

# 1 Chronicles 23:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These were the sons of Levi after the house of their fathers; even the chief of the fathers, as they were counted by number of names by their polls, that did the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from the age of twenty years and upward.

## Analysis

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**Theological Analysis:** This passage falls within the section on Levitical divisions and temple service organization. The Hebrew term *עֲבוֹדָה* (avodah) - service/work is theologically significant here, pointing to Ordered worship according to divine pattern. 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 Ordered worship according to divine pattern. 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: Priesthood of all believers under Christ.

## 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 Levitical divisions and temple service organization 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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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse's emphasis on Ordered worship according to divine pattern challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?

2. What does Priesthood of all believers under Christ 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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אֵלֶּה	מִבְּנֵי	לֵוִי	בֵּית	הָאָבֹת	כֹּאֲשֵׁי
H428	<b>These were the sons</b>	<b>of Levi</b>	<b>after the house</b>	<b>of the fathers</b>	<b>even the chief</b>
	H1121	H3878	H1004	H1	H7218
הָאָבֹת	לְפָקוּדֵיהֶם	בְּמִסְפָּר	שִׁמוֹת	לְגִלְגָּלָתָם	עָשָׂה
<b>of the fathers</b>	<b>as they were counted</b>	<b>by number</b>	<b>of names</b>	<b>by their polls</b>	<b>that did</b>
H1	H6485	H4557	H8034	H1538	H6213
הַמְלָאכָה	לְעִבְדָּתָה	בֵּית	יְהוָה	מִבְּנֵי	
<b>the work</b>	<b>for the service</b>	<b>after the house</b>	<b>of the LORD</b>	<b>These were the sons</b>	
H4399	H5656	H1004	H3068	H1121	
עֶשְׂרִים	שָׁנָה	וּמֵעַלָּה:			
<b>of twenty</b>	<b>years</b>	<b>and upward</b>			
H6242	H8141	H4605			

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Chronicles 23:3** (Parallel theme): Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and upward: and their number by their polls, man by man, was thirty and eight thousand.

**Numbers 10:21** (Parallel theme): And the Kohathites set forward, bearing the sanctuary: and the other did set up the tabernacle against they came.

**Numbers 10:17** (Parallel theme): And the tabernacle was taken down; and the sons of Gershon and the sons of Merari set forward, bearing the tabernacle.

**Numbers 4:3** (Parallel theme): From thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.

**Numbers 8:24** (Parallel theme): This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation:

**Ezra 3:8** (References Lord): Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the LORD.

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