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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**The Late Bishop E. Samuel Green, Establishmentarian**

**“TEMPLE GATEKEEPERS”**

**1 Chronicles 26:1-32**

***﻿I Chronicles 26:1 "Concerning the divisions of the porters: Of the Korhites [was] Meshelemiah the son of Kore, of the sons of Asaph."***

This chapter completes David’s preparations for the future temple. He wanted desperately to build a Temple for God to dwell in but was prohibited by God because of innocent blood on his hands.

***1 Chronicles 22:8 “But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight.”***

The porters are “gatekeepers” who would be the keepers of the entrance to the temple. The gatekeepers served as a security detail around the various gates, and they were carefully selected. Again, David is preparing all of this ahead of time for his son, Solomon. Solomon was quite young and inexperienced. David was helping him, so he would not make an error about the Levitical family caring for the worship in the temple. This would all be set ahead of time, and there would be no trouble about who would do the different things. All of the men above are Levites. They are in the service of the LORD, as keepers of the entrance to the temple.

***I Chronicles 26:2 "And the sons of Meshelemiah [were], Zechariah the firstborn, Jediael the second, Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth,"***

***I Chronicles 26:3 "Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth, Elioenai the seventh."***

***I Chronicles 26:4 "Moreover the sons of Obed-edom [were], Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, and Sacar the fourth, and Nethaneel the fifth,"***

***I Chronicles 26:5 "Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, Peulthai the eighth: for God blessed him."***

***I Chronicles 26:6 "Also unto Shemaiah his son were sons born, that ruled throughout the house of their father: for they [were] mighty men of valour."***

***I Chronicles 26:7 The sons of Shemaiah; Othni, and Rephael, and Obed, Elzabad, whose brethren [were] strong men, Elihu, and Semachiah."***

***I Chronicles 26:8 All these of the sons of Obed-edom: they and their sons and their brethren, able men for strength for the service, [were] threescore and two of Obed-edom."***

***I Chronicles 26:9 "And Meshelemiah had sons and brethren, strong men, eighteen."***

***I Chronicles 26:10 "Also Hosah, of the children of Merari, had sons; Simri the chief, (for [though] he was not the firstborn, yet his father made him the chief;)"***

***I Chronicles 26:11 "Hilkiah the second, Tebaliah the third, Zechariah the fourth: all the sons and brethren of Hosah [were] thirteen."***

Meshelemiah was a Levite of the family of Kore. He, with his seven sons and brethren, were keepers of the eastern gate. Zechariah was the only exception. It was his duty to watch the northern gate. All of those of Obed-edom were 62. Each of his sons were spoken of as being mighty men of great strength. Hosah was one of the porters mentioned at the time they moved the ark. The fact that Simri was made chief, probably, indicates that the firstborn had died. This eighteen, added to the 62 of Obed-edom, make the keepers of the gates, or doors, from the Korahites a total of 80. This thirteen added to the eighty Korathites, bring the count to ninety-three porters or, doorkeepers.

***I Chronicles 26:12 "Among these [were] the divisions of the porters, [even] among the chief men, [having] wards one against another, to minister in the house of the LORD."***

***I Chronicles 26:13 "And they cast lots, as well the small as the great, according to the house of their fathers, for every gate."***

These ninety-three were actually the leaders of the four thousand porters who would guard the entrances. The numbers varied from time to time. The casting of lots was the same as in the other circumstances, to find out which watch they would take. It, also, would determine what gate they would watch. This doesn’t mean, however, that the assignments were random. The Lord providentially directs all things. God’s kingdom is a “theocracy” not a “democracy.” God is always just but not necessarily fair.

***Proverbs 16:33 “The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord.”***

***Psalm 75:7 But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.***

***Romans 9:15-16***

***15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.***

***16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.***

***I Chronicles 26:14 "And the lot eastward fell to Shelemiah. Then for Zechariah his son, a wise counsellor, they cast lots; and his lot came out northward."***

***I Chronicles 26:15 "To Obed-edom southward; and to his sons the house of Asuppim."***

***I Chronicles 26:16 "To Shuppim and Hosah [the lot came forth] westward, with the gate Shallecheth, by the causeway of the going up, ward against ward."***

***I Chronicles 26:17 "Eastward [were] six Levites, northward four a day, southward four a day, and toward Asuppim two [and] two."***

***I Chronicles 26:18 "At Parbar westward, four at the causeway, [and] two at Parbar."***

Each family was responsible for the gate they received by lot. There were guards stationed at every watch. Within the family, they took turns watching their gate. We see that at each gate, there were no fewer than 2 men at any given time. There were 6 men all the time on the eastern side. There were 4 on the north and 4 on the south. There seemed to be 2 on 2 gates toward Asuppim. The 4 at the causeway and 4 at Parbar bring the total guards on duty at any one time to 24. The temple of the Lord was to function twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The doors didn’t close. This reminds us that worshiping God is full-time work.

***I Chronicles 26:19 "These [are] the divisions of the porters among the sons of Kore, and among the sons of Merari."***

***I Chronicles 26:20 "And of the Levites, Ahijah [was] over the treasures of the house of God, and over the treasures of the dedicated things."***

The porters were Levites, also. They were in the service of the LORD the same as the priests. They were just serving in a different area. These porters were descended from Merari and Kore. This has jumped from porters to treasurers of the house of God. Again, they were Levites. Ahijah had the special ministry of caring for the treasury of the temple.

***I Chronicles 26:21 "[As concerning] the sons of Laadan; the sons of the Gershonite Laadan, chief fathers, [even] of Laadan the Gershonite, [were] Jehieli."***

***I Chronicles 26:22 "The sons of Jehieli; Zetham, and Joel his brother, [which were] over the treasures of the house of the LORD."***

Just as in the other ministerial activities, they worked their shift and turned the ministry over to the next person in charge, so did the treasurers. These mentioned above, who were in charge of the treasures, were Gershonites. They are descended through Laadan. Libni is the same as Laadan.

***I Chronicles 26:23 "Of the Amramites, [and] the Izharites, the Hebronites, [and] the Uzzielites:"***

***I Chronicles 26:24 "And Shebuel the son of Gershom, the son of Moses, [was] ruler of the treasures."***

This family goes back to Amram through Moses. It appears from this, that Moses' descendents were to be the ruler over the treasures, and the others mentioned were to do the actual work of keeping track of it. The Izrahites were the family of Izhar, brother of Amram. The Hebronites were the family of Hebron, brother of Amram.

***I Chronicles 26:25 "And his brethren by Eliezer; Rehabiah his son, and Jeshaiah his son, and Joram his son, and Zichri his son, and Shelomith his son."***

***I Chronicles 26:26 "Which Shelomith and his brethren [were] over all the treasures of the dedicated things, which David the king, and the chief fathers, the captains over thousands and hundreds, and the captains of the host, had dedicated."***

This seems to be too many people to be over the treasures, until we remember back that David had dedicated billions of dollars worth of gold, and silver, and so much bronze it was too much to weigh. Thinking in that line, we can see the need for all of these men to work with those things dedicated to the house of the LORD. Eliezer, here, is speaking of the brother of Gershom. Their father is Moses. The workers in the treasures as captains are descended from Moses.

***I Chronicles 26:27 "Out of the spoils won in battles did they dedicate to maintain the house of the LORD."***

***I Chronicles 26:28 "And all that Samuel the seer, and Saul the son of Kish, and Abner the son of Ner, and Joab the son of Zeruiah, had dedicated; [and] whosoever had dedicated [any thing, it was] under the hand of Shelomith, and of his brethren."***

This is explaining where this great wealth came from. Most of it came from spoils of war. It appears that Samuel, Saul, Abner, and Joab had all added to the dedicated things. God had been greatly with Israel in battle during the time of Saul, as well as in the time of David. Much wealth was accumulated and dedicated to the house of the LORD from the battles they were in. Abner was Saul's uncle, but he was best known for being a mighty warrior. At one time, he was commander-in-chief of Saul's army. Joab led David's army.

***I Chronicles 26:29 "Of the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons [were] for the outward business over Israel, for officers and judges."***

***I Chronicles 26:30 "[And] of the Hebronites, Hashabiah and his brethren, men of valour, a thousand and seven hundred, [were] officers among them of Israel on this side Jordan westward in all the business of the LORD, and in the service of the king."***

***I Chronicles 26:31 "Among the Hebronites [was] Jerijah the chief, [even] among the Hebronites, according to the generations of his fathers. In the fortieth year of the reign of David they were sought for, and there were found among them mighty men of valour at Jazer of Gilead."***

The family of Izhar was in service to the LORD as judges and officers. They were scribes, as well. These were of the family of Hebron. These were like keepers of the law in civil matters. Jerijah was the same as Jeriah. This is the end of David's reign which lasted 40 years. They were found at Jazer of Gilead at the end of David's reign. It appears, that they were part of the men that were classified as David's mighty men.

***I Chronicles 26:32 "And his brethren, men of valour, [were] two thousand and seven hundred chief fathers, whom king David made rulers over the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, for every matter pertaining to God, and affairs of the king."***

The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh were on the eastern side of the Jordan. All of the matters of the land were pertaining to God. The civil law and the moral law were both part of the Levitical law. It appears, they watched over these tribes across the Jordan to make sure they were keeping God's law. They were actually in service to the LORD, but served David, as well.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who were the porters?
2. Why was David making great preparation for the temple?
3. Meshelemiah was a Levite of the family of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. They were keepers of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gate.
5. Zechariah was keeper of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gate.
6. How many were there of Obed-edom?
7. How many men of Meshelemiah were there?
8. Hosah was of the children of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
9. What special thing had Hosah done?
10. How many porters, or doorkeepers, who were leaders, were there?
11. The casting of lots was for what?
12. How many men were on duty at the eastern gate at any time?
13. How many total guards were there at one time?
14. Verse 20 says, that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was over the treasures of the house of God.
15. Who were some of the other men whose ministry was the treasures?
16. Who was ruler over the treasures?
17. Why are all of these people over the dedicated things not too many men?
18. Where had the treasures come from?
19. Who had gathered these dedicated things?
20. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ led David's army.
21. Who were the judges and officers?
22. In verse 30, the men were keepers of the law in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ matters.
23. How long did David's reign last?
24. Who were made rulers of the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh?
25. What were they watching over them for?