
1CHRONICLES 6: 1 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

The genealogy of Levi and Aaron, vv. 1-30. The offices of the priests and Levites, vv. 31-53. The cities assigned them, vv. 54-81.

Verse 1

The sons of Levi - It has been well remarked that the genealogy of Levi is given here more ample and correct than that of any of the others.

And this is perhaps an additional proof that the author was a priest, felt much for the priesthood, and took care to give the genealogy of the Levitical and sacerdotal families, from the most correct tables; for with such tables we may presume he was intimately acquainted.

1CHRONICLES 6: 2 The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, and Hebron, and Uzziel.

1CHRONICLES 6: 3 The children of Amram: Aaron, and Moses, and Miriam. The sons of Aaron: Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

1CHRONICLES 6: 4 Eleazar became the father of Phinehas, Phinehas became the father of Abishua,

Verse 4

Eleazar begat Phinehas - As the high priesthood continued in this family for a long time, the sacred historian confines himself to this chiefly, omitting Nadab and Abihu, and even the family of Ithamar.

1CHRONICLES 6: 5 and Abishua became the father of Bukki, and Bukki became the father of Uzzi,

1CHRONICLES 6: 6 and Uzzi became the father of Zerahiah, and Zerahiah became the father of Meraioth,

1CHRONICLES 6: 7 Meraioth became the father of Amariah, and Amariah became the father of Ahitub,

1CHRONICLES 6: 8 and Ahitub became the father of Zadok, and Zadok became the father of Ahimaaz,

Verse 8

Ahitub begat Zadok - Through this person the high priesthood came again into the family of Eleazar.

1CHRONICLES 6: 9 and Ahimaaz became the father of Azariah, and Azariah became the father of Johanan,

1CHRONICLES 6: 10 and Johanan became the father of Azariah, (he it is who executed the priest's office in the house that Solomon built in Jerusalem),

Verse 10

Johanan - Supposed to be the same as Jehoiada.

Executed the priest's office - Probably this refers to the dignified manner in which Azariah opposed King Uzziah, who wished to invade the priest's office, and offer incense in the temple. See 2Chr 26:17, 2Chr 26:18.

1CHRONICLES 6: 11 and Azariah became the father of Amariah, and Amariah became the father of Ahitub,

1CHRONICLES 6: 12 and Ahitub became the father of Zadok, and Zadok became the father of Shallum,

1CHRONICLES 6: 13 and Shallum became the father of Hilkiah, and Hilkiah became the father of Azariah,

1CHRONICLES 6: 14 and Azariah became the father of Seraiah, and Seraiah became the father of Jehozadak;

Verse 14

Seraiah - He was put to death by Nebuchadnezzar, 2Kgs 25:18, 2Kgs 25:21.

1CHRONICLES 6: 15 Jehozadak went into captivity, when the LORD carried away Judah and Jerusalem by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.

1CHRONICLES 6: 16 The sons of Levi: Gershom, Kohath, and Merari.

1CHRONICLES 6: 17 These are the names of the sons of Gershom: Libni and Shimei.

1CHRONICLES 6: 18 The sons of Kohath were Amram, and Izhar, and Hebron, and Uzziel.

1CHRONICLES 6: 19 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. These are the families of the Levites according to their fathers' households.

1CHRONICLES 6: 20 Of Gershom: Libni his son, Jahath his son, Zimmah his son,

1CHRONICLES 6: 21 Joah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, Jeatherai his son.

1CHRONICLES 6: 22 The sons of Kohath: Amminadab his son, Korah his son, Assir his son,

Verse 22

Korah - See the history of this man, and his rebellion, Numbers 16:1-33.

1CHRONICLES 6: 23 Elkanah his son, and Ebiasaph his son, and Assir his son,

1CHRONICLES 6: 24 Tahath his son, Uriel his son, Uziah his son, and Shaul his son.

1CHRONICLES 6: 25 The sons of Elkanah: Amasai, and Ahimoth.

1CHRONICLES 6: 26 As for Elkanah, the sons of Elkanah: Zophai his son, and Nahath his son,

1CHRONICLES 6: 27 Eliab his son, Jeroham his son, Elkanah his son.

1CHRONICLES 6: 28 The sons of Samuel: the firstborn Joel, and the second Abijah.

Verse 28

The first-born Vashni, and Abiah - There is a great mistake in this verse: in 1Sam 8:2 we read, Now the name of his (Samuel's) first-born was Joel; and the name of his second Abiah. The word יואל Joel is lost out of the text in this place, and ושני vesheni, which signifies the second, and which refers to Abiah, is made here into a proper name. The Septuagint, Vulgate, and Chaldee, copy this blunder; but the Syriac and Arabic read as in 1Sam 8:2. The MSS. have all copied the corrupted Hebrew in this place. Jarchi labors to restore the true reading, and yet preserve the integrity of the text, by paraphrasing thus: "And the second, (ושני vesheni), in respect of the first, he was Abiah; and the second, in respect of Abiah, he was Joel."

These, Joel and Abiah, were the two sons of Samuel, who administered justice so badly that the people, being oppressed, began to murmur, and demanded a king. See 1Sam 8:1, etc.

1CHRONICLES 6: 29 The sons of Merari: Mahli, Libni his son, Shimei his son, Uzzah his son,

1CHRONICLES 6: 30 Shimea his son, Haggiah his son, Asaiah his son.

1CHRONICLES 6: 31 These are they whom David set over the service of song in the LORD's house, after that the ark had rest.

Verse 31

After that the ark had rest - The Targum says, "These are they whom David set over the service of the singing, in the house of the sanctuary, or tabernacle of the Lord, at the time in which the ark was brought into it;" that is, when it was brought from the house of Obed-edom.

1CHRONICLES 6: 32 They ministered with song before the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting, until Solomon had built the LORD's house in Jerusalem: and they waited on their office according to their order.

Verse 32

According to their order - This order is specified below.

1CHRONICLES 6: 33 These are those who waited, and their sons. Of the sons of the Kohathites: Heman the singer, the son of Joel, the son of Samuel,

1CHRONICLES 6: 34 the son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Eliel, the son of Toah,

1CHRONICLES 6: 35 the son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah, the son of Mahath, the son of Amasai,

1CHRONICLES 6: 36 the son of Elkanah, the son of Joel, the son of Azariah, the son of Zephaniah,

1CHRONICLES 6: 37 the son of Tahath, the son of Assir, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah,

1CHRONICLES 6: 38 the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel.

1CHRONICLES 6: 39 His brother Asaph, who stood on his right hand, even Asaph the son of Berechiah, the son of Shimea,

Verse 39

Asaph - This person, with Heman, the sons of Kora, Ethan, Jeduthun, etc., are celebrated in these books, and in the Psalms, for their skill in singing, and the part they performed in the public worship of God.

It is very likely that their singing was only a kind of recitative or chanting, such as we still find in the synagogues. It does not appear that God had especially appointed these singers, much less any musical instruments, (the silver trumpets excepted), to be employed in his service. Musical instruments in the house of God are, at least under the Gospel, repugnant to the spirit of Christianity, and tend not a little to corrupt the worship of God. Those who are fond of music in the theater are fond of it in the house of God when they go thither; and some, professing Christianity, set up such a spurious worship in order to draw people to hear the Gospel! This is doing evil that good may come of it; and by this means, light and trifling people are introduced into the Church of Christ, and when in, are generally very troublesome, hard to be pleased, and difficult to be saved.

1CHRONICLES 6: 40 the son of Michael, the son of Baaseiah, the son of Malchijah,

1CHRONICLES 6: 41 the son of Ethni, the son of Zerah, the son of Adaiah,

1CHRONICLES 6: 42 the son of Ethan, the son of Zimmah, the son of Shimei,

1CHRONICLES 6: 43 the son of Jahath, the son of Gershon, the son of Levi.

1CHRONICLES 6: 44 On the left hand their brothers the sons of Merari: Ethan the son of Kishi, the son of Abdi, the son of Malluch,

1CHRONICLES 6: 45 the son of Hashabiah, the son of Amaziah, the son of Hilkiah,

1CHRONICLES 6: 46 the son of Amzi, the son of Bani, the son of Shemer,

1CHRONICLES 6: 47 the son of Mahli, the son of Mushi, the son of Merari, the son of Levi.

1CHRONICLES 6: 48 Their brothers the Levites were appointed for all the service of the tabernacle of God's house.

1CHRONICLES 6: 49 But Aaron and his sons offered on the altar of burnt offering, and on the altar of incense, for all the work of the most holy place, and to make atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.

1CHRONICLES 6: 50 These are the sons of Aaron: Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son, Abishua his son,

Verse 50

These are the sons of Aaron - We have already had a list of these, (see 1Chr 6:3-16); this is a second, but less extensive, and is a proof that the writer of this book had several lists before him, from which he borrowed as he judged proper.

1CHRONICLES 6: 51 Bukki his son, Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son,

1CHRONICLES 6: 52 Meraioth his son, Amariah his son, Ahitub his son,

1CHRONICLES 6: 53 Zadok his son, Ahimaaz his son.

1CHRONICLES 6: 54 Now these are their dwelling places according to their encampments in their borders: to the sons of Aaron, of the families of the Kohathites (for theirs was the first lot),

Verse 54

Theirs was the lot - All the tribes and families obtained their respective inheritances by lot, but to the sons of Aaron was the first lot; and so the Syriac and Arabic have understood this place. The first lot, says Jarchi, fell to Judah, that they might give to the priests and the Levites the cities marked below. See an account of the possessions of the priests and Levites, Jos 20:1-9, 21.

1CHRONICLES 6: 55 to them they gave Hebron in the land of Judah, and its suburbs around it;

1CHRONICLES 6: 56 but the fields of the city, and its villages, they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh.

1CHRONICLES 6: 57 To the sons of Aaron they gave the cities of refuge, Hebron; Libnah also with its suburbs, and Jattir, and Eshtemoa with its suburbs,

1CHRONICLES 6: 58 and Hilen with its suburbs, Debir with its suburbs,

1CHRONICLES 6: 59 and Ashan with its suburbs, and Beth Shemesh with its suburbs;

1CHRONICLES 6: 60 and out of the tribe of Benjamin, Geba with its suburbs, and Allemeth with its suburbs, and Anathoth with its suburbs. All their cities throughout their families were thirteen cities.

Verse 60

All their cities - were thirteen - But there are only eleven reckoned here, Gibeon and Juttah being omitted, and the names of some of the others changed. None of the versions give the full number of names, although they all give the whole sum thirteen.

1CHRONICLES 6: 61 To the rest of the sons of Kohath were given by lot, out of the family of the tribe, out of the half-tribe, the half of Manasseh, ten cities.

1CHRONICLES 6: 62 To the sons of Gershom, according to their families, out of the tribe of Issachar, and out of the tribe of Asher, and out of the tribe of Naphtali, and out of the tribe of Manasseh in Bashan, thirteen cities.

1CHRONICLES 6: 63 To the sons of Merari were given by lot, according to their families, out of the tribe of Reuben, and out of the tribe of Gad, and out of the tribe of Zebulun, twelve cities.

1CHRONICLES 6: 64 The children of Israel gave to the Levites the cities with their suburbs.

1CHRONICLES 6: 65 They gave by lot out of the tribe of the children of Judah, and out of the tribe of the children of Simeon, and out of the tribe of the children of Benjamin, these cities which are mentioned by name.

Verse 65

Which are called by their names - Probably each family gave its own name to the city that fell to its lot.

1CHRONICLES 6: 66 Some of the families of the sons of Kohath had cities of their borders out of the tribe of Ephraim.

1CHRONICLES 6: 67 They gave to them the cities of refuge, Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim with its suburbs; Gezer also with its suburbs,

1CHRONICLES 6: 68 and Jokmeam with its suburbs, and Beth Horon with its suburbs,

1CHRONICLES 6: 69 and Aijalon with its suburbs, and Gath Rimmon with its suburbs;

Verse 69

Aijalon with her suburbs - There are the two cities wanting here, Eltekeh and Gibethon. See Jos 21:23.

1CHRONICLES 6: 70 and out of the half-tribe of Manasseh, Aner with its suburbs, and Bileam with its suburbs, for the rest of the family of the sons of Kohath.

1CHRONICLES 6: 71 To the sons of Gershom were given, out of the family of the half-tribe of Manasseh, Golan in Bashan with its suburbs, and Ashtaroth with its suburbs;

Verse 71

We shall see from Jos 21:28, etc., that several of these cities have different names.

How barren to us is this register, both of incident and interest! and yet, as barren rocks and sandy deserts make integral and necessary parts of the globe; so do these genealogical tables make necessary parts of the history of providence and grace in the maintenance of truth, and the establishment of the Church of Christ. Therefore no one that fears God will either despise or lightly esteem them.

1CHRONICLES 6: 72 and out of the tribe of Issachar, Kedesh with its suburbs, Daberath with its suburbs,

1CHRONICLES 6: 73 and Ramoth with its suburbs, and Anem with its suburbs;

1CHRONICLES 6: 74 and out of the tribe of Asher, Mashal with its suburbs, and Abdon with its suburbs,

1CHRONICLES 6: 75 and Hukok with its suburbs, and Rehob with its suburbs;

1CHRONICLES 6: 76 and out of the tribe of Naphtali, Kedesh in Galilee with its suburbs, and Hammon with its suburbs, and Kiriathaim with its suburbs.

1CHRONICLES 6: 77 To the rest of the Levites, the sons of Merari, were given, out of the tribe of Zebulun, Rimmono with its suburbs, Tabor with its suburbs;

1CHRONICLES 6: 78 and beyond the Jordan at Jericho, on the east side of the Jordan, were given them, out of the tribe of Reuben, Bezer in the wilderness with its suburbs, and Jahzah with its suburbs,

1CHRONICLES 6: 79 and Kedemoth with its suburbs, and Mephaath with its suburbs;

1CHRONICLES 6: 80 and out of the tribe of Gad, Ramoth in Gilead with its suburbs, and Mahanaim with its suburbs,

1CHRONICLES 6: 81 and Heshbon with its suburbs, and Jazer with its suburbs.
