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1CHRONICLES 24: 1 These were the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron: Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

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David divides the families of Eleazar and Ithamar, by lot, into twenty-four courses, vv. 1-19. How the rest of the sons of Levi were disposed of, 1Chr 24:20-31.

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1CHRONICLES 24: 2 But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children: therefore Eleazar and Ithamar executed the priest's office.

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Verse 2

Nadab and Abihu died before their father - That is, during his lifetime.

Eleazar and Ithamar executed the priest's office - These two served the office during the life of their father Aaron; after his death Eleazar succeeded in the high priesthood. And under Eli the high priest, the family of Ithamar re-entered into that office.

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1CHRONICLES 24: 3 David with Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, divided them according to their ordering in their service.

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Verse 3

And Ahimelech - Ahimelech is put here for Abiathar, who was high priest in the days of David. Abiathar had also the name of Ahimelech, as well as his father. See Calmet.

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1CHRONICLES 24: 4 There were more chief men found of the sons of Eleazar than of the sons of Ithamar; and they were divided like this: of the sons of Eleazar there were sixteen, heads of fathers' houses; and of the sons of Ithamar, according to their fathers' houses, eight.

1CHRONICLES 24: 5 Thus were they divided impartially by drawing lots; for there were princes of the sanctuary, and princes of God, both of the sons of Eleazar, and of the sons of Ithamar.

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Verse 5

They divided by lot - This prevented jealousies: for, as all the families were equally noble, they had equal right to all ecclesiastical and civil distinctions.

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1CHRONICLES 24: 6 Shemaiah the son of Nethanel the scribe, who was of the Levites, wrote them in the presence of the king, and the princes, and Zadok the priest, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar,

and the heads of the fathers' households of the priests and of the Levites; one fathers' house being taken for Eleazar, and one taken for Ithamar.

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Verse 6

And Shemaiah - "Moses the great scribe, who is called Shemaiah, the son of Nethaneel, of the tribe of Levi, wrote them down." - T.

One principal household - for Eleazar - The family of Eleazar was the most illustrious of the sacerdotal families, because Eleazar was the first-born of Aaron, Ithamar's family was the second in order and dignity; therefore one of the principal families of Eleazar was first taken, and then one of Ithamar's, and thus alternately till the whole was finished.

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1CHRONICLES 24: 7 Now the first lot came out to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah,

1CHRONICLES 24: 8 the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim,

1CHRONICLES 24: 9 the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin,

1CHRONICLES 24: 10 the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah,

1CHRONICLES 24: 11 the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah,

1CHRONICLES 24: 12 the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim,

1CHRONICLES 24: 13 the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab,

1CHRONICLES 24: 14 the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer,

1CHRONICLES 24: 15 the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizez,

1CHRONICLES 24: 16 the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel,

1CHRONICLES 24: 17 the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul,

1CHRONICLES 24: 18 the twenty-third to Delaiah, the twenty-fourth to Maaziah.

1CHRONICLES 24: 19 This was their ordering in their service, to come into the LORD's house according to the ordinance given to them by Aaron their father, as the LORD, the God of Israel, had commanded him.

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Verse 19

Under Aaron their father - That is, they followed the order and plans laid down by Aaron during his lifetime.

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1CHRONICLES 24: 20 Of the rest of the sons of Levi: of the sons of Amram, Shubael; of the sons of Shubael, Jehdeiah.

1CHRONICLES 24: 21 Of Rehabiah: of the sons of Rehabiah, Isshiah the chief.

1CHRONICLES 24: 22 Of the Izharites, Shelomoth; of the sons of Shelomoth, Jahath.

1CHRONICLES 24: 23 The sons of Hebron: Jeriah, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, Jekameam the fourth.

1CHRONICLES 24: 24 The sons of Uzziel, Micah; of the sons of Micah, Shamir.

1CHRONICLES 24: 25 The brother of Micah, Isshiah; of the sons of Isshiah, Zechariah.

1CHRONICLES 24: 26 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi; the sons of Jaaziah: Beno.

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Verse 26

The sons of Merari - It is remarkable that not a word is here spoken of the family of Gershom.

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1CHRONICLES 24: 27 The sons of Merari: of Jaaziah, Beno, and Shoham, and Zaccur, and Ibri.

1CHRONICLES 24: 28 Of Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons.

1CHRONICLES 24: 29 Of Kish; the sons of Kish: Jerahmeel.

1CHRONICLES 24: 30 The sons of Mushi: Mahli, and Eder, and Jerimoth. These were the sons of the Levites after their fathers' houses.

1CHRONICLES 24: 31 These likewise cast lots even as their brothers the sons of Aaron in the presence of David the king, and Zadok, and Ahimelech, and the heads of the fathers' households of the priests and of the Levites; the fathers' households of the chief even as those of his younger brother.

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Verse 31

These likewise cast lots - The Levites were divided into twenty-four orders; and these were appointed by lot to serve under the twenty-four orders of the priests: the first order of Levities under the first order of priests, and so on. The meaning is not very clear: "both elder and younger," says Bishop Patrick, "had their places by lot, not by seniority of houses. They who were of greater dignity drew lots against those who were of less; and were to take their courses according to the lot they drew." This may have been the case; but we are very little interested in the subject.