

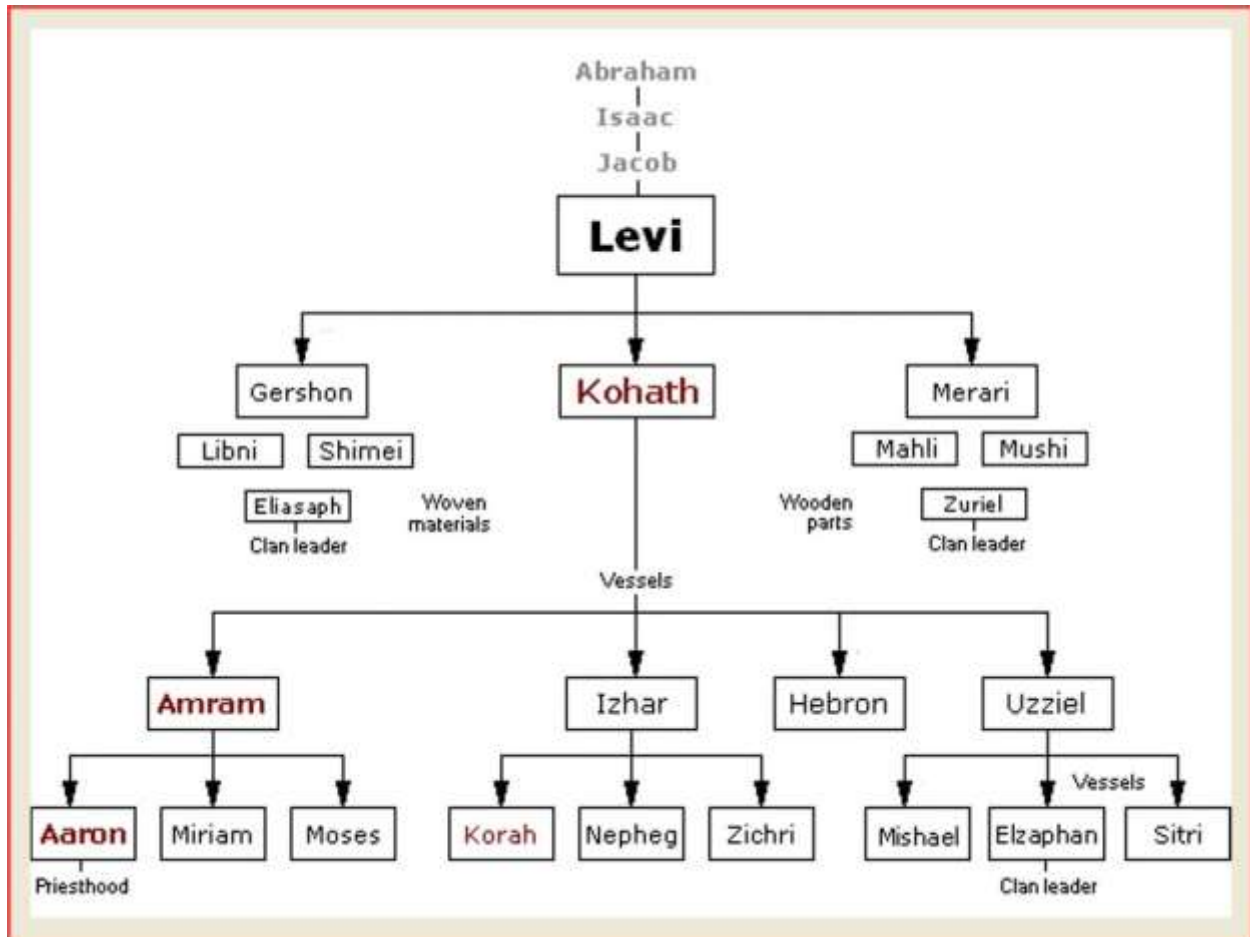
Numbers 4

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, ³from thirty years and upward, even to fifty years old, all who enter the service to do the work in the tent of meeting. ⁴This 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; ⁶and 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. ⁷Over 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. ⁸They 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. ⁹Then 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; ¹⁰and they shall put it and all its utensils in a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put it on the carrying bars. ¹¹Over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall insert its poles; ¹²and 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. ¹³Then they shall take away the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth over it. ¹⁴They 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.* ¹⁵When 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.”

Take a census of **the descendants of Kohath** 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 grandson



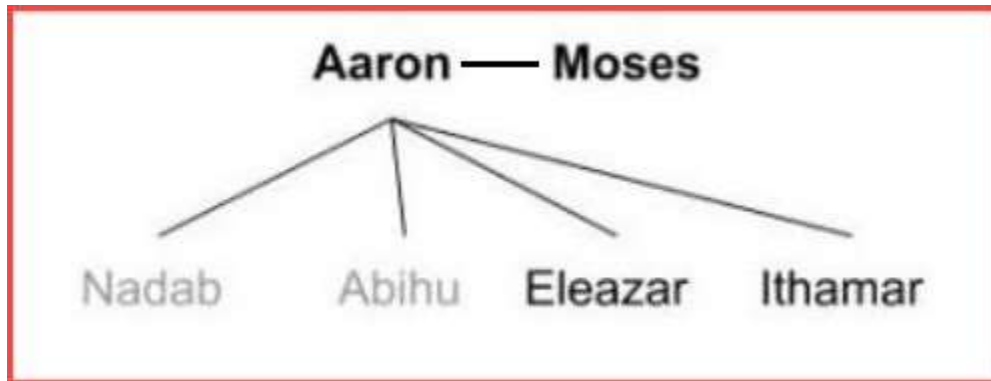
Kohath was not the oldest son of Levi but he was given the honor of moving the "most holy" things which included the Ark, the table of the bread of the Presence, the lampstand for the light, and the golden altar.

Only those who were from 30 to 50 years old could serve. The minimal age was reduced to 25 in Numbers 8:23-26. It was later reduced to 20 during the time of David in 1 Chronicles 23:24-27.

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

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 had oversight of the entire operation

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.”

Do not let the tribe of the families of the Kohathites be cut off from among the Levites

The holy things had to be properly wrapped by Aaron's sons or the Kohathites could die by seeing the Holy Things.

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.

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

This was covered in chapter 3 verses 21-26

The Kohathites had to carry everything by hand using the staves.

The Gershonites were provided two 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 four wagons and 8 oxen.

See Numbers 7:7 - 9

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

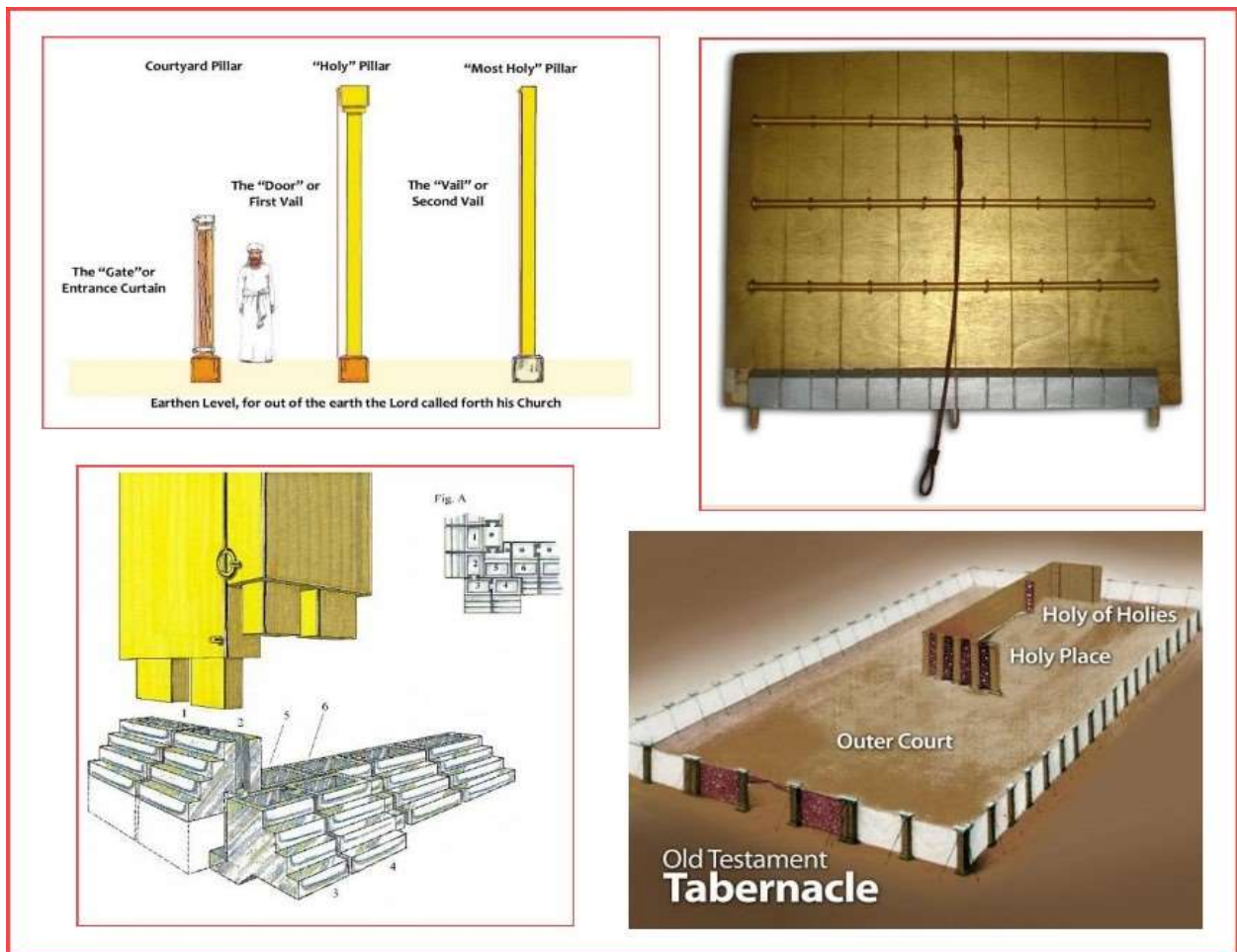
See chart 410 above. Ithamar

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.”

You shall assign *each man* by name the items he is to carry

See pic 415 Boards for the Tabernacle & the court



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

These are the numbered men of the Kohathite families

From 30 to 50 years old 2,750

A month old and upward 8,600

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

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

All the numbered men of the Levites.....

From 30 to 50 years old 8,580

A month old and upward 22,300