

David Makes Arrangements for Temple Services

First Chronicles 23:1 to 26:32

David started making the arrangements for Temple services several years before the end of his life.

At the end of **David's** life, after **he** had already effectively turned the reins of government over to **Solomon** (**First Chronicles 23:1**), **he** undertook the task of organizing and ensuring the perpetuation of a religious structure. **His** concern for the worship of **YHVH** in **the Temple** went beyond the material preparations that **he** had made for the construction of the physical building (see **Eo - David Makes Preparations for the Temple**). Of even more lasting significance were the arrangements that **he** made for the organization of its ministering personnel, **the Levites**. Guided by **ADONAI** through his prophets (**Second Chronicles 29:25**), **the king** exercised his administrative genius to establish a system of procedures that helped maintain legitimate worship under **his** successors, which also provided the operational framework for promoting the revival of Torah during the days of **Ezra** (see the commentary on **Ezra-Nehemiah Aq - The Revival of Temple Worship**), and that continued to meet the needs of **the LORD's** worshiping community during **Yeshua's** day (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Ak - The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold**).

In the last year of **his** life, **David** took a census of **the male Levites thirty years old or more** and **he** found that **they** numbered **38,000** at that time. His fundamental idea was to divide **the men** of the tribe into four operational units (**First Chronicles 23:4**):

24,000 the work of the Temple (**23:7 to 24:31**),

4,000 choir and musicians (**First Chronicles 25:1-31**),

4,000 gatekeepers, treasurers and other officials (**First Chronicles 26:1-28**), and

6,000 officials and judges (**First Chronicles 26:29-32**).

The priests, the musicians, and doubtless the Temple Levites as well, were specifically assigned to twenty-four different divisions. These subdivisions provided a means for rotating **them** in the service of **the LORD** on a monthly basis.⁵¹⁸