

# Numbers 3:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the sons of Merari by their families; Mahli, and Mushi.  
These are the families of the Levites according to the house of  
their fathers.

## Analysis

---

The naming of Merari's sons completes the Levitical genealogical record, demonstrating that God's care extends to the seemingly least prominent. The Merarites transported the tabernacle's structural framework—boards, bars, pillars, and sockets (Numbers 3:36-37)—the heavy, foundational components. This illustrates that kingdom work includes both spectacular and mundane tasks, with the structural support work being as necessary as the more visible responsibilities.

## Historical Context

---

The Merarites descended from Levi's third son Merari (Exodus 6:19). They camped on the north side of the tabernacle (Numbers 3:35) and handled the heavy structural components, receiving wagons and oxen to assist their work (Numbers 7:8) unlike the Kohathites who carried the holy furnishings on their shoulders.

## Related Passages

---

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment



## Study Questions

---

1. How does the Merarites' structural support work illustrate that kingdom service includes necessary but less visible responsibilities?
2. What does this teach us about valuing the foundational support work that enables more visible ministries to function?

## Interlinear Text

---

וּבְנֵי י	מֶרָרִי י	מִשְׁפַּחַת	מַחֲלִי י	וּמוֹשׁ י	אֵלֶּה	הֵם
And the sons	of Merari	by their families	Mahli	and Mushi	H428	These are
H1121	H4847	H4940	H4249	H4187		H1992
מִשְׁפַּחַת	הַלִּוִּי י	לְבֵית	אֲבֹתָם:			
by their families	of the Levites	according to the house	of their fathers			
H4940	H3881	H1004	H1			

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Exodus 6:19** (Parallel theme): And the sons of Merari; Mahali and Mushi: these are the families of Levi according to their generations.

**1 Chronicles 6:19** (Parallel theme): The sons of Merari; Mahli, and Mushi. And these are the families of the Levites according to their fathers.