

# Ezra 8:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiah of the sons of Merari,  
his brethren and their sons, twenty;

## Analysis

---

**And Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiah of the sons of Merari**—חסביה (Chashabyah, 'Yahweh has considered/esteemed') and ישעיה (Yesha'yah, 'Yahweh is salvation') are both Merarite Levites בנֵי מְרָרִי (benei Merari). The Merarites handled the tabernacle's structural framework—frames, bars, pillars, bases (Numbers 3:36-37, 4:29-33)—heavy labor requiring strength and organizational skill. Their willingness to return suggests they understood the rebuilt temple needed not just priests for sacrifice but Levites for maintenance and logistics.

**His brethren and their sons, twenty**—the enumeration (eighteen in v. 18, twenty here) emphasizes these weren't individuals but family units with multi-generational commitment. The אחים (achim, brothers/kinsmen) and בניהם (beneihem, their sons) indicate entire clans making permanent relocation decisions. This family solidarity strengthened the fragile Jerusalem community—they brought not just workers but future generations committed to temple service.

## Historical Context

---

The Merarites' specialized role in temple infrastructure made them especially valuable to Jerusalem's struggling community. The temple was complete but likely needed ongoing maintenance and expansion. Bringing skilled craftsmen committed to sacred service addressed practical needs while also ensuring continuity of proper Levitical functions according to Mosaic law. These families would become

part of the permanent Levitical establishment serving in rotation (1 Chronicles 24-26).

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

---

1. What does the recruitment of entire families rather than individuals teach about sustainable ministry?
2. How does the Merarites' specialized role (structural maintenance) illustrate the diversity of gifts needed in God's work?
3. In what ways do modern churches neglect 'support roles' (Merarites) while prioritizing 'visible roles' (priests)?

## Interlinear Text

---

מִרְאֵת	וּבְנֵי	מִ	מִרְאֵרִי	וּבְנֵי	מִ	וְאֶת	וְחֶשְׁבֵן	הַיְשָׁעִי	הַיְשָׁעִי	וְאֶת	וְחֶשְׁבֵן	הַיְשָׁעִי
H853	And Hashabiah	H854	and with him	Jeshaiah	and their sons	of Merari						
H2811			H3470		H1121	H4847						

  

עֲשָׂרִים:	וּבְנֵי	מִ	אֶת	וְאֶת
his brethren	and their sons		twenty	

  

H251		H1121	H6242
------	--	-------	-------

## Additional Cross-References

---

**1 Chronicles 6:1** (Parallel theme): The sons of Levi; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

**1 Chronicles 6:16** (Parallel theme): The sons of Levi; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

---

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org