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1CHRONICLES 26: 1 For the divisions of the doorkeepers: of the Korahites, Meshelemiah the son of Kore, of the sons of Asaph.

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The divisions of the porters, 1Chr 26:1-12. The gates assigned to them, 1Chr 26:13-19. Those who were over the treasures, 1Chr 26:20-28. Different officers, 1Chr 26:29-32.

Verse 1

The divisions of the porters - There were four classes of these, each of which belonged to one of the four gates of the temple, which opened to the four cardinal points of heaven. The eastern gate fell to Shelemiah; the northern, to Zechariah, 1Chr 26:14; the southern, to Obed-edom, 1Chr 26:15; the western, to Shuppim and Hosah, 1Chr 26:16. These several persons were captains of these porter-bands or door-keepers at the different gates. There were probably a thousand men under each of these captains; as we find, from 1Chr 23:5, that there were four thousand in all.

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1CHRONICLES 26: 2 Meshelemiah had sons: Zechariah the firstborn, Jediael the second, Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth,

1CHRONICLES 26: 3 Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth, Eliehoenai the seventh.

1CHRONICLES 26: 4 Obed-Edom had sons: Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, and Sacar the fourth, and Nethanel the fifth,

1CHRONICLES 26: 5 Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, Peullethai the eighth; for God blessed him.

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Verse 5

For God blessed him - "That is, Obed-edom; because of the ark of the Lord which was in his house; and to him was given the honor that he should see his children and grand-children, even fourscore and two, masters of the Levites." - T. In 1Chr 26:8, we have only sixty-two mentioned.

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1CHRONICLES 26: 6 Also to Shemaiah his son were sons born, who ruled over the house of their father; for they were mighty men of valor.

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Verse 6

They were mighty men of valor - They were not only porters or door-keepers in the ordinary sense of the word, but they were a military guard for the gates: and perhaps in this sense alone we are to understand their office.

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1CHRONICLES 26: 7 The sons of Shemaiah: Othni, and Rephael, and Obed, Elzabad, whose brothers were valiant men, Elihu, and Semachiah.

1CHRONICLES 26: 8 All these were of the sons of Obed-Edom: they and their sons and their brothers, able men in strength for the service; sixty-two of Obed-Edom.

1CHRONICLES 26: 9 Meshelemiah had sons and brothers, valiant men, eighteen.

1CHRONICLES 26: 10 Also Hosah, of the children of Merari, had sons: Shimri the chief, (for though he was not the firstborn, yet his father made him chief),

1CHRONICLES 26: 11 Hilkiah the second, Tebaliah the third, Zechariah the fourth: all the sons and brothers of Hosah were thirteen.

1CHRONICLES 26: 12 Of these were the divisions of the doorkeepers, even of the chief men, having offices like their brothers, to minister in the LORD's house.

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Verse 12

The rest of this chapter, with the whole of the 28th, is wanting both in the Syriac and Arabic.

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1CHRONICLES 26: 13 They cast lots, the small as well as the great, according to their fathers' houses, for every gate.

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Verse 13

They cast lots - for every gate - None of these captains or their companies were permitted to choose which gate they would guard, but each took his appointment by lot.

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1CHRONICLES 26: 14 The lot eastward fell to Shelemiah. Then for Zechariah his son, a wise counsellor, they cast lots; and his lot came out northward.

1CHRONICLES 26: 15 To Obed-Edom southward; and to his sons the storehouse.

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Verse 15

The house of Asuppim - The house of the collections; the place where either the supplies of the porters, or the offerings made for the use of the priests and Levites, were laid up.

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1CHRONICLES 26: 16 To Shuppim and Hosah westward, by the gate of Shallecheth, at the causeway that goes up, watch against watch.

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Verse 16

The gate Shallecheth - The gate of the projections: probably that through which all the offal of the temple was carried out.

1CHRONICLES 26: 17 Eastward were six Levites, northward four a day, southward four a day, and for the storehouse two and two.

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Verse 17

Eastward were six Levites - It is supposed that there were more guards set at this eastern gate, because it was more frequented than the others. At each of the other gates were only four; at this, six.

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1CHRONICLES 26: 18 For Parbar westward, four at the causeway, and two at Parbar.

1CHRONICLES 26: 19 These were the divisions of the doorkeepers; of the sons of the Korahites, and of the sons of Merari.

1CHRONICLES 26: 20 Of the Levites, Ahijah was over the treasures of God's house, and over the treasures of the dedicated things.

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Verse 20

The treasures of the house of God - Where the money was kept, which was to be expended in oblations for the temple. - Jarchi.

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1CHRONICLES 26: 21 The sons of Ladan, the sons of the Gershonites belonging to Ladan, the heads of the fathers' households belonging to Ladan the Gershonite: Jehieli.

1CHRONICLES 26: 22 The sons of Jehieli: Zetham, and Joel his brother, over the treasures of the LORD's house.

1CHRONICLES 26: 23 Of the Amramites, of the Izharites, of the Hebronites, of the Uzzielites:

1CHRONICLES 26: 24 and Shebuel the son of Gershom, the son of Moses, was ruler over the treasures.

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Verse 24

Shebuel the son of Gershom - "Shebuel, that is, Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Moses, who returned to God [שבואל shebuel]. And David, seeing him expert in money matters, constituted him chief treasurer." - T.

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1CHRONICLES 26: 25 His brothers: of Eliezer, Rehabiah his son, and Jeshaiiah his son, and Joram his son, and Zichri his son, and Shelomoth his son.

1CHRONICLES 26: 26 This Shelomoth and his brothers were over all the treasures of the dedicated things, which David the king, and the heads of the fathers' households, the captains over thousands and hundreds, and the captains of the army, had dedicated.

1CHRONICLES 26: 27 They dedicated some of the plunder won in battles to repair the LORD's house.

#### Verse 27

The spoils won in battles did they dedicate - It seems these were intended for its repairs. This custom prevailed amongst almost all the people of the earth. All who acknowledged any supreme Being, believed that victory could only come through him; and therefore thought it quite rational to give him a share of the spoils. Proofs of this exist in all ancient histories: thus Virgil: -

*Irruimus ferro, et divos, ipsumque vocamus*

*In partem praedamque Jovem.*

*Aen. iii., ver. 222. "With weapons we the welcome prey invade:*

*Then call the gods for partners of our feast,*

*And Jove himself, the chief invited guest."*

Dryden.

On this passage Servius observes:

*Ipsum vocamus. Ipsum regem deorum, cui de praeda debetur aliquid: nam Romanis moris fuit, ut bella gessuri de parte praedae aliquid numinibus pollicerentur: adeo ut Romae fuerit unum templum Jovis Praedatoris: non quod praedae praeest, sed quod ei ex praeda aliquid debeatur. "Jupiter himself, the king of the gods, to whom a portion of the prey was due: for it was a custom among the Romans, when entering on a war, to promise some part of the prey to their deities. And there was a temple at Rome dedicated to Jupiter Praedator, not because he presided over the prey, but because a part of the prey was due to him."*

1CHRONICLES 26: 28 All that Samuel the seer, and Saul the son of Kish, and Abner the son of Ner, and Joab the son of Zeruiah, had dedicated, whoever had dedicated anything, it was under the hand of Shelomoth, and of his brothers.

1CHRONICLES 26: 29 Of the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons were for the outward business over Israel, for officers and judges.

#### Verse 29

Outward business - Work done without the city; cutting of timber, hewing stones, ploughing the fields belonging to the sanctuary. - Jarchi.

1CHRONICLES 26: 30 Of the Hebronites, Hashabiah and his brothers, men of valor, one thousand seven hundred, had the oversight of Israel beyond the Jordan westward, for all the business of the LORD, and for the service of the king.

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Verse 30

In all the business of the Lord - Every thing that concerned ecclesiastical matters.

In the service of the king - Every thing that concerned civil affairs: see also 1Chr 26:32.

Thus courts of ecclesiastical and civil judicature were established in the land; and due care taken to preserve and insure the peace of the Church, and the safety of the state; without which the public welfare could neither be secured nor promoted. Whatever affects religion in any country, must affect the state or government of that country: true religion alone can dispose men to civil obedience. Therefore, it is the interest of every state to protect and encourage religion. It would certainly be ruinous to true religion, to make the state dependent on the Church; nor should the Church be dependent on the state. Let them mutually support each other; and let the state rule by the laws, and the Church live by the Bible.

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1CHRONICLES 26: 31 Of the Hebronites was Jerijah the chief, even of the Hebronites, according to their generations by fathers' households. In the fortieth year of the reign of David they were sought for, and there were found among them mighty men of valor at Jazer of Gilead.

1CHRONICLES 26: 32 His brothers, men of valor, were two thousand seven hundred, heads of fathers' households, whom king David made overseers over the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half-tribe of the Manassites, for every matter pertaining to God, and for the affairs of the king.

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