

# 1 Chronicles 24:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These likewise cast lots over against their brethren the sons of Aaron in the presence of David the king, and Zadok, and Ahimelech, and the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites, even the principal fathers over against their younger brethren.

## Analysis

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**Theological Analysis:** This passage falls within the section on Priestly divisions - 24 courses for temple service. The Hebrew term מִשְׁמָרָה (mishmar) - division/watch is theologically significant here, pointing to Systematic approach to ministry and worship. 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 Systematic approach to ministry and worship. 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's perpetual priesthood.

## 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 Priestly divisions - 24 courses for temple service 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

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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse's emphasis on Systematic approach to ministry and worship challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?

2. What does Christ's perpetual priesthood 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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וּפִילּוּ	גַּם	וְהֵם	גּוֹזְלִים	לְעֵמָּךְ	אֶחָיו	בְּנֵי
<b>These likewise cast</b>	H1571	H1992	<b>lots</b>	<b>over against</b>	<b>brethren</b>	<b>the sons</b>
H5307			H1486	H5980	H251	H1121
אֶהָרִי	לִפְנֵי	יְדִיד	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וְצָדִיק	וְאַחִימֶלֶךְ	
<b>of Aaron</b>	<b>in the presence</b>	<b>of David</b>	<b>the king</b>	<b>and Zadok</b>	<b>and Ahimelech</b>	
H175	H6440	H1732	H4428	H6659	H288	
וְהָרֹאשׁ	אֲבֹתָם	לְכֹהֲנֵי	וְלִלְוִיִּם	אֲבֹתָם	וְהָרֹאשׁ	
<b>and the chief</b>	<b>fathers</b>	<b>of the priests</b>	<b>and Levites</b>	<b>fathers</b>	<b>and the chief</b>	
H7218	H1	H3548	H3881	H1	H7218	
לְעֵמָּךְ	אֶחָיו	הַקָּטָן:				
<b>over against</b>	<b>brethren</b>	<b>their younger</b>				
H5980	H251	H6996				

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Chronicles 26:13** (Parallel theme): And they cast lots, as well the small as the great, according to the house of their fathers, for every gate.

**1 Chronicles 25:8** (Parallel theme): And they cast lots, ward against ward, as well the small as the great, the teacher as the scholar.