

# 1 Chronicles 15:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it.

## Analysis

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**Theological Analysis:** This passage falls within the section on Proper ark transport - Levitical worship order. The Hebrew term 'לֵי' (Levi) - joined/attached is theologically significant here, pointing to Ordained worship according to God's prescription. The Chronicler's narrative, while paralleling Samuel-Kings in places, offers a distinct theological perspective emphasizing temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Chronicles presents David not primarily as warrior-king but as worship organizer and temple planner. This verse contributes to that portrait by highlighting the spiritual dimensions of Israel's national life. The text demonstrates that true prosperity comes through proper worship and covenant obedience rather than merely military or political success.

Doctrinally, this passage teaches about Ordained worship according to God's prescription. Cross-references throughout Chronicles connect David's reign to the broader redemptive narrative, showing how God's covenant promises advance through faithful human leadership while ultimately depending on divine grace and power. The messianic implications are profound: Christ as true temple and worship center.

## Historical Context

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**Historical Background:** This section describes events from David's reign (c. 1010-970 BCE) but was written centuries later during the Persian period (c. 450-400 BCE). The Chronicler's selectivity in retelling David's story serves his theological purposes—he omits David's sins (Bathsheba, Absalom's rebellion) while emphasizing David's worship reforms and temple preparations.

The historical setting of Proper ark transport - Levitical worship order occurred during Israel's united monarchy, when the nation reached its territorial and political zenith. Archaeological evidence from this period shows significant building projects and administrative development. However, the Chronicler writes for a much smaller, struggling post-exilic community, using David's golden age to inspire hope for restoration.

Ancient Near Eastern parallels show that temple construction and royal sponsorship of worship were common across cultures. However, Israel's understanding of worship centered on covenant relationship with the one true God rather than manipulation of capricious deities. This theological distinctiveness shapes the Chronicler's presentation.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse's emphasis on Ordained worship according to God's prescription challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?

2. What does Christ as true temple and worship center teach you about Jesus Christ and His redemptive work?
3. In what practical ways can you apply the principles of covenant faithfulness and proper worship demonstrated in this passage?

## Interlinear Text

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<b>And said</b> H559	<b>אָתָּה</b> H859	<b>לְךָ</b> H0	<b>מִן</b> H859	<b>בְּאֵשׁ</b> H7218	<b>רָאשֵׁי</b> H1	<b>בָּנָבָת</b> H3881	<b>לְלִוִּיִּם</b> H3881
				<b>unto them Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites</b>			
<b>sanctify</b> H6942	<b>אַתָּה</b> H859	<b>מִתְקִדְשָׁו</b> H251	<b>תִּפְעַלְתָּם</b> H5927				
				<b>yourselves both ye and your brethren that ye may bring up</b>			
<b>the ark</b> H727	<b>אֲרָן</b> H3068	<b>יְהֹוָה</b> H430	<b>אֱלֹהִים</b> H3478	<b>אֱלֹהָיָלְךָ</b> H413			
				<b>unto the place that I have prepared</b>			
				<b>לְכַדֵּן</b> H0			
<b>H3559</b>							

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Chronicles 35:6** (References Lord): So kill the passover, and sanctify yourselves, and prepare your brethren, that they may do according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

**1 Chronicles 15:14** (References God): So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

**2 Chronicles 30:15** (References Lord): Then they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of the LORD.

