy of all praise; he is more to be feared than all gods.
26 For the gods of the nations are idols every one; but the LORD made the heavens.
27 Majesty and splendour attend him, might and joy are in his dwelling.

28 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and might;
29 ascribe to the LORD the glory due to his name, bring a gift and come before him.
Bow down to the LORD in the splendour of holiness [Or in holy vestments],
30 and dance in his honour, all men on earth.
He has fixed the earth firm, immovable.
31 Let the heavens rejoice and the earth exult, let men declare among the nations, 'The LORD is king.'
32 Let the sea roar and all the creatures in it, let the fields exult and all that is in them;
33 then let the trees of the forest shout for joy before the LORD when he comes to judge the earth.

34 [v34: cp Ps. 107.1] It is good to give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures for ever.
35 [vv35, 36: cp Ps. 106.47, 48] Cry, 'Deliver us, O God our saviour, gather us in and save us from the nations that we may give thanks to thy holy name and make thy praise our pride.'

36 Blessed be the LORD the God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting.

And all the people said 'Amen' and 'Praise the LORD.'

37 David left Asaph and his kinsmen there before the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD, to perform regular service before the Ark as each day’s duty required; 38 as doorkeepers he left Obed-edom son of Jeduthun, and Hosah. (Obed-edom and his kinsmen were sixty-eight in number.) 39 He left Zadok the priest and his kinsmen the priests before the Tabernacle of the LORD at the hill-shrine in Gibeon, 40 to make offerings there to the LORD upon the altar of whole-offering regularly morning and evening, exactly as it is written in the law enjoined by the LORD upon Israel. 41 With them he left Heman and Jeduthun and the other men chosen and nominated to give thanks to the LORD, 'for his love endures for ever.' 42 They had trumpets and cymbals for the players, and the instruments used for sacred song. The sons of Jeduthun kept the gate.

43 So all the people went home, and David returned to greet his household.

17 [vv1-27: cp 2Sam. 7.1-29] AS SOON AS DAVID WAS ESTABLISHED in his house, he said to Nathan the prophet, 'Here I live in a house of cedar, while the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD is housed in curtains.' 2 Nathan answered David, 'Do whatever you have in
mind, for God is with you.’ 3 But that night the word of God came to Nathan: 4 ‘Go and say to David my servant, “This is the word of the LORD: It is not you who shall build me a house to dwell in. 5 Down to this day I have never dwelt in a house since I brought Israel up from Egypt; I lived in a tent and a tabernacle [I lived ... tabernacle: prob. rdg, Heb I have been from tent to tent and from a tabernacle]. 6 Wherever I journeyed with Israel, did I ever ask any of the judges whom I appointed shepherds of my people why they had not built me a house of cedar?’ 7 Then say this to my servant David: “This is the word of the LORD of Hosts: I took you from the pastures, and from following the sheep, to be prince over my people Israel. 8 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have destroyed all the enemies in your path. I will make you as famous as the great ones of the earth. 9 I will assign a place for my people Israel; there I will plant them, and they shall dwell in their own land. They shall be disturbed no more, never again shall wicked men wear them down as they did 10 from the time when I first appointed judges over Israel my people, and I will subdue all your enemies. But I will make you great and the LORD shall build up your royal house. 11 When your life ends and you go to join your forefathers, I will set up one of your family, one of your own sons, to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. 12 It is he shall build me a house, and I will establish his throne for all time. 13 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. I will never withdraw my love from him as I withdrew it from your predecessor. 14 But I will give him a sure place in my house and kingdom for all time, and his throne shall be established for ever.’”

15 Nathan recounted to David all that had been said to him and all that had been revealed. 16 Then King David went into the presence of the LORD and took his place there and said, ‘What am I, LORD God, and what is my family, that thou hast brought me thus far? 17 It was a small thing in thy sight, O God, to have planned for thy servant’s house in days long past, and now thou lookest upon me as a man already embarked on a high career, O LORD God. 18 What more can David say to thee of the honour thou hast done thy servant, well though thou knowest him? 19 For the sake of thy servant, LORD, and according to thy purpose, thou hast brought me to all this greatness. 20 O LORD, we have never heard of one like thee; there is no god but thee. 21 And thy people Israel, to whom can they be compared? Is there any other nation on earth whom God has gone out to redeem from slavery, to make them his people? Thou hast won a name for thyself by great and terrible deeds, driving out nations before thy people whom thou didst redeem from Egypt. 22 Thou hast made thy people Israel thy own for ever, and thou, O LORD, hast become their God. 23 But now, LORD, let what thou hast promised for thy servant and his house stand fast for all time; make good what thou hast said. Let it stand fast, 24 that thy fame may be great for ever, and let men say, “The LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, is Israel’s God.” So shall the house of thy servant David be established before thee. 25 Thou, my God, hast shown me thy purpose to build up thy servant’s house; therefore I have been able to pray before thee. 26 Thou, O LORD, art God, and thou hast made these noble promises to thy servant; 27 thou hast been pleased to bless thy servant’s house, that it may continue always before thee; thou it is who hast blessed it, and it shall be blessed for ever.’

18 [vv1-13: cp 2Sam. 8.1-14] After this David defeated the Philistines and conquered them, and took from them Gath with its villages; 2 he defeated the Moabites, and they became
subject to him and paid him tribute. He also defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah-hamath, who was on his way to set up a monument of victory by the river Euphrates. From him David captured a thousand chariots, seven thousand horsemen and twenty thousand foot; he hamstrung all the chariot-horses, except a hundred which he retained. When the Aramaeans of Damascus came to the help of Hadadezer king of Zobah, David destroyed twenty-two thousand of them, and established garrisons among these Aramaeans; they became subject to him and paid him tribute. Thus the LORD gave David victory wherever he went. David took the gold quivers borne by Hadadezer’s servants and brought them to Jerusalem. He also took a great quantity of bronze [Or copper] from Hadadezer’s cities, Tibhath and Kun; from this Solomon made the Sea of bronze [Or copper], the pillars, and the bronze [Or copper] vessels.

When Tou king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the entire army of Hadadezer king of Zobah, he sent his son Hadoram to King David to greet him and to congratulate him on defeating Hadadezer in battle (for Hadadezer had been at war with Tou); and he brought with him vessels of gold, silver, and copper, which King David dedicated to the LORD. He dedicated also the silver and the gold which he had carried away from all the other nations, from Edom and Moab, from the Ammonites and the Philistines, and from Amalek.

Edom was defeated by Abishai son of Zeruiah, who destroyed eighteen thousand of them in the Valley of Salt and stationed garrisons in the country. All the Edomites now became subject to David. Thus the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went.

David ruled over the whole of Israel and maintained law and justice among all his people. Joab son of Zeruiah was in command of the army; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was secretary; of state; Zadok and Abiathar son of Ahimelech, son of Ahitub [and Abiathar ... Ahitub: prob. rdg, cp 2Sam. 8.17; Heb son of Ahitub and Abimelech son of Abiathar], were priests; Shavsha was adjutant-general; Benaiah son of Jehoiada commanded the Kerethite and Pelethite guards. The eldest sons of David were in attendance on the king.

Some time afterwards Nahash king of the Ammonites died and was succeeded by his son. David said, ‘I must keep up the same loyal friendship with Hanun son of Nahash as his father showed me’, and he sent a mission to condole with him on the death of his father. But when David’s envoys entered the country of the Ammonites to condole with Hanun, the Ammonite princes said to Hanun, ‘Do you suppose David means to do honour to your father when he sends you his condolences? These men of his are spies whom he has sent to find out how to overthrow the country.’ So Hanun took David’s servants, and he shaved them, cut off half their garments up to the hips, and dismissed them. When David heard how they had been treated, he sent to meet them, for they were deeply humiliated, and ordered them to wait in Jericho and not to return until their beards had grown again. The Ammonites knew that they had brought themselves into bad odour with David, so Hanun and the Ammonites sent a thousand talents of silver to hire chariots and horsemen from Aram-naharaim [That is Aram of Two Rivers], Maacah, and Aram-zobah. They hired thirty-two thousand chariots and the king
of Maacah and his people, who came and encamped before Medeba, while the Ammonites came from their cities and mustered for battle. 8 When David heard of it, he sent out Joab and all the fighting men. 9 The Ammonites came and took up their position at the entrance to the city, while the allied kings took up theirs in the open country. 10 When Joab saw that he was threatened both front and rear, he detailed some picked Israelite troops and drew them up facing the Aramaeans. 11 The rest of his forces he put under his brother Abishai, who took up a position facing the Ammonites. 12 If the Aramaeans prove too strong for me, he said, you must come to my relief; and if the Ammonites prove too strong for you, I will relieve you. 13 Courage! Let us fight bravely for our people and for the cities [Or altars] of our God. And the LORD's will be done. 14 But when Joab and his men came to close quarters with the Aramaeans, they put them to flight; 15 and when the Ammonites saw them in flight, they too fled before his brother Abishai and entered the city. Then Joab came to Jerusalem. 16 The Aramaeans saw that they had been worsted by Israel, and they sent messengers to summon other Aramaeans from the Great Bend of the Euphrates under Shophach, commander of Hadadezer's army. 17 Their movement was reported to David, who immediately mustered all the forces of Israel, crossed the Jordan and advanced against them and took up battle positions. The Aramaeans likewise took up positions facing David and engaged him, but were put to flight by Israel. David slew seven thousand Aramaeans in chariots and forty thousand infantry, killing Shophach the commander of the army. 18 When Hadadezer's men saw that they had been worsted by Israel, they sued for peace and submitted to David. The Aramaeans were never again willing to give support to the Ammonites.

20 [vv1-3: cp 2Sam. 12.26-31] AT THE TURN OF THE YEAR, when kings take the field, Joab led the army out and ravaged the Ammonite country. He came to Rabbah and laid siege to it, while David remained in Jerusalem; he reduced the city and razed it to the ground. 2 David took the crown from the head of Milcom and found that it weighed a talent of gold and was set with a precious stone, and this he placed on his own head. He also removed a great quantity of booty from the city; 3 he took its inhabitants and set them to work with saws and other iron tools, sharp and toothed. David did this to all the cities of the Ammonites; then he and all his people returned to Jerusalem.

4 [vv4-7: cp 2Sam. 21.18-22] Some time later war with the Philistines broke out in Gezer; it was then that Sibbechai of Hushah killed Sippai, a descendant of the Rephaim, and the Philistines were reduced to submission. 5 In another war with the Philistines, Elhanan son of Jair killed Lahmi brother of Goliath of Gath, whose spear had a shaft like a weaver's beam. 6 In yet another war in Gath, there appeared a giant with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in all; he too was descended from the Rephaim, and, when he defied Israel, Jonathan son of David’s brother Shimea killed him. 7 These giants were the descendants of the Rephaim in Gath, and they all fell at the hands of David and his men.

21 [vv1-27: cp 2Sam. 24.1-25] NOW SATAN, SETTING HIMSELF AGAINST ISRAEL, incited David to count the people. 2 So he instructed Joab and his public officers to go out and number Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, and to report the number to him. 3 Joab answered, Even if the LORD should increase his people a hundredfold, would not your
majesty still be king and all the people your slaves? Why should your majesty want to do this? It will only bring guilt on Israel.’ 4But Joab was overruled by the king; he set out and went up and down the whole country. 5He then came to Jerusalem and reported to David the numbers recorded: those capable of bearing arms were one million one hundred thousand in Israel, and four hundred and seventy thousand in Judah. 6Levi and Benjamin were not counted by Joab, so deep was his repugnance against the king’s order.

7God was displeased with all this and proceeded to punish Israel. 8David said to God, ‘I have done a very wicked thing: I pray thee remove thy servant’s guilt, for I have been very foolish.’ 9And the LORD said to Gad, David’s seer, 10‘Go and tell David, “This is the word of the LORD: I have three things to offer you; choose one of them and I will bring it upon you.” ’ 11So Gad came to David and said to him, ‘This is the word of the LORD: “Make your choice: 12three years of famine, three months of harrying by your foes and close pursuit by the sword of your enemy, or three days of the LORD’s own sword, bringing pestilence throughout the country, and the LORD’s angel working destruction in all the territory of Israel.” Consider now what answer I am to take back to him who sent me.’ 13Thereupon David said to Gad, ‘I am in a desperate plight; let me fall into the hands of the LORD, for his mercy is very great; and let me not fall into the hands of man.’ 14So the LORD sent a pestilence throughout Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel died. 15And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it; but, as he was destroying it, the LORD saw and repented of the evil, and said to the destroying angel at the moment when he was standing beside the threshing-floor of Ornan the Jebusite, ‘Enough! Stay your hand.’

16When David looked up and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, with his sword drawn in his hand and stretched out over Jerusalem, he and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell prostrate to the ground; 17and David said to God, ‘It was I who gave the order to count the people. It was I who sinned, I, the shepherd [the shepherd: prob. rdg, Heb doing wrong], who did wrong. But these poor sheep, what have they done? O LORD my God, let thy hand fall upon me and upon my family, but check this plague on the people [check ... people: prob. rdg, Heb among thy people, not for a plague]’

18The angel of the LORD, speaking through the lips of Gad, commanded David to go to the threshing-floor of Ornan the Jebusite and to set up there an altar to the LORD. 19David went up as Gad had bidden him in the LORD’s name. Ornan’s four sons who were with him hid themselves, 20but he was busy threshing his wheat when he turned and saw the angel. 21As David approached, Ornan looked up and, seeing the king, came out from the threshing-floor and prostrated himself before him. 22David said to Ornan, ‘Let me have the site of the threshing-floor that I may build on it an altar to the LORD; sell it me at the full price, that the plague which has attacked my people may be stopped.’ 23Ornan answered David, ‘Take it and let your majesty do as he thinks fit; see, here are the oxen for whole-offerings, the threshing-sledges for the fuel, and the wheat for the grain-offering; I give you everything.’ 24But King David said to Ornan, ‘No, I will pay the full price; I will not present to the LORD what is yours, or offer a whole-offering which has cost me nothing.’ 25So David gave Ornan six hundred shekels
of gold for the site, and built an altar to the LORD there; on this he offered whole-offerings and shared-offerings, and called upon the LORD, who answered him with fire falling from heaven on the altar of whole-offering. Then, at the LORD’s command, the angel sheathed his sword.

It was when David saw that the LORD had answered him at the threshing-floor of Ornan the Jebusite that he offered sacrifice there. The tabernacle of the LORD and the altar of whole-offering which Moses had made in the wilderness were then at the hill-shrine in Gibeon; but David had been unable to go there and seek God’s guidance, so shocked and shaken was he at the sight of the angel’s sword. Then David said, ‘This is to be the house of the LORD God, and this is to be an altar of whole-offering for Israel.’

The temple and its organization

David now gave orders to assemble the aliens resident in Israel, and he set them as masons to dress hewn stones and to build the house of God. He laid in a great store of iron to make nails and clamps for the doors, more bronze than could be weighed and cedar-wood without limit; the men of Sidon and Tyre brought David an ample supply of cedar. David said, ‘My son Solomon is a boy of tender years, and the house that is to be built to the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, renowned and celebrated in every land; therefore I must make preparations for it myself.’ So David made abundant preparation before his death.

He sent for Solomon his son and charged him to build a house for the LORD the God of Israel. ‘Solomon, my son,’ he said, ‘I had intended to build a house in honour of the name of the LORD my God; but the LORD forbade me and said, “You have shed much blood in my sight and waged great wars; for this reason you shall not build a house in honour of my name. But you shall have a son who shall be a man of peace; I will give him peace from all his enemies on every side; his name shall be Solomon, ‘Man of Peace’, and I will grant peace and quiet to Israel in his days. He shall build a house in honour of my name; he shall be my son and I will be a father to him, and I will establish the throne of his sovereignty over Israel for ever.” Now, Solomon my son, the LORD be with you! May you prosper and build the house of the LORD your God, as he promised you should. But may the LORD grant you wisdom and discretion, so that when he gives you authority in Israel you may keep the law of the LORD your God. You will prosper only if you are careful to observe the decrees and ordinances which the LORD enjoined upon Moses for Israel; be strong and resolute, neither faint-hearted nor dismayed.

In spite of all my troubles, I have here ready for the house of the LORD a hundred thousand talents of gold and a million talents of silver, with great quantities of bronze and iron, more than can be weighed; timber and stone, too, I have got ready; and you may add to them. Besides, you have a large force of workmen, masons, sculptors, and carpenters, and countless men skilled in work of every kind, in gold and silver, bronze and iron. So now to work, and the LORD be with you!’
David ordered all the officers of Israel to help Solomon his son. Is not the LORD your God with you? Will he not give you peace on every side? For he has given the inhabitants of the land into my power, and they will be subject to the LORD and his people. Devote yourselves, therefore, heart and soul, to seeking guidance of the LORD your God, and set about building his sanctuary, so that the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD and God’s holy vessels may be brought into a house built in honour of his name.

David was now an old man, weighed down with years, and he appointed Solomon his son king over Israel. He gathered together all the officers of Israel, the priests, and the Levites. The Levites were enrolled from the age of thirty upwards, their males being thirty-eight thousand in all. Of these, twenty-four thousand were to be responsible for the maintenance and service of the house of the LORD, six thousand to act as officers and magistrates, four thousand to be door-keepers, and four thousand to praise the LORD on the musical instruments which David had made for the service of praise. David organized them in divisions, called after Gershon, Kohath, and Merari, the sons of Levi.

The sons of Gershon: Laadan and Shimei. The sons of Laadan: Jehiel the chief, Zetham and Joel, three. The sons of Shimei: Shelomith, Haziel and Haran, three. These were the heads of the families grouped under Laadan. The sons of Shimei: Jahath, Ziza, Jeush and Beriah, four. Jahath was the chief and Ziza the second, but Jeush and Beriah, having few children, were reckoned for duty as a single family.

The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel, four. The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses. Aaron was set apart, he and his sons in perpetuity, to dedicate the most holy gifts, to burn sacrifices before the LORD, to serve him, and to give the blessing in his name for ever, but the sons of Moses, the man of God, were to keep the name of Levi. The sons of Moses: Gershom and Eliezer. The sons of Gershom: Shubael the chief. The sons of Eliezer: Rehabiah the chief. Eliezer had no other sons, but Rehabiah had very many. The sons of Izhar: Shelomoth the chief. The sons of Hebron: Jeriah the chief, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third and Jekameam the fourth. The sons of Uzziel: Micah the chief and Isshiah the second.

The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Mahli: Eleazar and Kish. When Eleazar died, he left daughters but no sons, and their cousins, the sons of Kish, married them. The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder and Jeremoth, three.

Such were the Levites, grouped by families in the father’s line whose heads were entered in the detailed list; they performed duties in the service of the house of the LORD, from the age of twenty upwards. For David said, ‘The LORD the God of Israel has given his people peace and has made his abode in Jerusalem for ever. The Levites will no longer have to carry the Tabernacle or any of the vessels for its service.’ By these last words of David the Levites were enrolled from the age of twenty upwards. Their duty was to help the sons of Aaron in the service of the house of the LORD: they...
were responsible for the care of the courts and the rooms, for the cleansing of all holy things, and the general service of the house of God; 29 for the rows of the Bread of the Presence, the flour for the grain-offerings, unleavened wafers, cakes baked on the griddle, and pastry, and for the weights and measures. 30 They were to be on duty continually before the LORD every morning and evening, giving thanks and praise to him, 31 and at every offering of whole-offerings to the LORD, on sabbaths, new moons and at the appointed seasons, according to their prescribed number. 32 The Levites were to have charge of the Tent of the Presence and of the sanctuary, but the sons of Aaron their kinsmen were charged with the service of worship in the house of the LORD.

24 1 The divisions of the sons of Aaron: his sons were Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. 2 Nadab and Abihu died before their father, leaving no sons; therefore Eleazar and Ithamar held the office of priest. 3 David, acting with Zadok of the sons of Eleazar and with Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, organized them in divisions for the discharge of the duties of their office. 4 The male heads of families proved to be more numerous in the line of Eleazar than in that of Ithamar, so that sixteen heads of families were grouped under the line of Eleazar and eight under that of Ithamar. 5 He organized them by drawing lots among them, for there were sacred officers and officers of God in the line of Eleazar and in that of Ithamar. 6 Shemaiah the clerk, a Levite, son of Nethaneel, wrote down the names in the presence of the king, the officers, Zadok the priest, and Ahimelech son of Abiathar, and of the heads of the priestly and levitical families, one priestly family being taken from the line of Eleazar and one from that of 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 Malchiah, the sixth to Mijamin, 10 the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abia, 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 Apheges, 16 the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezekel, 17 the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul, 18 the twenty-third to Delaiah, and the twenty-fourth to Maaziah. 19 This was their order of duty for the discharge of their service when they entered the house of the LORD, according to the rule prescribed for them by their ancestor Aaron, who had received his instructions from the LORD the God of Israel.

20 Of the remaining Levites: of the sons of Amram: Shubael. Of the sons of Shubael: Jehdeiah. 21 Of Rehabiah: Isshiah, the chief of Rehabiah’s sons. 22 Of the line of Izhar: Shelomoth. Of the sons of Shelomoth: Jahath. 23 The sons of Hebron: Jeriah the chief, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third and Jekameam the fourth. 24 The sons of Uzziel: Micah. Of the sons of Micah: Shamir; 25 Micah’s brother: Isshiah. Of the sons of Isshiah: Zechariah. 26 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi and also [and also: prob. rdg, Heb the sons of] Jaaziah his son. 27 The sons of Merari: of Jaaziah: Beno, Shoham, Zaccur and Iibri. 28 Of Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons; 29 of Kish: the sons of Kish: Jerahmeel; 30 and the sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder and Jerimoth. These were the Levites by families. 31 These also, side by side with their kinsmen the sons of Aaron, cast lots in the presence of King David, Zadok, Ahimelech, and the heads of the priestly and levitical families, the senior and junior houses casting lots side by side.
David and his chief officers assigned special duties to the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, leaders in inspired prophecy to the accompaniment of harps, lutes, and cymbals; the number of the men who performed this work in the temple was as follows. 

Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah and Asarelah; these were under Asaph, a leader in inspired prophecy under the king. Of the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Izri, Isaiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, Mattithiah, these six under their father Jeduthun, a leader in inspired prophecy to the accompaniment of the harp, giving thanks and praise to the LORD. Of the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shubael, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti-azer, Joshbekashah, Malloothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth; all these were sons of Heman the king’s seer, given to him through the promises of God for his greater glory. God had given Heman fourteen sons and three daughters, and they all served under their father for the singing in the house of the LORD; they took part in the service of the house of God, with cymbals, lutes, and harps, while Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the king. Reckoned with their kinsmen, trained singers of the LORD, they brought the total number of skilled musicians up to two hundred and eighty-eight. They cast lots for their duties, young and old, master-singer and apprentice side by side.

The first lot fell to Joseph: he and his brothers and his sons, twelve. The second to Gedaliah: he and his brothers and his sons, twelve. The third to Zaccur: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The fourth to Izri: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The fifth to Nethaniah: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The sixth to Bukkiah: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The seventh to Asarelah: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The eighth to Isaiah: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The ninth to Mattaniah: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The tenth to Shimei: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The eleventh to Azareel: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The twelfth to Hashabiah: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The thirteenth to Shubael: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The fourteenth to Mattithiah: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The fifteenth to Jeremoth: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The sixteenth to Hananiah: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The seventeenth to Joshbekashah: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The eighteenth to Hanani: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The nineteenth to Mallothi: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The twentieth to Eliathah: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The twenty-first to Hothir: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The twenty-second to Giddalti: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The twenty-third to Mahazioth: his sons and his brothers, twelve. The twenty-fourth to Romamti-azer: his sons and his brothers, twelve.

The divisions of the door-keepers: Korahites: Meshelemiah son of Kore, son of Ebiasaph. Sons of Meshelemiah: Zechariah the eldest, Jedial the second, Zebediah the third, Jathniel the fourth, Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth, Elioenai the seventh. Sons of Obed-edom: Shemaiah the eldest, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sacar the fourth, Nethaneel the fifth, Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, Peulthai the eighth (for God had blessed him). Shemaiah, his son, was the father of sons who had authority in their...
family, for they were men of great ability. 7 Sons of Shemaiah: Othni, Rephael, Obed, Elzabad and his brothers Elihu and Semachiah, men of ability. 8 All these belonged to the family of Obed-edom; they, their sons and brothers, were men of ability, fit for service in the temple; total: sixty-two. 9 Sons and brothers of Meshelemiah, all men of ability, eighteen. 10 Sons of Hosah, a Merarite: Shimri the chief (he was not the eldest, but his father had made him chief), Hilkiah the second, Tebaliah the third, Zechariah the fourth. Total of Hosah’s sons and brothers: thirteen.

12 The male heads of families constituted the divisions of the door-keepers; their duty was to serve in the house of the LORD side by side with their kinsmen. 13 Young and old, family by family, they cast lots for the gates. 14 The lot for the east gate fell to Shelemiah; then lots were cast for his son Zechariah, a prudent counsellor, and he was allotted the north gate. 15 To Obed-edom was allotted the south gate, and the gatehouse to his sons. 16 Hosah was allotted the west gate, together with the Shallecheth gate on the ascending causeway. Guard corresponded to guard. 17 Six Levites were on duty daily on the east side, four on the north and four on the south, and two at each gatehouse; 18 at the western colonnade there were four at the causeway and two at the colonnade itself. 19 These were the divisions of the door-keepers, Korahites and Merarites.

20 Fellow-Levites were in charge of the stores of the house of God and of the stores of sacred gifts. 21 Of the children of Laadan, descendants of the Gershonite line through Laadan, heads of families in the group of Laadan the Gershonite, Jehiel and his brothers Zetham and Joel were in charge of the stores of the house of the LORD. 22 Of the families of Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uziel, Shubael son of Gershom, son of Moses, was overseer of the stores. 23 The line of Eliezer his brother: his son Rehabiah, his son Isaiah, his son Joram, his son Zichri, and his son Shelomo. 24 This Shelomo and his kinsmen were in charge of all the stores of the sacred gifts dedicated by David the king, the heads of families, the officers over units of a thousand and a hundred, and other officers of the army. 25 They had dedicated some of the spoils taken in the wars for the upkeep of the house of the LORD. 26 Everything which Samuel the seer, Saul son of Kish, Abner son of Ner, and Joab son of Zeruiah had dedicated, in short every sacred gift, was under the charge of Shelomo and his kinsmen. 27 Of the family of Izhar, Kenaniah and his sons acted as clerks and magistrates in the secular affairs of Israel. 28 Of the family of Hebron, Hashabiah and his kinsmen, men of ability to the number of seventeen hundred, had the oversight of Israel west of the Jordan, both in the work of the LORD and in the service of the king. 29 Also of the family of Hebron, Jeriah was the chief. (In the fortieth year of David’s reign search was made in the family histories of the Hebronites, and men of great ability were found among them at Jazer in Gilead.) 30 His kinsmen, all men of ability, two thousand seven hundred of them, heads of families, were charged by King David with the oversight of the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, in religious and civil affairs alike.

27 1 THE NUMBER OF THE ISRAELITES – that is to say, of the heads of families, the officers over units of a thousand and a hundred, and the clerks who had their share in
the king’s service in the various divisions which took monthly turns of duty throughout
the year – was twenty-four thousand in each division.

2 First, Jashobeam son of Zabdiel commanded the division for the first month with
twenty-four thousand in his division; 3 a member of the house of Perez, he was chief
officer of the temple staff for the first month. 4 Eleazar son of [Eleazar son of: prob. rdg,
cp 11.12; Heb omitted] Dodai the Aohite commanded the division for the second
month with twenty-four thousand in his division. 5 Third, Benaiah son of Jehoiada the
chief priest, commander of the army, was the officer for the third month with twenty-
four thousand in his division (he was the Benaiah who was one of the thirty warriors
and was a chief among the thirty); but his son Ammizabad commanded his division.
6 Fourth, Asahel, the brother of Joab, was the officer commanding for the fourth month
with twenty-four thousand in his division; and his successor was Zebediah his son.
7 Fifth, Shamhuth the Zerahite [the Zerahite: prob. rdg, Heb the Izrah] was the officer
commanding for the fifth month with twenty-four thousand in his division. 8 Sixth, Ira
son of Ikkes, a man of Tekoa, was the officer commanding for the sixth month with
twenty-four thousand in his division. 9 Seventh, Helez an Epphaime, from a place
unknown, was the officer commanding for the seventh month with twenty-four thousand
in his division. 10 Eighth, Sibbecai the Hushathite, of the family of Zerah, was the officer
commanding for the eighth month with twenty-four thousand in his division. 11 Ninth,
Abiezer, from Anathoth in Benjamin, was the officer commanding for the ninth month
with twenty-four thousand in his division. 12 Tenth, Maharai the Netophathite, of the
family of Zerah, was the officer commanding for the tenth month with twenty-four thousand
in his division. 13 Eleventh, Benaiah the Pirathonite, from Ephraim, was the
officer commanding for the eleventh month with twenty-four thousand in his division.
14 Twelfth, Heldai the Netophathite, of the family of Othniel, was the officer commanding
for the twelfth month with twenty-four thousand in his division.

16 The following were the principal officers in charge of the tribes of Israel: of Reuben,
Eliezer son of Zichri; of Simeon, Shephatiah son of Maacah; 17 of Levi, Hashabiah son of
Kemuel; of Aaron, Zadok; 18 of Judah, Elihu a kinsman of David; of Issachar, Omri son
of Michael; 19 of Zebulun, Ishmaiah son of Obadiah; of Naphtali, Jerimoth son of Azriel;
20 of Ephraim, Hoshea son of Azaziah; of the half tribe of Manasseh, Joel son of Pedaiah;
21 of the half of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo son of Zechariah; of Benjamin, Jaasiel son of
Abner; 22 of Dan, Azareel son of Jeroham. These were the officers in charge of the tribes
of Israel.

23 David took no census of those under twenty years of age, for the LORD had promised
to make the Israelites as many as the stars in the heavens. 24 Joab son of Zeruiah did
begin to take a census but he did not finish it; this brought harm upon Israel, and the
census was not entered in the chronicle of King David’s reign.

25 Azmoth son of Adiel was in charge of the king’s stores; Jonathan son of Uzziah was in
charge of the stores in the country, in the cities, in the villages and in the fortresses.
26 Ezri son of Kelub had oversight of the workers on the land; 27 Shimeih of Ramah was in
charge of the vine-dressers, while Zabdi of Shephem had charge of the produce of the
vineyards for the wine-cellars. 28 Baal-hanan the Gederite supervised the wild olives and
the sycomore-figs in the Shephelah; Joash was in charge of the oil-stores. 29Shitrai of Sharon was in charge of the herds grazing in Sharon, Shaphat son of Adlai of the herds in the vales. 30Obil the Ishmaelite was in charge of the camels, Jehdeiah the Meronothite of the asses. 31Jaziz the Hagerite was in charge of the flocks. All these were the officers in charge of King David’s possessions. 32David’s favourite nephew Jonathan, a counsellor, a discreet and learned man, and Jehiel the Hachmonite, were tutors to the king’s sons. 33Ahithophel was a king’s counsellor; Hushai the Archite was the King’s Friend. 34Ahithophel was succeeded by Jehoiada son of Benaiah, and Abiathar. Joab was commander of the army.

28David assembled at Jerusalem all the officers of Israel, the officers over the tribes, over the divisions engaged in the king’s service, over the units of a thousand and a hundred, and those in charge of all the property and the cattle of the king and of his sons, as well as the eunuchs, the heroes and all the men of ability. Then King David rose to his feet and said, ‘Hear me, kinsmen and people. I had in mind to build a house as a resting-place for the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD which might serve as a footstool for the feet of our God, and I made preparations to build it. But God said to me, “You shall not build a house in honour of my name, for you have been a fighting man and you have shed blood.”’ 4Nevertheless, the LORD the God of Israel chose me out of all my father’s family to be king over Israel in perpetuity; for it was Judah that he chose as ruling tribe, and, out of the house of Judah, my father’s family; and among my father’s sons it was I whom he was pleased to make king over all Israel. 5And out of all my sons – for the LORD gave me many sons – he chose Solomon to sit upon the throne of the LORD’s sovereignty over Israel; 6and he said to me, “It is Solomon your son who shall build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be a son to me and I will be a father to him. 7I will establish his sovereignty in perpetuity, if only he steadfastly obeys my commandments and my laws as they are now obeyed.” 8Now therefore, in the presence of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and within the hearing of our God, I bid you all study carefully the commandments of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and hand it down as an inheritance for all time to your children after you. 9And you, Solomon my son, acknowledge your father’s God and serve him with whole heart and willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and discerns every invention of men’s thoughts. If you search for him, he will let you find him, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off for ever. 10Remember, then, that the LORD has chosen you to build a house for a sanctuary: be steadfast and do it.’

11David gave Solomon his son the plan of the porch of the temple [of the temple: prob. rdg, Heb omitted] and its buildings, strong-rooms, roof-chambers and inner courts, and the shrine of expiation [the shrine ... expiation: or the place for the Ark with its cover]; 12also the plans of all he had in mind for the courts of the house of the LORD and for all the rooms around it, for the stores of God’s house and for the stores of the sacred gifts, 13for the divisions of the priests and the Levites, for all the work connected with the service of the house of the LORD and for all the vessels used in its service. 14He prescribed the weight of gold for all the gold vessels [for ... vessels: prob. rdg, Heb for gold] used in the various services, and the weight of silver [of silver: prob. rdg, Heb omitted] for all the silver vessels used in the various services; 15and the weight of gold for the gold lamp-stands and their lamps; and the weight of silver for the silver lamp-
stands, the weight required for each lamp-stand and its lamps according to the use of each; 16 and the weight of gold for each of the tables for the rows of the Bread of the Presence, and of silver for the silver tables. 17 He prescribed also the weight of pure gold for the forks, tossing-bowls and cups, the weight of gold for each of the golden dishes and of silver [of silver: prob. rdg, Heb omitted] for each of the silver dishes; 18 the weight also of refined gold for the altar of incense, and of gold for the model of the chariot, that is the cherubim with their wings outspread to screen the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD. 19 All this was drafted by the LORD’s own hand,’ said David; ‘my part was to consider the detailed working out of the plan.’

20 Then David said to Solomon his son, ‘Be steadfast and resolute and do it; be neither faint-hearted nor dismayed, for the LORD God, my God, will be with you; he will neither fail you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work needed for the service of the house of the LORD. 21 Here are the divisions of the priests and the Levites, ready for all the service of the house of God. In all the work you will have the help of every willing craftsman for any task; and the officers and all the people will be entirely at your command.’

29 1 King David then said to the whole assembly, ‘My son Solomon is the one chosen by God, Solomon alone, a boy of tender years; and this is a great work, for it is a palace not for man but for the LORD God. 2 Now to the best of my strength I have made ready for the house of my God gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron, and wood for the woodwork, together with cornelian and other gems for setting, stones for mosaic work, precious stones of every sort, and marble in plenty. 3 Further, because I delight in the house of my God, I give my own private store of gold and silver for the house of my God – over and above all the store which I have collected for the sanctuary – 4 namely three thousand talents of gold, gold from Ophir, and seven thousand talents of fine silver for overlaying the walls of the buildings, 5 for providing gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, and for any work to be done by skilled craftsmen. Now who is willing to give with open hand to the LORD today?’

6 Then the heads of families, the officers administering the tribes of Israel, the officers over units of a thousand and a hundred, and the officers in charge of the king’s service, responded willingly 7 and gave for the work of the house of God five thousand talents of gold, ten thousand darics, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and a hundred thousand talents of iron. 8 Further, those who possessed precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the LORD, into the charge of Jehiel the Gershonite. 9 The people rejoiced at this willing response, because in the loyalty of their hearts they had given willingly to the LORD; King David also was full of joy, 10 and he blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly and said, ‘Blessed art thou, LORD God of our father Israel, from of old and for ever. 11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is thine [is thine: prob. rdg, Heb omitted], thine, O LORD, is the sovereignty, and thou art exalted over all as head. 12 Wealth and honour come from thee; thou rulest over all; might and power are of thy disposing; thine it is to give power and strength to all. 13 And now, we give thee thanks, our God, and praise thy glorious name.

14 But what am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to give willingly like
this? For everything comes from thee, and it is only of thy gifts that we give to thee. 

15 We are aliens before thee and settlers, as were all our fathers; our days on earth are like a shadow, we have no abiding place. 16 O LORD our God, from thee comes all this wealth that we have laid up to build a house in honour of thy holy name, and everything is thine. 17 I know, O my God, that thou dost test the heart and that plain honesty pleases thee; with an honest heart I have given all these gifts willingly, and have rejoiced now to see thy people here present give willingly to thee. 18 O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel our fathers, maintain this purpose for ever in thy people’s thoughts and direct their hearts toward thyself. 19 Grant that Solomon my son may loyally keep thy commandments, thy solemn charge, and thy statutes, that he may fulfil them all and build the palace for which I have prepared.’

20 Then, turning to the whole assembly, David said, ‘Now bless the LORD your God.’ So all the assembly blessed the LORD the God of their fathers, bowing low and prostrating themselves before the LORD and the king. 21 The next day they sacrificed to the LORD and offered whole-offerings to him, a thousand oxen, a thousand rams, a thousand lambs, with the prescribed drink-offerings, and abundant sacrifices for all Israel. 22 So they ate and drank before the LORD that day with great rejoicing. They then appointed Solomon, David’s son, king a second time and anointed him as the LORD’s prince, and Zadok as priest. 23 So Solomon sat on the LORD’s throne as king in place of his father David, and he prospered and all Israel obeyed him. 24 All the officers and the warriors, as well as all the sons of King David, swore fealty to King Solomon. 25 The LORD made Solomon stand very high in the eyes of all Israel, and bestowed upon him sovereignty such as no king in Israel had had before him.

26 David son of Jesse had ruled over the whole of Israel, 27 and the length of his reign over Israel was forty years; he ruled for seven years in Hebron, and for thirty-three in Jerusalem. 28 He died in ripe old age, full of years, wealth, and honour; and Solomon his son ruled in his place. 29 The events of King David’s reign from first to last are recorded in the books of Samuel the seer, of Nathan the prophet, and of Gad the seer, 30 with a full account of his reign, his prowess, and of the times through which he and Israel and all the kingdoms of the world had passed.