The Division of Priests

The Rest of the Levites

1 Chronicles 24:1-31
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Texts:

1 Chronicles 24:1-31,

1. The divisions of Aaron’s descendants were as follows: The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.
2. Nadab and Abihu died before their father did; they had no sons. Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests.
3. David, Zadok (a descendant of Eleazar), and Ahimelech (a descendant of Ithamar) divided them into groups to carry out their assigned responsibilities.
4. The descendants of Eleazar had more leaders than the descendants of Ithamar, so they divided them up accordingly; the descendants of Eleazar had sixteen leaders, while the descendants of Ithamar had eight.
5. They divided them by lots, for there were officials of the holy place and officials designated by God among the descendants of both Eleazar and Ithamar.
6. The scribe Shemaiah son of Nethanel, a Levite, wrote down their names before the king, the officials, Zadok the priest, Ahimelech son of Abiathar, and the leaders of the priestly and Levite families. One family was drawn by lot from Eleazar, and then the next from Ithamar.
7. The first lot went to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah,
8. the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim,
9. the fifth to Malkijah, the sixth to Mijamin,
10. the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah,
11. the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah,
12. the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim,
13. the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab,
14. the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer,
15. the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizzez,
16. the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezekel,
17. the twenty-first to Jakin, the twenty-second to Gamul,
18. the twenty-third to Delaiah, the twenty-fourth to Maaziah.
19. This was the order in which they carried out their assigned responsibilities when they entered the Lord’s temple, according to the regulations given them by their ancestor Aaron, just as the Lord God of Israel had instructed him.
20. The rest of the Levites included: Shubael from the sons of Amram, Jehdeiah from the sons of Shubael,
21. the firstborn Isshiah from Rehabiah and the sons of Rehabiah,
22. Shelomoth from the Izharites, Jahath from the sons of Shelomoth.
23. The sons of Hebron: Jeriah, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.
24. The son of Uzziel: Micah; Shamir from the sons of Micah.
27. The sons of Merari, from Jaaziah: Beno, Shoham, Zaccur, and Ibri.
28. From Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons.
29. From Kish: Jerahmeel.
30. The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jerimoth. These were the Levites, listed by their families.
31. Just like their relatives, the descendants of Aaron, they also cast lots before King David, Zadok, Ahimelech, the leaders of families, the priests, and the Levites. The families of the oldest son cast lots along with those of the youngest. (NET)

Introduction:

I. Hicks wrote, “One of the major concerns of the postexilic community was the legitimization of its priests.”
A. “The purpose” here, Hicks noted, was “not to legitimate the lines of descent, but to legitimate the 24 divisions of the priestly organization. Thus, the section begins: These were the divisions of the sons of Aaron.”

II. Coffman stated, “Due to the fact that many thousands of the Levites were eligible to participate in the temple services, it was necessary that some systematic manner of determining the order in which they would serve be developed.”

A. Coffman further noted, “One must be impressed with the manner of David’s making such a determination by lot, duly witnessed by all parties concerned.”

1. No one could charge David with partiality or unfairness in making these assignments.

Commentary:

**The Divisions of Priests**

1 Chronicles 24:1, The divisions of Aaron’s descendants were as follows: The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.  

(NET)

I. These were the divisions (courses) of the sons of Aaron:

A. “First Chronicles 24:1 resumes the genealogical list begun at 1 Chronicles 23:13 from Amram to Aaron. The sons of Aaron are priests and therefore distinct from the rest of the Levites.” Hicks wrote.

II. The sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.
A. **Exodus 6:23**, Aaron married Elisheba, the daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon, and she bore him Nadab and Abi hu, Eleazar and Ithamar. (NET)

1 Chronicles 24:2, Nadab and Abihu died before their father did; they had no sons. Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests. (NET)

I. But Nadab and Abihu died before their father did, and they had no sons; so Eleazar and Ithamar served as the priests.

A. Nadab and Abihu died because of their sin.

1. **Leviticus 10:1-3**, Then Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu, each took his fire pan and put fire in it, set incense on it, and presented strange fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them to do. So fire went out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them so that they died before the Lord. Moses then said to Aaron, ‘This is what the Lord spoke: ‘Among the ones close to me I will show myself holy, and in the presence of all the people I will be honored.’’” So Aaron kept silent. (NET)

B. The twenty-four (24) priestly divisions were organized according to the descendants of Eleazar and Ithamar, the two sons of Aaron who survived following the deaths of Nadab and Abihu. (See Hicks.)

1. “All the priests descended from Eleazar and Ithamar.” (Hicks)

2. **Numbers 3:2-4**, These are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab, the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whom he consecrated to minister as priests. Nadab and Abihu died before the Lord when they
offered strange fire before the Lord in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar ministered as priests in the presence of Aaron their father. (NET)

3. Numbers 26:60, 61, And to Aaron were born Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. But Nadab and Abihu died when they offered strange fire before the Lord. (NET)

4. Nadab and Abihu died without sons meaning, in this case, that their brothers would be the ancestors of the priests.

C. Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests during the life of their father Aaron. After the death of Aaron, Eleazar became high priest. Generations later the high priesthood under Eli of the family of Ithamar re-entered the office of high priest. (See Clarke.)

1 Chronicles 24:3, David, Zadok (a descendant of Eleazar), and Ahimelech (a descendant of Ithamar) divided them into groups to carry out their assigned responsibilities. (NET)

I. With the help of Zadok, a descendant of Eleazar, and Ahimelech, a descendant of Ithamar, David separated them into divisions for their appointed order of ministering.

A. Hicks wrote, “Zadok and Ahimelech (the son of the high priest Abiathar) were David’s two high priests.”

1. 1 Chronicles 18:16, Zadok son of Ahitub and Abimelech son of Abiathar were priests; Shavsha was scribe; (NET)
2. “Zadok served at the tabernacle and Abiathar at the ark. The two will serve together in the temple . . . ,” Hicks further wrote.

3. Clarke explained, “Ahimelech is put here for Abiathar, who was high priest in the days of David.”
   
a. Abiathar and his father were also known by the name Ahimelech. (Clarke)

b. Mark 2:25, 26, He said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry—how he entered the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the sacred bread, which is against the law for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to his companions?” (NET)

c. 2 Samuel 20:25, Sheva was the scribe, and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests. (NET)

B. David, Zadok and Ahimelech worked conjointly to effect the orderly service of the priests by dividing them into twenty-four courses. (See Pulpit Commentary.)

1 Chronicles 24:4, The descendants of Eleazar had more leaders than the descendants of Ithamar, so they divided them up accordingly; the descendants of Eleazar had sixteen leaders, while the descendants of Ithamar had eight. (NET)

I. A larger number of leaders was found among Eleazar’s descendants than among Ithamar’s and they were divided accordingly.

II. Sixteen heads of families from Eleazar’s descendants and eight heads of families were from Ithamar’s descendants.
A. It was natural to appoint priests in proportion to the relative population of Eleazar’s and Ithamar’s descendants.

1 Chronicles 24:5, They divided them by lots, for there were officials of the holy place and officials designated by God among the descendants of both Eleazar and Ithamar. (NET)

I. They divided them impartially by drawing lots, . . .

A. The selection involved both royal (David) and priestly participation, Hicks observed.

1. 1 Chronicles 24:3, David, Zadok (a descendant of Eleazar), and Ahimelech (a descendant of Ithamar) divided them into groups to carry out their assigned responsibilities. (NET)

2. 1 Chronicles 24:5, They divided them by lots, for there were officials of the holy place and officials designated by God among the descendants of both Eleazar and Ithamar. (NET)

B. This fair selection method gave no opportunity for anyone to allege improprieties in regard to the appointments which were made by this random process.

1. 1 Chronicles 25:8, They cast lots to determine their responsibilities—oldest as well as youngest, teacher as well as student. (NET)

II. for there were officials of the sanctuary and officials of God among the descendants of both Eleazar and Ithamar.
A. Hicks wrote, “The priests are the officials of the sanctuary and officials of God.”

1. Coffman wrote, “The distinction between these is not clear” and concluded with Madsen that “The two terms are probably synonymous.”

B. Hicks continued by saying that, “This designation underscores the centrality and importance of the priestly class without devaluing the significance of other Levitical functions in the temple. The priests are the officials of what is holy, and they represent God.”

C. Officials can be translated governors and/or princes.

1. Isaiah 43:28, So I defiled your holy princes, and handed Jacob over to destruction, and subjected Israel to humiliating abuse.” (NET)

1 Chronicles 24:6, The scribe Shemaiah son of Nethanel, a Levite, wrote down their names before the king, the officials, Zadok the priest, Ahimelech son of Abiathar, and the leaders of the priestly and Levite families. One family was drawn by lot from Eleazar and then the next from Ithamar. (NET)

I. The scribe Shemaiah son of Nethanel (Nethaneel), a Levite, recorded their names in the presence of the king and of the (Princes) officials:

A. Scribe here refers to the clerk or secretary who served as recorder of decisions made regarding priestly courses.

II. Zadok the priest, Ahimelech son of Abiathar and the heads of families of the priests and of the Levites – one family being taken from Eleazar and then one from Ithamar.
A. Clarke wrote, “The family of Eleazar was the most illustrious of the sacerdotal families, because Eleazar was the first-born of Aaron, Ithamar’s family was the second in order and dignity; therefore, one of the principal families of Eleazar was first taken, and then one of Ithamar’s, and thus alternately till the whole was finished.”

B. The Pulpit Commentary, in view of the ratio of 16 to 8, two selections may have alternately been made from Eleazar’s descendants to one selection from Ithamar’s descendants until twenty-four selections had been made.

1 Chronicles 24:7-18, The first lot went to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, the fifth to Malkijah, the sixth to Mijamin, the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah, the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah, the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizzez, the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel, the twenty-first to Jakin, the twenty-second to Gamul, the twenty-third to Delaiah, the twenty-fourth to Maaziah. (NET)

I. The first lot fell to Jehoiarib (Joiarib),

A. 1 Chronicles 9:10, From the priests: Jedaiah; Jehoiarib; Jakin; (NET)

B. Nehemiah 11:10, From the priests: Jedaiah son of Joiarib, Jakin, (NET)

C. 1 Chronicles 12:6, 19, Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam, who were Korahites, Some men from Manasseh joined David when he went with the Philistines to fight against Saul. (But in the end they did not help the Philistines because,
after taking counsel, the Philistine lords sent David away, saying: “It would be disastrous for us if he deserts to his master Saul.”) (NET)

II. the second to Jedaiah,

A. Ezra 2:36, The priests: the descendants of Jedaiah (through the family of Jeshua): 973; (NET)

B. Nehemiah 7:39, The priests: the descendants of Jedaiah (through the family of Jeshua), 973; (NET)

C. Nehemiah 12: 6, 7, 19, 21, Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah, Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, and Jedaiah. These were the leaders of the priests and their colleagues in the days of Jeshua. of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethanel. (NET)

III. the third to Harim (Rehum),

A. Ezra 2:39, the descendants of Harim: 1,017. (NET)

B. Ezra 10:21, From the descendants of Harim: Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel, and Uzziah. (NET)

C. Nehemiah 7:42, the descendants of Harim, 1,017. (NET)

D. Nehemiah 10:5, Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, (NET)

E. Nehemiah 12:4, Iddo, Ginnethon, Abijah, (NET)

IV. the fourth Seorim.

A. Seorim is not mentioned elsewhere in Scripture. (Pulpit Commentary)
V. the fifth to Malkijah (Malchijah),

A. Malkijah here is used as a family rather than an individual name. (See Pulpit Commentary.)

VI. the sixth to Mijamin (Mamin, Miniamin),

A. Mijamin here is used as a family rather than an individual name. (See Pulpit Commentary.)

VII. the seventh to Hakkoz,

A. Hakkoz here refers to a family rather than to an individual. (See Pulpit Commentary.)

VIII. the eighth to Abijah,

A. Luke 1:5-17, During the reign of Herod king of Judea, there lived a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah, and he had a wife named Elizabeth, who was a descendant of Aaron. They were both righteous in the sight of God, following all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they did not have a child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both very old. Now while Zechariah was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the holy place of the Lord and burn incense. Now the whole crowd of people were praying outside at the hour of the incense offering. An angel of the Lord, standing on the right side of the altar of incense, appeared to him. And Zechariah, visibly shaken when he saw the angel, was seized with fear. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son; you will name him John.”
Joy and gladness will come to you, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go as forerunner before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared for him.” (NET)

B. Nehemiah 10:7, Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, (NET)

IX. the ninth to Jeshua,

A. Ezra 2:36, The priests: the descendants of Jedaiah (through the family of Jeshua): 973; (NET)

B. Nehemiah 7:39, The priests: the descendants of Jedaiah (through the family of Jeshua), 973; (NET)

X. the tenth to Shecaniah (Shechaniah),

A. Ezra 8:3-5, the son of Shecaniah; from the descendants of Parosh, Zechariah, and with him were enrolled by genealogy 150 men; from the descendants of Pahath-Moab, Elihoenai son of Zerahiah, and with him 200 men; from the descendants of Zattu, Shecaniah son of Jahaziel, and with him 300 men; (NET)

XI. the eleventh to Eliashib,

A. Eliashib is the name of six or seven men in the Old Testament.

B. The Eliashib here was a priest in David’s time.
XII. the twelfth of Jakim,

    A. This name is not elsewhere found in Scripture. (See Pulpit Commentary.)

XIII. the thirteenth to Huppah,

    A. The Huppah was “a priest responsible for one of the divisions of service in the sanctuary in David’s time.” (Youngblood)

XIV. the fourteenth to Jeshebeab,

    A. This Jeshebeab was “head of the 14th division of priests in the sanctuary service in David’s time.” (Youngblood)

XV. the fifteenth to Bilgah,

    A. Bilgah was “the chief of the 15th group of priests officiating in Temple service in king David’s time.” (Youngblood)

XVI. the sixteenth to Immer,

    A. Immer was “a descendant of Aaron whose family had become ‘father’s house’ by the time of David’s reign. The family was the 16th of the 24 divisions of priests serving the tabernacle. Some members of this family returned from the captivity and lived in Jerusalem.” (Youngblood)

1. Ezra 2:37, the descendants of Immer: 1,052; (NET)

2. Nehemiah 11:13, and his colleagues who were heads of families—242; and Amashai son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer, (NET)

XVII. the seventeenth to Hezir,
A. This Hezir was the head of the seventeenth course of priests according to David’s divisions.

XVIII. the eighteenth to Happizzez (Aphses, Hapizez),

A. Happizzez was the head of the eighteenth division of priests according to David’s plan.

XIX. the nineteenth to Pethahiah,

A. Pethahiah was “a priest whose family was appointed by David as sanctuary priests.” (Youngblood)

XX. the twentieth to Jehezkel (Jehezekel),

A. Jehezkel was a priest who was descended from Aaron who was appointed with his family as head of the twentieth division of David’s sanctuary priests.

XXI. the twenty-first to Jakin (Jachin),

A. Jakin was the head of the twenty-first course of David’s sanctuary priests.

XXII. the twenty-second to Gamul,

A. Gamul was the head of the twenty-second course of David’s sanctuary priests.

XXIII. the twenty-third to Delaiah,

A. Delaiah was head of the twenty-third course of David’s sanctuary priests.
XXIV. and the twenty-fourth to Maaziah.

A. Maaziah was the head of the twenty-fourth division of David’s sanctuary priests.

1 Chronicles 24:19, This was the order in which they carried out their assigned responsibilities when they entered the Lord’s temple, according to the regulations given them by their ancestor Aaron, just as the Lord God of Israel had instructed him. (NET)

I. This was their appointed order of ministering when they entered the temple of the Lord, according to the regulations prescribed for them by their forefather Aaron, as the Lord, the God of Israel, had commanded him.

A. The authority for the performance of the stipulated priestly and Levitical duties is here traced back to Aaron and did not originate with David, Zadok and Ahimelech. (See Hicks.)

B. In this entire process “the order and plans laid down by Aaron during his lifetime were followed.” (Clarke)

C. “Each course served a week from the seventh day to the seventh day.” (Pulpit Commentary)

1. 2 Kings 11:9, The officers of the units of hundreds did just as Jehoiada the priest ordered. Each of them took his men, those who were on duty during the Sabbath as well as those who were off duty on the Sabbath, and reported to Jehoiada the priest. (NET)

2. 2 Chronicles 23:8, The Levites and all the men of Judah did just as Jehoiada the priest ordered. Each of them took his men, those who were on duty during the Sabbath as well as those who were off duty on the
Sabbath. Jehoiada the priest did not release his divisions from their duties. (NET)

The Rest of the Levites

1 Chronicles 24:20, The rest of the Levites included: Shubael from the sons of Amram, Jehdeiah from the sons of Shubael, (NET)

I. As for the rest of the descendants of Levi: . . .

A. from the sons of Amram: Shubael; . . .

1. Shubael was a grandson of Moses.

   a. 1 Chronicles 23:15, 16, The sons of Moses: Gershom and Eliezer. The son of Gershom: Shebuel the oldest. (NET)

2. Amram was the father of Moses, Aaron and Miriam.

B. from the sons of Shubael: Jehdeiah.

Note: “. . . these lists of names represent families rather than individuals,” Coffman observed.

Note: This section “repeats the names found in 1 Chronicles 23:16-23 with the addition of another generation.” (Hicks) 1 Chronicles 23:16-23, The son of Gershom: Shebuel the oldest. The son of Eliezer was Rehabiah, the oldest. Eliezer had no other sons, but Rehabiah had many descendants. The son of Izhar: Shelomith the oldest. The sons of Hebron: Jeriah the oldest, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth. The sons of Uzziel: Micah the oldest, and Isshiah the second. The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Mahli: Eleazar and Kish. Eleazar died without having sons; he had only daughters. The sons of Kish, their cousins,
married them. The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth—three in all. (NET) These Levites appear to be a group assigned to perform duties as priestly assistants just as others were assigned to duties as musicians, gatekeepers and treasurers. The 24 Levites listed here would correspond to the 24 priestly divisions. (See Hicks.)

**Note:** The family of Gershon is not included in this list. Coffman had no reason for this omission. Hicks ventured the opinion that the duties assigned to Gershon were not being addressed by this list and, therefore, Gershon was not mentioned. Clarke simply wrote that this omission of the family of Gershom is “remarkable.” The Pulpit Commentary noted that duties assigned to the Gershonites are specified elsewhere. 1 Chronicles 26:21, 22, The descendants of Ladan, who were descended from Gershon through Ladan and were leaders of the families of Ladan the Gershonite, included Jehieli and the sons of Jehieli, Zetham and his brother Joel. They were in charge of the storehouses in the Lord’s temple. (NET)

1 Chronicles 24:21, the firstborn Isshiah from Rehabiah and the sons of Rehabiah, (NET)

I. As for Rehabiah, from his sons: Isshiah was the first.

   A. Rehabiah was a descendant of Moses through his younger son Eliezer.

1 Chronicles 24:22, Shelomoth from the Izharites, Jahath from the sons of Shelomoth. (NET)

I. From the Izharites: Shelomoth (Shelomith);

   A. Izhar was Kohath’s second son.
1. 1 Chronicles 23:12, 18, The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel—four in all. The son of Izhar: Shelomith the oldest. (NET)

II. from the sons of Shelomoth: Jahath.

1 Chronicles 24:23, The sons of Hebron: Jeriah, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth. (NET)

I. The sons of Hebron:

Note: The four named sons of Hebron mentioned in this verse are descendants of Kohath’s third son Hebron. (Pulpit Commentary) 1 Chronicles 23:12, The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel—four in all. (NET)

A. Jeriah the first,

B. Amariah the second,

C. Jahaziel the third, and . . .

D. Jekameam the fourth.

1 Chronicles 24:24, 25, The son of Uzziel: Micah; Shamir from the sons of Micah. The brother of Micah: Isshiah. Zechariah from the sons of Isshiah. (NET)

I. The son of Uzziel: Micah; . . .

II. from the sons of Micah (Michah): Shamir.

III. The brother of Micah (Micah): Isshiah;

IV. from the sons of Isshiah: Zechariah.

I. The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi.

II. The son of Jaaziah: Beno.

III. The sons of Merari:

A. from Jaaziah:

1. Beno, . . .

2. Shoham, . . .

3. Zaccur and . . .

4. Ibri.

1 Chronicles 24:28, From Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons. (NET)

I. From Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons.

1 Chronicles 24:29, From Kish: Jerahmeel. (NET)

I. From Kish: the son of Kish: Jerahmeel.

1 Chronicles 24:30, The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jerimoth. These were the Levites, listed by their families. (NET)

I. And the sons of Mushi: . . .

A. Mahli, . . .
B. Eder and . . .

C. Jerimoth.

II. These were the Levites, according to their families.

1 Chronicles 24:31, Just like their relatives, the descendants of Aaron, they also cast lots before King David, Zadok, Ahimelech, the leaders of families, the priests, and the Levites. The families of the oldest son cast lots along with those of the youngest. (NET)

I. They also cast lots, just as their brothers the descendants of Aaron did, in the presence of King David and of Zadok, Ahimelech, and the heads of families of the priests and of the Levites.

A. Clarke wrote, “The Levites were divided into twenty-four orders; and these were appointed to serve by lot under the twenty-four orders of the priests: the first order of Levites under the first order of priests, and so on.”

II. The families of the oldest brother were treated the same as those of the youngest.

A. In regard to the matter at hand, the rights of primogeniture did not apply.

1. The oldest and youngest were treated equally. (Pulpit Commentary)

   a. 1 Chronicles 26:12, 16, These divisions of the gatekeepers, corresponding to their leaders, had assigned responsibilities, like their relatives, as they served in the Lord’s temple. Shuppim and Hosah were assigned the west gate, along with the
Shalleketh gate on the upper road. One guard was adjacent to another. (NET)
Conclusion:

I. David made arrangements for the decent and orderly performance of worship activities by appointment of priests in courses and their assistants and by specifying their duties.

II. Our worship and our lives are also to be conducted in a decent and orderly manner!

A. 1 Corinthians 14:40, And do everything in a decent and orderly manner. (NET)
Questions

1 Chronicles 24:1-31

(Questions based on NIV text.)

1. First and Second Chronicles were written to address the needs of “the post-exilic community.” What is meant by this expression? What were some of the pressing needs of this community? _________________
   ________________
   ________________
   ________________
   ________________
   ________________

2. How were the priests distinct from other Levites by way of ancestry? ________________
   ________________
   ________________
   ________________
   ________________
   ________________

3. What happened to Nadab and Abihu? What did they do to deserve this? ________________
   ________________
   ________________
   ________________
   ________________
   ________________

4. The ________________ - ________________ (____________) ________________
   ________________ were organized according to the ________________ of
   ________________ and ________________, the ________________ remaining ________________
   of ________________ who survived following the ________________ of ________________
and __________. All the ________ were descendants of ________ and
___________.

5. Identify Zadok, Abinelech and Abiathar? ______________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

6. What are lots? How were they used to make decisions, selections? _
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

7. Why were more priests chosen from the descendants of Eleazar than
from the descendants of Ithamar?  Was this fair? _________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

8. What insured the impartiality of the process of the selection of
priests? _________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
9. How are the terms “officials of the sanctuary” and “officials of God” the same and/or different? ____________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

10. Who was Shemaiah? What office did he hold? What were his duties? ____________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

11. In view of what is said in verse 6, do you agree with Clarke and the Pulpit Commentary as to the order in which priestly selections were made? __________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

12. Who was chosen to head each of the twenty-four (24) priestly divisions, courses?

First __________________________________________________________
Second __________________________________________________________
Third __________________________________________________________
Fourth __________________________________________________________
Fifth __________________________________________________________
Sixth __________________________________________________________
Seventh _________________________________________________________
13. On what authority did David make his decisions regarding duties and function of the priests?

14. How long did each priestly course serve? On what day did their service begin and end?
15. From the non-priestly Levites, how many were chosen? What were their duties? From what Levitical families did they descend? Why was Gershom omitted from this list? 

16. Was it customary in ancient Israel for the youngest to be treated the same as the oldest? Explain the significance of the equality mentioned in verse 31.

17. How important is it that our worship and lives be orderly in all respects?

18. Where and under what conditions is the course of Abijah mentioned in the New Testament?
19. Relate examples from among Christians in your experience when things have been done with and without partiality? Which is more in keeping with God’s will? __________________________________________________________
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________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

20. Who are God’s priests and high priest today? Support your answer with Scripture. __________________________________________________________
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________________________________________________________
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