1 Chronicles 27 Commentary

PREVIOUS NEXT

CLICK VERSE
To go directly to that verse

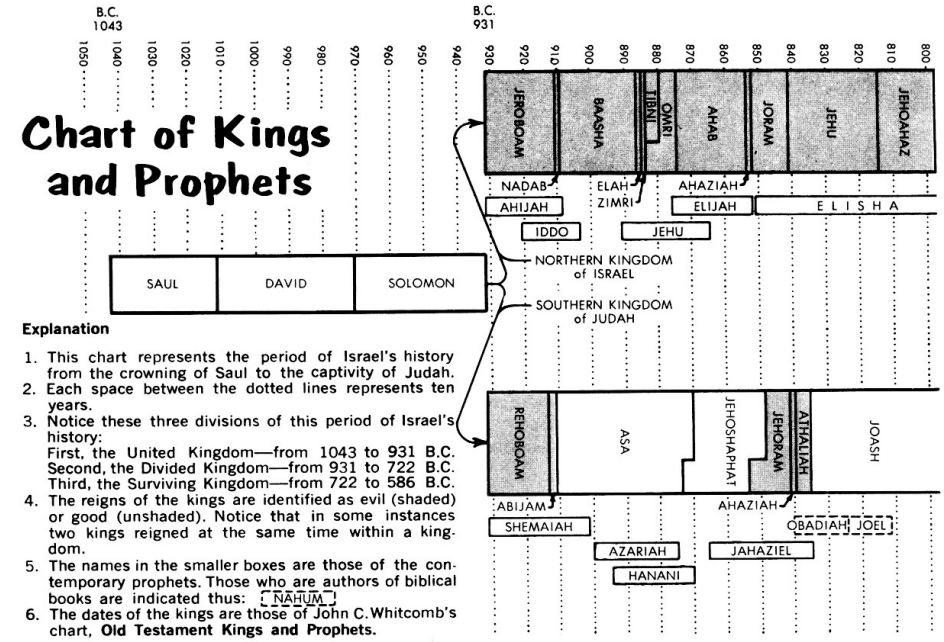
1 Chronicles 27:1
1 Chronicles 27:2
1 Chronicles 27:3
1 Chronicles 27:4
1 Chronicles 27:5
1 Chronicles 27:6
1 Chronicles 27:7
1 Chronicles 27:8
1 Chronicles 27:9
1 Chronicles 27:10
1 Chronicles 27:11
1 Chronicles 27:12
1 Chronicles 27:13
1 Chronicles 27:14
1 Chronicles 27:15
1 Chronicles 27:16
1 Chronicles 27:17
1 Chronicles 27:18
1 Chronicles 27:19
1 Chronicles 27:20
1 Chronicles 27:21
1 Chronicles 27:22
1 Chronicles 27:23
1 Chronicles 27:24
1 Chronicles 27:25
1 Chronicles 27:26
1 Chronicles 27:27
1 Chronicles 27:28
1 Chronicles 27:29
1 Chronicles 27:30
1 Chronicles 27:31
1 Chronicles 27:32
1 Chronicles 27:33
1 Chronicles 27:34

TIMELINE OF THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL, KINGS & CHRONICLES

1107	1011				971	931	853	722	586
1 Samuel	2 Samuel				1 Kings	1 Kings	2 Kings		
31	1-4	5-10	11-20	21-24	1-11	12-22	1-17	18-25	
1 Chronicles 10		1Chr 11-19		1Chr 20-29	2 Chronicles 1-9	2 Chronicles 10-20	2 Chronicles 21-36		

Legend: B.C. dates at top of timeline are approximate. Note that 931 BC marks the division of the Kingdom into Southern Tribes (Judah and Benjamin) and Ten Northern Tribes. To avoid confusion be aware that **after the division** of the Kingdom in 931 BC, the Southern Kingdom is most often designated in Scripture as "**Judah**" and the Northern Kingdom as "**Israel**." Finally, note that 1 Chronicles 1-9 is not identified on the timeline because these chapters are records of genealogy.

THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL



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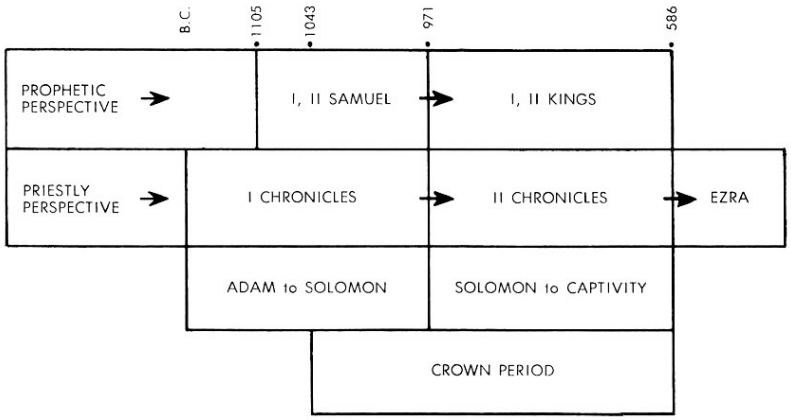
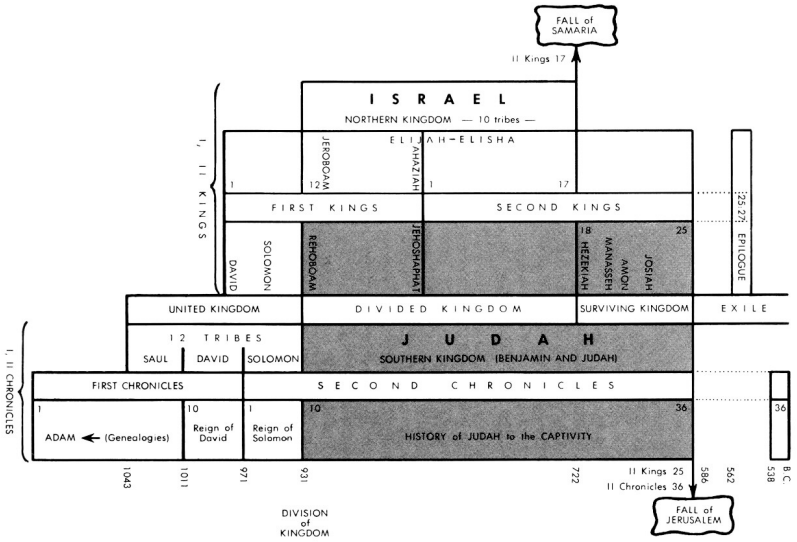
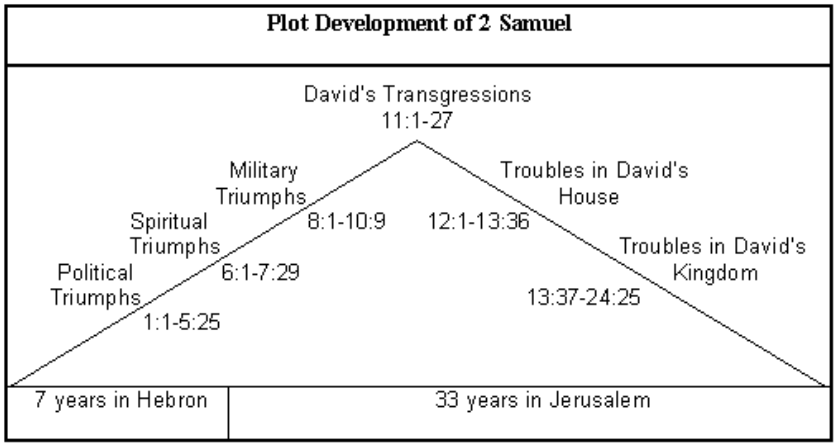


Comparison of 1 Samuel thru 2 Chronicles



FIRST CHRONICLES SUMMARY CHART	
1 Chronicles 1-9:44	1 Chronicles 10:1-39:30
Royal Line of David	Reign of David
12 Tribes of David's Reign	Highlights of David's Reign
Genealogies	History
Ancestry	Activity
1000's of Years	Circa 33 Years



Map of David's Kingdom-ESV Global Map of Cities in 2 Samuel

1 Chronicles 27:1 Now this is the enumeration of the sons of Israel, the heads of fathers' households, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and their officers who served the king in all the affairs of the divisions which came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year, each division numbering 24,000.

- **commanders**: 1Ch 13:1 Ex 18:25 De 1:15 1Sa 8:12 Mic 5:2
- **served**: 1Ch 28:1 2Ch 17:12-19 26:11-13
- **in all the affairs**: 1Ki 5:14
- **months**: 1Ki 4:7,27

Now this is the enumeration of the sons of Israel, the heads of fathers' households, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and their officers who served the king in all the affairs of the divisions which came in and went out month by

month throughout all the months of the year, each division numbering 24,000.

Believer's Study Bible - Once the spiritual matters were handled, the chronicler turned to the routine concerns of administration for the expanding theocratic kingdom (vv. 1-34). Even for those who lived outside the immediate territory of the Promised Land, the religious life of God's people took precedence over all else, including military affairs (26:29-32). All this is in keeping with the purpose of the chronicler and is in harmony with the teaching of God's Word (cf. Deut. 6:3-6; 10:12-14; 11:13-21; Matt. 6:25-34; 22:37-40; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:25-29). This is another passage (vv. 1-15) in which some suggest that we understand the term translated "thousand" to mean "commander of a thousand" (cf. 7:2-5; 12:23, notes).

Ryrie - David had an army of 288,000 men, consisting of 12 divisions of 24,000 men, each of which served in turn for one month out of the year. Eight of the 12 generals belonged to the tribe of Judah.

David divided the leadership into (1) tribal elders (i.e., "the heads of father's households") (2) commanders of thousands, (3) commanders of hundreds (4) lower ranked military officers. In turn they were divided into 24,000 for each month. This number matches the division of the priests, the musicians and the gatekeepers.

TSK note on head of fathers' households - the chief fathers: The patriarchs, chief generals, or generals of brigade. This enumeration is widely different from that of the preceding. In that, we have the order and course of the priests and Levites, in their ecclesiastical ministrations: in this, we have the account of the order of the civil service, what related simply to the political state of the king and kingdom. Twenty-four persons, chosen out of David's worthies, each of whom had a second, were placed over 24,000 men, who all served a month at a time, in turn; and this was the whole of their service during the year, after which they attended to their own affairs. Thus the king had always on foot a regular force of 24,000, who served without expense to him or the state, and were not oppressed by the service, which took up only a twelfth part of their time; and by this plan he could, at any time, bring into the field 12 times 24,000 or 288,000 fighting men, independently of the 12,000 officers, which made in the whole an effective force of 300,000 soldiers; and all these men were prepared, disciplined, and ready at a call, without the smallest expense to the state or the king. These were, properly speaking, the militia of the Israelitish kingdom.

G Campbell Morgan - The captains of thousands and of hundreds, and their officers that served the king.—1 Chr 27.1

These words have reference to courses of service, and appointed officers, which are not mentioned elsewhere. They would seem to have been toilers who wrought in some specific work, probably that of the actual labour necessary to the building of the Temple. This further emphasizes what we have previously noted, namely, that David neglected nothing, and that everything connected with the Temple was treated as sacred, and therefore as demanding thought and preparation. It is not too much to say that in all the final acts of his life David was preparing for that Temple. All the ordering of the internal things of the kingdom was in that high interest. The greatness of David as a king was manifested in the acts of peaceful administration, as surely as in his victories on the fields of battle. The tilling of the ground, and its careful cultivation; the rearing of cattle; and all the things pertaining to the welfare of his people; were arranged for, under duly qualified and appointed over-sight. Thus the whole nation was enabled to devote itself to that central work of building the House of God. There is no room for doubt that under the reign of David, the Hebrew people reached their greatest strength, even if they did not reach the height of their magnificence till later; and at no period were they stronger than while thus their thought was centred in the Temple. All this work kept the king and people in constant remembrance of the deepest truth concerning the national life, that it was centred in the Divine sovereignty and administration. (Borrow Life applications from every chapter of the Bible)

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1 Chronicles 27:2 Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel had charge of the first division for the first month; and in his division were 24,000.

- Jashobeam: 1Ch 11:11 2Sa 23:8, Adino the Eznite

Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel had charge of the first division for the first month; and in his division were 24,000

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1 Chronicles 27:3 He was from the sons of Perez, and was chief of all the commanders of the army for the first month.

- Perez: Ge 38:29 Nu 26:20, Pharez
- the chief: Ge 49:8-10 Nu 7:12 10:14

He was from the sons of Perez, and was chief of all the commanders of the army for the first month

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1 Chronicles 27:4 Dodai the Ahohite and his division had charge of the division for the second month, Mikloth being the chief officer; and in his division were 24,000.

- **Dodai**: 1Ch 11:12 2Sa 23:9, Dodo

Dodai the Ahohite and his division had charge of the division for the second month, Mikloth being the chief officer; and in his division were 24,000

Dodai (loving, amorous) (aka **Dodo**) "The **Ahohite**," father of Eleazar, one of David's heroes, and (2Sa 23:9; 1Ch 11:12 "Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighty men.") himself the commander of one of the divisions of the army (1Ch 27:4).

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1 Chronicles 27:5 The third commander of the army for the third month was Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada the priest, as chief; and in his division were 24,000.

- Benaiah: Or, "Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada the chief priest:" it was Jehoiada, and not Benaiah, who was a priest. 1Ch 18:17 1Ki 4:4
- chief priest: or, principal officer, 1Ki 4:5

The third commander of the army for the third month was Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada the priest, as chief; and in his division were 24,000

JEHOIADA (*Jehovah knows*). Father of Benaiah, the captain of David's body-guard (2Sa 8:18; 20:23; 23:20,22; 1 Ki 1:8, etc.). Jehoiada was "the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel" (2 Sam 23:20), but commentators read with Septuagint and Ewald, "Benaiah (the son of Jehoiada) a man of valor." Kabzeel was a town belonging to Judah on the border of Edom in the South (Josh 15:21). In 1 Ch 27:5, we read "Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada the priest, chief," the Revised Version (British and American), but the Revised Version margin has "chief minister" wrongly. Yet Jehoiada is nowhere else called a priest or even a Levite, though in 1Ch 12:27 (Hebrew, verse 28) a Jehoiada is mentioned as a military "leader of the house of Aaron," who came to David to Hebron with other members of the house of Levi. In 1 Ch 27:34 there is named among David's counselors, "Jehoiada the son. of Benaiah," where some commentators would read with two manuscripts, "Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada" though Curtis, Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Books of Chronicles, 295, keeps the Massoretic Text.

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1 Chronicles 27:6 This Benaiah was the mighty man of the thirty, and had charge of thirty; and over his division was Ammizabad his son.

- mighty: 1Ch 11:22-25 2Sa 22:20-23 23:20-23

This Benaiah was the mighty man of the thirty, and had charge of thirty; and over his division was Ammizabad his son.

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1 Chronicles 27:7 The fourth for the fourth month was Asahel the brother of Joab, and Zebadiah his son after him; and in his division were 24,000.

- Asahel: 1Ch 11:26 2Sa 2:18-23 23:24

The fourth for the fourth month was Asahel the brother of Joab, and Zebadiah his son after him; and in his division were 24,000.

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1 Chronicles 27:8 The fifth for the fifth month was the commander Shamhuth the Izrahite; and in his division were 24,000.

- Shamhuth: If this person was the same as Shammoth the Hararite, or Shammah the Harodite, it is probable that he took the denomination Izrahite, from one of his progenitors of the name Izrah, and derived the other from the place of his residence. 1Ch 11:27, Shammoth the Hararite, 1Ch 26:29 2Sa 23:25, Shammah the Harodite

The fifth for the fifth month was the commander Shamhuth the Izrahite; and in his division were 24,000.

1 Chronicles 27:9 The sixth for the sixth month was Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite; and in his division were 24,000.

- Ira: 1Ch 11:28 2Sa 23:26

The sixth for the sixth month was Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite; and in his division were 24,000.

1 Chronicles 27:10 The seventh for the seventh month was Helez the Pelonite of the sons of Ephraim; and in his division were 24,000.

- Helez: 1Ch 11:27
- Pelonite: 2Sa 23:26, Paltite

The seventh for the seventh month was Helez the Pelonite of the sons of Ephraim; and in his division were 24,000

1 Chronicles 27:11 The eighth for the eighth month was Sibbecai the Hushathite of the Zerahites; and in his division were 24,000.

- Sibbecai: 1Ch 11:29 2Sa 21:18
- Zarhites: Nu 26:20

The eighth for the eighth month was Sibbecai the Hushathite of the Zerahites; and in his division were 24,000

1 Chronicles 27:12 The ninth for the ninth month was Abiezer the Anathothite of the Benjamites; and in his division were 24,000.

- Anetothite: 1Ch 11:28, Antothite, 2Sa 23:27, Anethothite

The ninth for the ninth month was Abiezer the Anathothite of the Benjamites; and in his division were 24,000

1 Chronicles 27:13 The tenth for the tenth month was Maharai the Netophathite of the Zerahites; and in his division were 24,000.

- Maharai: 1Ch 11:30 2Sa 23:28
- Zarhites: 1Ch 27:11

The tenth for the tenth month was Maharai the Netophathite of the Zerahites; and in his division were 24,000

1 Chronicles 27:14 The eleventh for the eleventh month was Benaiah the Pirathonite of the sons of Ephraim; and in his division were 24,000.

- Benaiah: 1Ch 11:31 2Sa 23:30

The eleventh for the eleventh month was Benaiah the Pirathonite of the sons of Ephraim; and in his division were 24,000.

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1 Chronicles 27:15 The twelfth for the twelfth month was Heldai the Netophathite of Othniel; and in his division were 24,000.

- Heldai: 1Ch 11:30, Heled, 2Sa 23:29, Heleb
- Othniel: 1Ch 4:13 Jdg 3:9

The twelfth for the twelfth month was Heldai the Netophathite of Othniel; and in his division were 24,000

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1 Chronicles 27:16 Now in charge of the tribes of Israel: chief officer for the Reubenites was Eliezer the son of Zichri; for the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maacah;

- Furthermore: These persons, called "princes of the tribes," in ver. 22, and ch. 28:1, appear to have been civil rulers over their several tribes, and honorary men, without pay, not unlike the lords lieutenants of our counties. In this enumeration there is no mention of the tribes of Gad and Asher, probably because they were joined to the neighbouring tribes; or perhaps, the account of these has been lost from the register.

Now in charge of the tribes of Israel: chief officer for the Reubenites was Eliezer the son of Zichri; for the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maacah;

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1 Chronicles 27:17 for Levi, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel; for Aaron, Zadok;

- Hashabiah: 1Ch 26:30
- of the Aaronites: 1Ch 12:27,28 24:4,31

for Levi, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel; for Aaron, Zadok

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1 Chronicles 27:18 for Judah, Elihu, one of David's brothers; for Issachar, Omri the son of Michael;

- Elihu: If Elihu be not a mistake for Eliab, it is probable that he was called by both names. 1Sa 16:6 17:13,29, Eliab

for Judah, Elihu, one of David's brothers; for Issachar, Omri the son of Michael

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1 Chronicles 27:19 for Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah; for Naphtali, Jeremoth the son of Azriel;

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for Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah; for Naphtali, Jeremoth the son of Azriel;

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1 Chronicles 27:20 for the sons of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Azaziah; for the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son of Pedaiah;

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for the sons of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Azaziah; for the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son of Pedaiah

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1 Chronicles 27:21 for the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah; for Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner;

- Iddo: 1Ki 4:14
- Abner: 1Sa 14:50,51 2Sa 3:27,37

for the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah; for Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner

1 Chronicles 27:22 for Dan, Azarel the son of Jeroham. These were the princes of the tribes of Israel.

for Dan, Azarel the son of Jeroham. These were the princes of the tribes of Israel

1 Chronicles 27:23 But David did not count those twenty years of age and under, because the LORD had said He would multiply Israel as the stars of heaven.

David took not: It seems probable, from this passage, that Joab began, by David's order, to number the children, as well as adults, but was prevented from finishing the account, probably because the plague had begun. The numbering of the effective men might have been deemed a political expedient; but pride and ostentation alone could dictate the numbering of minors and infants, especially as God had pronounced the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, innumerable.
from twenty: Nu 1:18
he would increase: Ge 15:5 Heb 11:12

But David did not count those twenty years of age and under, because the LORD had said He would multiply Israel as the stars of heaven.

Ryrie - David took a census only of the fighting men (cf. Num. 1:3), but even this showed lack of faith in God's power to protect his kingdom. To have numbered all the people would have displayed doubt in God's promise (Gen. 22:17).

1 Chronicles 27:24 Joab the son of Zeruiah had begun to count them, but did not finish; and because of this, wrath came upon Israel, and the number was not included in the account of the chronicles of King David.

- began to number: 1Ch 21:1-17 2Sa 24:1-15
- was the number put: Heb. ascended the number

Joab the son of Zeruiah had begun to count them, but did not finish; and because of this, wrath came upon Israel, and the number was not included in the account of the chronicles of King David

See note on 21:1-4. Actually God permitted Satan to prompt David to take a census of the people, and David insisted on doing it, contrary to Joab's advice. See note on 2 Sam. 24:1. Though not inherently wrong, the action demonstrated David's reliance on numbers of warriors rather than on God. The census took about 10 months to complete (2 Sam. 24:5-8). Joab did not count the Levites or Benjamites (21:6).

1 Chronicles 27:25 Now Azmaveth the son of Adiel had charge of the king's storehouses. And Jonathan the son of Uzziah had charge of the storehouses in the country, in the cities, in the villages and in the towers.

- the king's: 2Ki 18:15 2Ch 16:2
- the storehouses: Ge 41:48 Ex 1:11 2Ch 26:10 Jer 41:8

Now Azmaveth the son of Adiel had charge of the king's storehouses. And Jonathan the son of Uzziah had charge of the storehouses in the country, in the cities, in the villages and in the towers

Ryrie - 27:25-31 These acted as overseers of David's estates and properties.

1 Chronicles 27:26 Ezri the son of Chelub had charge of the agricultural workers who tilled the soil.

Ezri the son of Chelub had charge of the agricultural workers who tilled the soil.

1 Chronicles 27:27 Shimei the Ramathite had charge of the vineyards; and Zabdi the Shiphmite had charge of the produce of the vineyards stored in the wine cellars.

Shimei the Ramathite had charge of the vineyards; and Zabdi the Shiphmite had charge of the produce of the vineyards stored in the wine cellars

1 Chronicles 27:28 Baal-hanan the Gederite had charge of the olive and sycamore trees in the Shephelah; and Joash had charge of the stores of oil.

- And over: 1Ki 4:7
- the sycamore trees: The Hebrew {shikmin,} Syriac {shekmo,} and Arabic {jummeez,} is the [sykomoros,] or sycomore, of the Greeks, so called from [sykos,] a fig-tree, and [moros] a mulberry- tree, because it resembles the latter in its leaves, and the former in its fruits. "The sycamore," says Mr. Norden, "is of the height of a beech, and bears its fruit in a manner quite different from other trees: it has them on the trunk itself, which shoots out little sprigs, in form of grape stalks, at the end of which grow the fruit close to one another, almost like a cluster of grapes. The tree is always green, and bears fruit several times in the year, without observing any certain seasons; for I have seen some sycamores that have given fruit two months after others. The fruit has the figure and smell of real figs, but is inferior to them in the taste, having a disgusting sweetness. Its colour is a yellow, inclining to an ochre, shadowed by a flesh colour. In the inside it resembles the common figs, excepting that it has a blackish colouring with yellow spots. This sort of tree is pretty common in Egypt; the people, for the greater part, live on its fruit, and think themselves well regaled when they have a piece of bread, a couple of sycamore figs, and a pitcher of water." 1Ki 20:27

Baal-hanan the Gederite had charge of the olive and sycamore trees in the Shephelah; and Joash had charge of the stores of oil.

1 Chronicles 27:29 Shitrai the Sharonite had charge of the cattle which were grazing in Sharon; and Shaphat the son of Adlai had charge of the cattle in the valleys.

- Sharon: 1Ch 5:16 Isa 65:10

Shitrai the Sharonite had charge of the cattle which were grazing in Sharon; and Shaphat the son of Adlai had charge of the cattle in the valleys

1 Chronicles 27:30 Obil the Ishmaelite had charge of the camels; and Jehdeiah the Meronothite had charge of the donkeys.

- the camels: Job 1:3
- the Ishmaelite: Ge 47:6

Obil the Ishmaelite had charge of the camels; and Jehdeiah the Meronothite had charge of the donkeys

1 Chronicles 27:31 Jaziz the Hagrite had charge of the flocks. All these were overseers of the property which belonged to King David.

Jaziz the Hagrite had charge of the flocks. All these were overseers of the property which belonged to King David

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F B Meyer - Our Daily Homily - All these were the rulers of the substance which was King David's.

There was great variety in office and gift. He who cared for the work of the field could not have known how to care for the flocks. The overseer of olive-yard and vineyard would have been a poor hand with the camels and asses. One sort of talent was needed for the herds, and another for the wine cellars; and yet there was unity in the common service of the king. We are reminded of the words of the Apostle, describing the variety in unity which must obtain in every healthy church: "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit; diversities of ministrations, and the same Lord; diversities of operations, but the same God."

Each of these different men had his distinct sphere for which he was doubtless specially qualified; and it was his duty— not to be jealous of others, nor eager to imitate them, but— to be faithful in his own province. How much happier we should all be if we recognized our specific work in God's house, and kept to it, being content to serve the King as He has seen fit to determine, rendering Him the produce in due season.

How great an error it would have been had any of these begun to account the produce of cattle or ground as his own. He had nothing that he had not received, and whatever he controlled had been entrusted to his care for the emolument and advantage of his sovereign. Yet, how few of us realize that we are put in business with God's capital, for God's use. We take all and give Him a percentage, instead of using all for Him and keeping a percentage for ourselves. In this we rob God, and greatly err. We must acknowledge that both we and all we possess belong to Him.

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1 Chronicles 27:32 Also Jonathan, David's uncle, was a counselor, a man of understanding, and a scribe; and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni tutored the king's sons.

- **uncle**: 2Sa 13:3 21:21, nephew
- **son of Hachmoni**: or, Hachmonite, 1Ch 11:11

DAVID'S COUNSELORS
1Ch 27:32-34

Also Jonathan, David's uncle, was a counselor, a man of understanding, and a scribe; and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni tutored the king's sons - Now the writer lists the king's close counselors. Notice that Ahithophel is still in this list because he was a highly trusted counselor before he betrayed David to join Absalom's rebellion.

William Wilberforce - (from 365 Days with Wilberforce) 'Associating with such good young men'

'Also Jonathan, David's uncle was a counsellor, a wise man' 1 Chronicles 27:32

I have been for some days thinking of writing to you, in consequence of my having heard that your friend Ryder and Sir George Prevost were reading classics with Mr Keble. Could you not have been allowed to make it a triumvirate? Much as I value classical scholarship, I prize still more highly the superior benefit to be derived from associating with such good young men as I trust the two gentlemen are whose names I have mentioned, and I have the satisfaction of knowing that you have the privilege of calling them your friends.

FOR MEDITATION: The 'Mr Keble' Wilberforce writes of above was John Keble, the author of many treasured hymns. Keble's hymn New Every Morning is the Love speaks of the cordials of Christian friendship:

New every morning is the love
Our wakening and uprising prove;
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,
Hover around us while we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiven,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,

As more of heaven in each we see;
Some softening gleam of love and prayer
Shall dawn on every cross and care.

REFERENCE: Private Papers of William Wilberforce (1897)

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1 Chronicles 27:33 Ahithophel was counselor to the king; and Hushai the Archite was the king's friend.

- **Ahithophel**: 2Sa 15:12 2Sa 16:23 17:23
- **Hushai**: 2Sa 15:32,37 2Sa 16:16
- **friend**: 2Sa 16:17 Ps 55:13 Zec 13:7

Related Passages:

> 2 Samuel 16:23 The advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one inquired of the word of God; so was all the advice of Ahithophel regarded by both David and Absalom.
>
> 2 Samuel 17:23 Now when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey and arose and went to his home, to his city, and set his house in order, and strangled himself; thus he died and was buried in the grave of his father.
>
> 2 Samuel 15:37 So Hushai, David's friend, came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.
>
> 2 Samuel 16:16-17 Now it came about when Hushai the Archite, **David's friend,** came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your loyalty to your **friend**? Why did you not go with your **friend**?"

COUNSELORS
A TRAITOR & A FRIEND

Ahithophel was counselor to the king He was a trusted counselor who betrayed David and joined Absalom's rebellion against David (2Sa 15:12,31,34; 16:15,20,21,23; 17:1,6,7,14,15,21,23; 23:34) and then committed suicide when Absalom favored Hushai's battle strategy over his.

and Hushai the Archite was the king's friend - Proverbs 17:17 A **friend** loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.

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1 Chronicles 27:34 Jehoiada the son of Benaiah, and Abiathar succeeded Ahithophel; and Joab was the commander of the king's army.

- **Abiathar**: 1Ki 1:7
- **Joab was the commander** 1Ch 11:6

Related Passages:

> 2 Samuel 15:37 So Hushai, David's friend, came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.
>
> 2 Samuel 16:16 Now it came about when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!"

Jehoiada the son of Benaiah, and Abiathar succeeded Ahithophel; and Joab was the commander of the king's army.

Smith's Dictionary According to (1Ch 27:34) son of Benaiah; but in all probability Benaiah the sons of Jehoiada is meant. Probably an error in copying. (1 Chronicles 18:17; 2 Samuel 8:18)