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The Second Numbering of the Levites

26: 57-62

The Levites were not counted along with the other Israelites because they received no land inheritance.



These were the Levites who were counted by their clans: through **Gershon**, the Gershonite clan (to see link click [Au](#) - The Clan of Gershom); through **Kohath**, the Kohathite clan (see [At](#) - The Clan of Kohath); through **Merari**, the Merarite clan (see [Av](#) - The Clan of Merari). These were also five Levite sub-clans: the **Libnite clan** of Gershon, the **Hebronite clan** of Kohath, the **Mahlite clan** of Merari, the **Mushite clan** of Merari, the **Korahite clan** of Kohath. However, three sub-clans are missing from the first numbering of the Levites (see [Aq](#) - The First Numbering of the Levites). The **Shimites** and the **Uzzielites** became extinct because they were probably much too small to receive their own inheritance and were absorbed by the others. In addition, the **Korahites** might be a name for the **Itzharites**, and the **Korahites**, not mentioned in the first counting, **Korah** was a descendent of **Itzhar** in **16:1**, explaining why **Itzhar's** name is

missing here.⁶¹⁵

The parenthetical passage on **Kohath, Amram, and Jochebed** is a reminder of earlier sections of the Torah (**Numbers 3:1-10** and **Exodus 6:20**), likely inserted here to assert once more the lineage of **Aaron**, and to remind **the priests** of the debacle of **Nadab and Abihu**. The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, a daughter of Levi, was born in Egypt. She bore Aaron, Moses, and their sister Miriam. Aaron was the father of Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. But Nadab and Abihu died when they made an offering before the Lord with unauthorized fire (see the commentary on **Leviticus Bh - The Death of Nadab and Abihu**). All the male Levites a month old or more numbered 23,000, an increase of 1,000 from the first numbering, or about five percent (see **As - The Census and the Redemption of the Firstborn**). They were not counted along with the other Israelites because they received no land inheritance among them; however, they lived in their own Levitical cities (see **Gj - Levitical Cities**).