

1 Chronicles 24:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Shemaiah the son of Nethaneel the scribe, one of the Levites, wrote them before the king, and the princes, and Zadok the priest, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and before the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites: one principal household being taken for Eleazar, and one taken for Ithamar.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on Priestly divisions - 24 courses for temple service. The Hebrew term **מִשְׁמָר** (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

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

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

וְלֹא יִמְלֹךְ מִן	הַסּוֹף רְגִמְנָא לְבִנְיָה	נִתְנָא לְבִנְיָה	שְׁמֻמָּה	וְלֹא יִכְתְּבֵן	וְלֹא יִכְתְּבֵן
wrote	And Shemaiah	the son	of Nethaneel	the scribe	and Levites
H3789	H8098	H1121	H5417	H4480	H3881
לְפָנֵי	בְּפָנָה	וּבְפָנָה	וּבְפָנָה	לְפָנֵי	לְפָנֵי
them before	the king	and the princes	and Zadok	of the priests	and Ahimelech
H6440	H4428	H8269	H6659	H3548	H288
וְלֹא יִמְלֹךְ מִן	לְפָנֵי יִם	אֲבִיתְר בֶּן	אֲבִיתְר בֶּן	לְפָנֵי יִם	וְלֹא יִמְלֹךְ מִן
the son	of Abiathar	and before the chief	of the fathers	of the priests	and Levites
H1121	H54	H7218	H1	H3548	H3881
בֵּית	אֲבִיתְר	וְלֹא יִמְלֹךְ מִן	אֲבִיתְר	לְאַלְעָזָר	אֲבִיתְר
household	of the fathers	one	and one taken	for Eleazar	and one taken
H1004	H1	H259	H270	H499	H270
אֲחִים	לְאַיִתְמָרָה	אֲחִים	אֲחִים	לְאַיִתְמָרָה	אֲחִים
and one taken	for Ithamar	H385			

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 18:16 (Parallel theme): And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Abimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests; and Shavsha was scribe;