

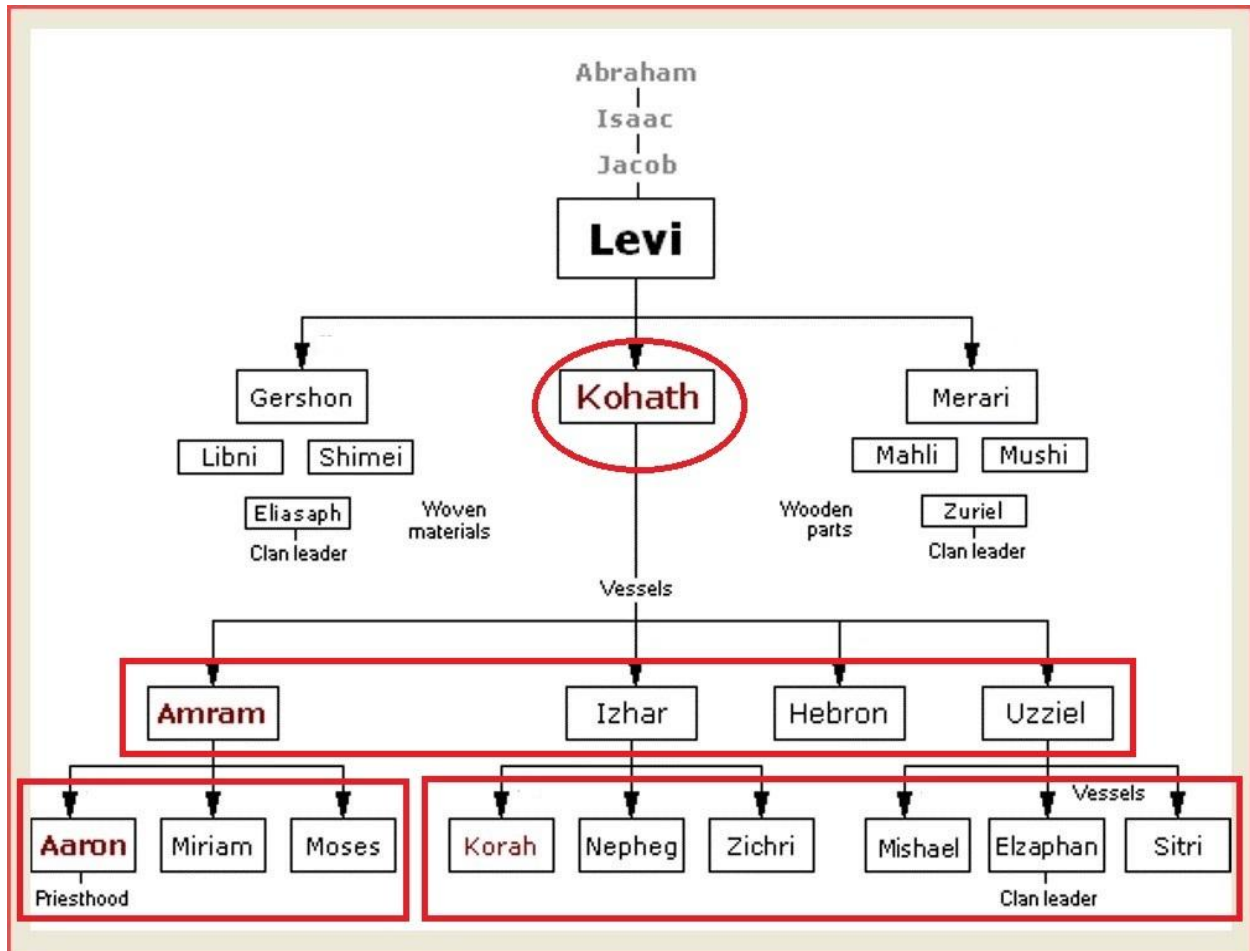
Numbers 4

Verses 1 - 16

Then the Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, ² “Take a census of the descendants of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, by their families, by their fathers’ households, ³ from thirty years and upward, even to fifty years old, all who enter the service to do the work in the tent of meeting. ⁴ This is the work of the descendants of Kohath in the tent of meeting, *concerning* the most holy things. ⁵ “When the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons shall go in and they shall take down the veil of the screen and cover the ark of the testimony with it; ⁶ and they shall lay a covering of porpoise skin on it, and shall spread over *it* a cloth of pure blue, and shall insert its poles. ⁷ Over the table of the bread of the Presence they shall also spread a cloth of blue and put on it the dishes and the pans and the sacrificial bowls and the jars for the drink offering, and the continual bread shall be on it. ⁸ They shall spread over them a cloth of scarlet *material*, and cover the same with a covering of porpoise skin, and they shall insert its poles. ⁹ Then they shall take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand for the light, along with its lamps and its snuffers, and its trays and all its oil vessels, by which they serve it; ¹⁰ and they shall put it and all its utensils in a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put it on the carrying bars. ¹¹ Over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall insert its poles; ¹² and they shall take all the utensils of service, with which they serve in the sanctuary, and put them in a blue cloth and cover them with a covering of porpoise skin, and put them on the carrying bars. ¹³ Then they shall take away the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth over it. ¹⁴ They shall also put on it all its utensils by which they serve in connection with it: the firepans, the forks and shovels *and the basins, all the utensils of the altar; and they shall spread a cover of porpoise skin over it and insert its poles.* ¹⁵ When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy *objects* and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is to set out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry *them*, so that they will not touch the holy *objects* and die. These are the things in the tent of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry. ¹⁶ “The responsibility of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest is the oil for the light and the fragrant incense and the continual grain offering and the anointing oil—the responsibility of all the tabernacle and of all that is in it, with the sanctuary and its furnishings.”

² “Take a census of the descendants of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, by their families, by their fathers’ households, ³ from thirty years and upward, even to fifty years old, all who enter the service to do the work in the tent of meeting.

See pic 405 Kohath and his sons and grandsons



Only those who were from 30 to 50 years old could serve therefore all of the grandsons of Kohath in the chart above were too old to serve because they are about the same age as Moses and Aaron (80 and 83 respectively). The great grandsons of Kohath would have been serving at this time and they are not shown on this chart.

The minimal age was reduced to 25 in the book of Numbers.

See Numbers 8:23-25.

²³ Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴ “This is what *applies* to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall enter to perform service in the work of the tent of meeting. ²⁵ But at the age of fifty years they shall retire from service in the work and not work anymore.

It was later reduced to 20 during the time of David.

See 1 Chronicles 23:24-27.

²⁴ These were the sons of Levi according to their fathers' households, the heads of the fathers' households of those among them who were counted, in the number of names by their head count, doing the work for the service of the house of the Lord, from twenty years old and upward.

⁴ This is the work of the descendants of Kohath in the tent of meeting, concerning the most holy things.

Kohath was not the oldest son of Levi but he was given the honor of moving the "most holy" things which included the Ark, the table of the bread of the Presence, the lampstand, the golden altar and the bronze altar.

See pic 406



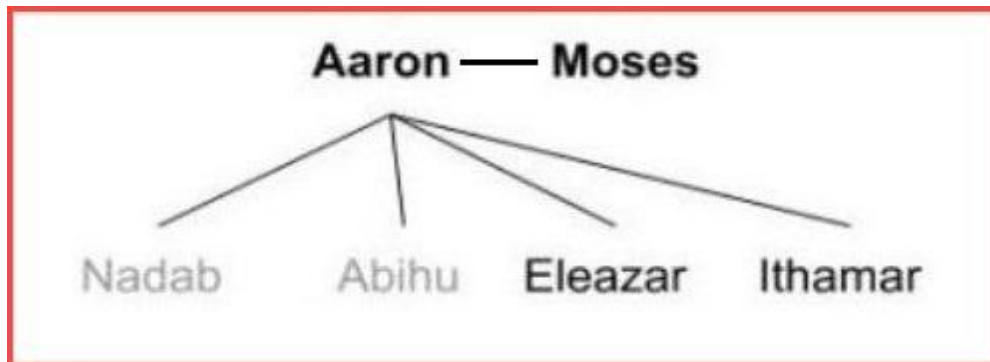
¹⁵ **When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy *objects* and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is to set out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry *them*, so that they will not touch the holy *objects* and die.**

Before the Kohathites could move any of the sacred furniture Aaron and his sons were required to cover the items and insert the poles.

¹⁶ **The responsibility of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest is the oil for the light and the fragrant incense and the continual grain offering and the anointing oil—the responsibility of the entire tabernacle and of all that is in it, with the sanctuary and its furnishings.**

See pic 410

Eleazar



Eleazar was the BMOC (Big Man on Campus). 😊

He was in charge of the oil for the light, the incense, the grain offering, and the anointing oil. Plus he had oversight of the entire tabernacle and all of its furnishings.

Verses 17 – 20

¹⁷ **Then the Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,** ¹⁸ **“Do not let the tribe of the families of the Kohathites be cut off from among the Levites. ¹⁹ But do this to them that they may live and not die when they approach the most holy *objects*: Aaron and his sons shall go in and assign each of them to his work and to his load; ²⁰ but they shall not go in to see the holy *objects* even for a moment, or they will die.”**

The holy objects had to be covered by Aaron's sons before the Kohathites could enter the Tabernacle because they would die if they saw them.

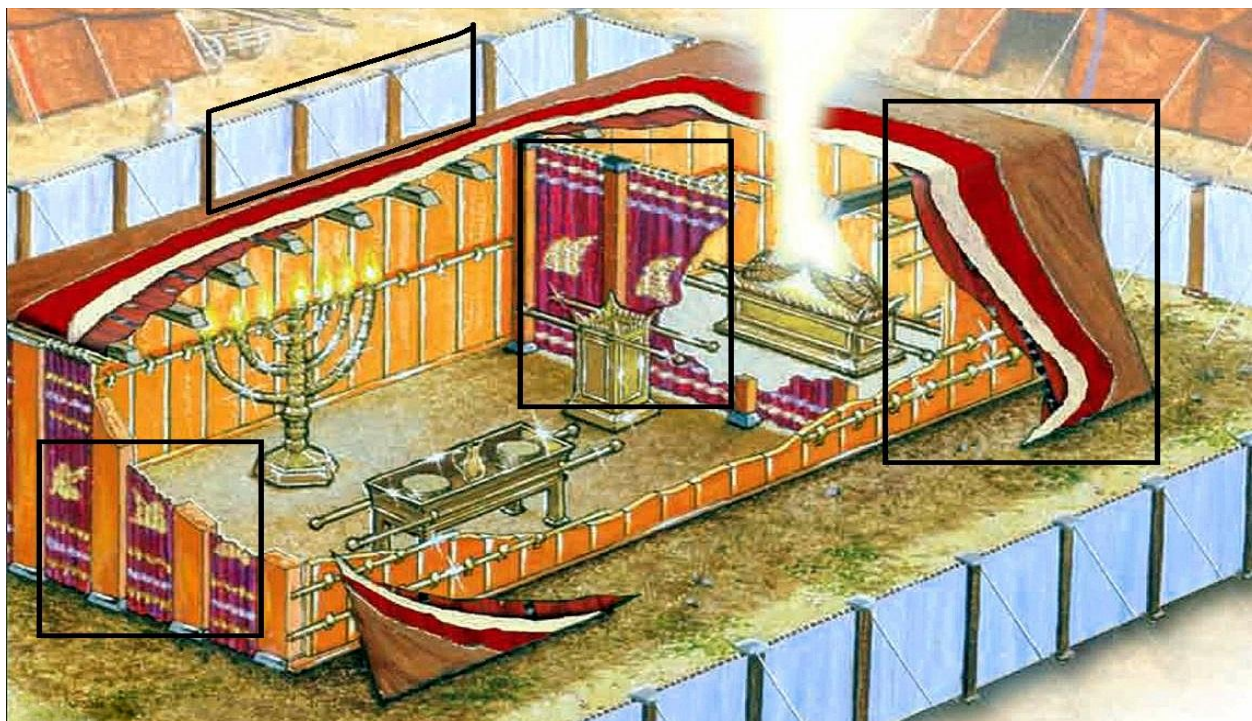
Verses 21 - 28

²¹ Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²² “Take a census of the sons of Gershon also, by their fathers’ households, by their families; ²³ from thirty years and upward to fifty years old, you shall number them; all who enter to perform the service to do the work in the tent of meeting. ²⁴ This is the service of the families of the Gershonites, in serving and in carrying: ²⁵ they shall carry the curtains of the tabernacle and the tent of meeting *with* its covering and the covering of porpoise skin that is on top of it, and the screen for the doorway of the tent of meeting, ²⁶ and the hangings of the court, and the screen for the doorway of the gate of the court which is around the tabernacle and the altar, and their cords and all the equipment for their service; and all that is to be done, they shall perform. ²⁷ All the service of the sons of the Gershonites, in all their loads and in all their work, shall be *performed* at the command of Aaron and his sons; and you shall assign to them as a duty all their loads. ²⁸ This is the service of the families of the sons of the Gershonites in the tent of meeting, and their duties *shall be* under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

²⁴ This is the service of the families of the Gershonites, ²⁵ they shall carry.....

The Gershonites carried all of the items that were made of woven material.

See pic 411



This included the curtains of the tabernacle and the tent of meeting, the screen for the doorway of the tent of meeting, the hangings of the court, and the screen for the doorway of the gate of the court.

While the Kohathites had to carry everything by hand using the staves, the Gershonites were provided 2 wagons and 4 oxen for the transportation of the items assigned to them. The Merarites, charged with the transport of the framework of the tabernacle were given 4 wagons and 8 oxen.

See Numbers 7:7 - 9

⁶ So Moses took the carts and the oxen and gave them to the Levites. ⁷ Two carts and four oxen he gave to the sons of Gershon, according to their service, ⁸ and four carts and eight oxen he gave to the sons of Merari, according to their service, under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. ⁹ But he did not give any to the sons of Kohath, because theirs was the service of the holy objects, which they carried on the shoulder.

²⁸ This is the service of the families of the sons of the Gershonites in the tent of meeting, and their duties *shall be* under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

Ithamar, one of Aaron's sons, was in charge of the Gershonites. See chart 410 above.

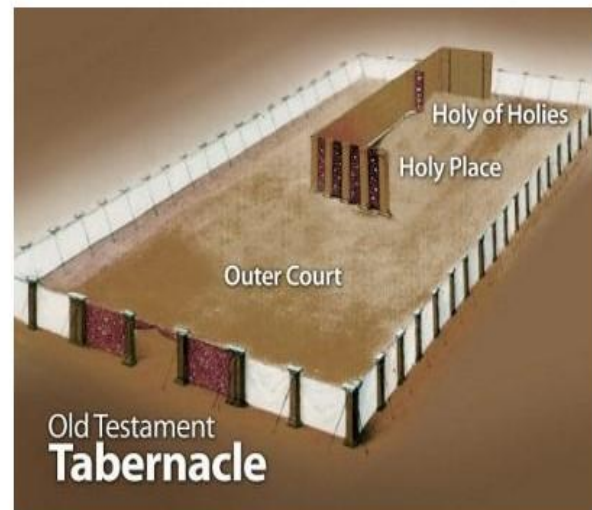
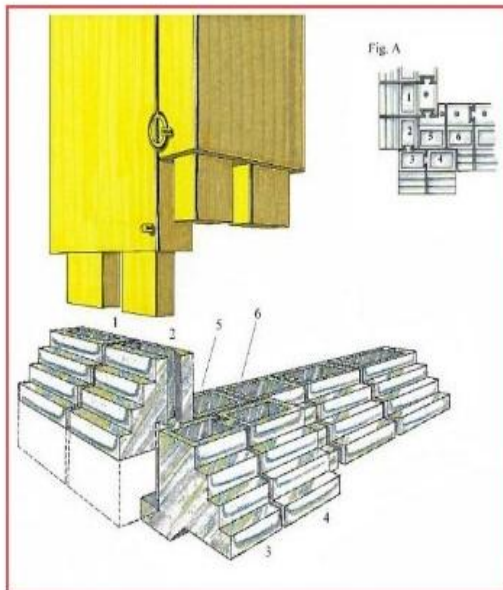
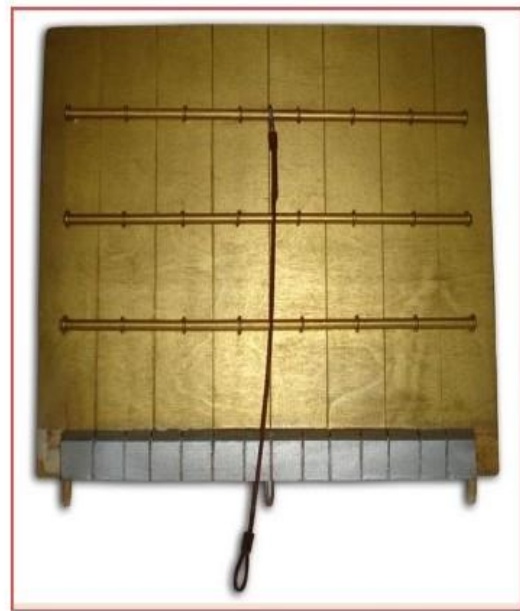
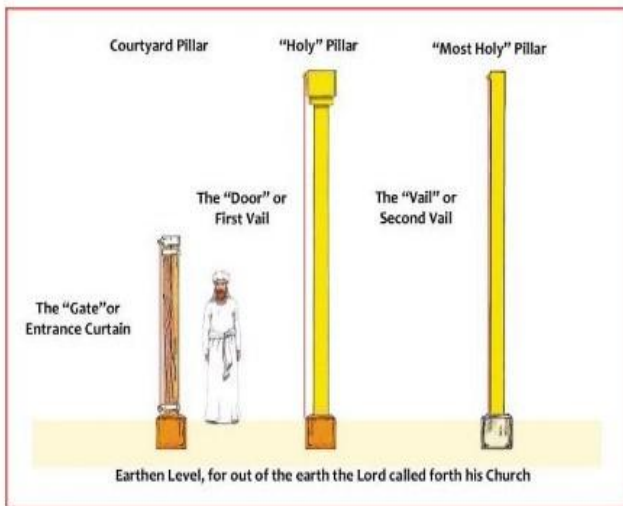
Verses 29 – 33

²⁹ “As for the sons of Merari, you shall number them by their families, by their fathers’ households; ³⁰ from thirty years and upward even to fifty years old, you shall number them, everyone who enters the service to do the work of the tent of meeting. ³¹ Now this is the duty of their loads, for all their service in the tent of meeting: the boards of the tabernacle and its bars and its pillars and its sockets, ³² and the pillars around the court and their sockets and their pegs and their cords, with all their equipment and with all their service; and you shall assign *each man* by name the items he is to carry. ³³ This is the service of the families of the sons of Merari, according to all their service in the tent of meeting, under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.”

²⁹ “As for the sons of Merari....

See pic 415

Boards for the Tabernacle & the court and their sockets



When one considers all the boards and the aluminum sockets that were required for the Tabernacle plus all the wooden pillars around the court it would have been a very labor intensive job to assemble and disassemble them. Therefore each man of the sons of Merari was assigned their portion that they were responsible for. This was a team effort but each man had his own work load to complete.

God used men that were in the prime of their life, 30 to 50 years old. They were mature enough to be responsible and vigorous enough to do the laborious work that had to be done.

Verses 34 - 49

³⁴ So Moses and Aaron and the leaders of the congregation numbered the sons of the **Kohathites** by their families and by their fathers' households, ³⁵ from thirty years and upward even to fifty years old, everyone who entered the service for work in the tent of meeting. ³⁶ Their numbered men by their families were **2,750**.

³⁷ These are the numbered men of the Kohathite families, everyone who was serving in the tent of meeting, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the commandment of the Lord through Moses.

³⁷ These are the numbered men of the Kohathite families

From 30 to 50 years old 2,750

A month old and upward 8,600

³⁸ The numbered men of the sons of **Gershon** by their families and by their fathers' households, ³⁹ from thirty years and upward even to fifty years old, everyone who entered the service for work in the tent of meeting. ⁴⁰ Their numbered men by their families, by their fathers' households, were **2,630**. ⁴¹ These are the numbered men of the families of the sons of Gershon, everyone who was serving in the tent of meeting, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the commandment of the Lord.

⁴¹ These are the numbered men of the families of the sons of Gershon

From 30 to 50 years old 2630

A month old and upward 7500

⁴² The numbered men of the families of the sons of **Merari** by their families, by their fathers' households, ⁴³ from thirty years and upward even to fifty years old, everyone who entered the service for work in the tent of meeting. ⁴⁴ Their numbered men by their families were **3,200**. ⁴⁵ These are the numbered men of the families of the sons of Merari, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the commandment of the Lord through Moses.

⁴⁵ **These are the numbered men of the families of the sons of Merari**

From 30 to 50 years old 3200

A month old and upward 6200

⁴⁶ **All the numbered men of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron and the leaders of Israel numbered, by their families and by their fathers' households, ⁴⁷ from thirty years and upward even to fifty years old, everyone who could enter to do the work of service and the work of carrying in the tent of meeting. ⁴⁸ Their numbered men were 8,580. ⁴⁹ According to the commandment of the Lord through Moses, they were numbered, everyone by his serving or carrying; thus *these* were his numbered men, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.**

⁴⁶ **All the numbered men of the Levites.....**

From 30 to 50 years old 8,580

A month old and upward 22,300