

Glen Park Gospel Church  
**Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes**

Rev Chris Trinham

From Egypt to Canaan

No 12

## The Sons of Kohath

And the Levites shall be Mine; I am the LORD Numbers 3:45b

The Levites were to be a tribe set apart. Levi had three sons: Gershon, Kohath and Merari. They and their descendants were to God as the firstborn offering of Israel Numbers 3:40-45. Their duty was to take care of the tabernacle and its ministry. Aaron's family served as priests and the other families took care of the temporal and manual work Numbers 4:2-4. Part of that work was its protection and to transport from place to place as the Lord led.

The leaders of the heads of the families of Israel brought an offering for this service: it was six carts to carry the tabernacle, and oxen to pull them. Moses passed these on to the sons of Levi. Two carts and four oxen were given to Gershon's sons, Four carts and eight oxen to be given to the sons of Merari. But, he gave none at all to the sons of Kohath. They were to carry their loads upon their shoulders as controlled by Ithama the son of Aaron the priest,. Numbers 7:5-9.

In the Church there are Elders and Deacons Acts 6:3&4. From earliest days the work of the Elder is to care for spiritual things and the work of the Deacon to care for temporal things. One post is not more important, both have their God given place. What is important is facilitating the work of the Lord in redeeming the lost.

**God calls people to tasks** He has for them to do. This is evident in the life of the Paul, the disciples, Sampson, David and many more. It was true of the Kohathites, and it is true of us.

**God prepares people for his purposes.** How ideal was Paul for his task? Have you ever wondered why Jesus did not call him as a disciple? Answer: God needed Paul to be the man he was. How does this thought illuminate the path God has led you in your life?

If you study the meanings behind the Hebrew names, (shown like this), and careers given to the sons of Levi you will see that Korah's family more than his brothers had an awareness of things of God.

Levi had three sons: Gershon his first (A stranger there) also had two sons, Libni (White, distinguished). Merari his

third (Bitter and excited) also had two sons , Malhi (Mild) and Mushi (Drawn out). Little more is heard of them.

Levi's second son, Kohath (A gathering) had these people in his family: Amram (Exalted people), Izhar (Shining), Hebron (Company), Uzzeil (God is strong), Aaron (Enlightened), Moses (Drawer out), Mishael (Is what God is), Elzaphan (God is protecting), Zithri (The Lord is protection). Just out of interest Miriam means 'thick, strong.' God made her for the tasks he had for her too. It is important to build into the lives of our children an awareness of the knowledge of God. This trend can last for generations.

God had a special task for Kohath.

**God endows His people according to the work that he has for them to do.**

Gershon had two carts, Merari had four, because their work was to transport the tents and outer curtains,

the poles and sockets and ropes.

Kohath was given:

the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, and the utensils of the sanctuary with which they minister, and the screen, and all the service concerning them; Numbers 3:31.

Eleazar the priest was responsible to wrap each item for transportation so that they should not be seen or touched by anyone, on pain of death. Each man was allocated his special task or item to carry upon his shoulders. This task was that important. Numbers 4:4-20.

**We must not look on the lot of others to envy them.** Kohath had some other sons. There were also a few rogues.

Korah (Rebel, balding). In Numbers 16 there is the story of the rebellion of Korah. He and some others wanted more than God had allotted them. They wanted to share the leadership with Moses and Aaron. But God judged them for it.

Nadab (Volunteer) and Abihu (He is my father), sons of Aaron, and in the priestly family, overstepped their authority and offered fire upon the altar, not in accord with what the Lord had commanded. It is a serious thing to step outside the bounds of what God has ordained. They paid for it with their lives. Leviticus 10:1&2.

The names of these people do not suggest a keen desire for God's glory, but their own self interest.

**If God has called and equipped you:**

to be a preacher or teacher, tell all and

only His word,  
to be a soul winner, get busy with the task at every opportunity,  
to be an encourager, find people to get beside,  
to prayer, then pray,  
to hospitality, then open your home and heart to strangers,  
and so on - and do it with joy.

**The Ministry of Song.** The sons of Kohath performed their duty in the joy of the Lord. They had the heaviest personal loads. Their responsibility was heavy. But their heart was light with song. Eleven songs in the Psalter are traditionally accorded to the sons of Korah.

Many years later when Jehosaphat was confronting an hostile enemy coalition he turned to the Lord and the Lord delivered him. At that time:

The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and of the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel, with a very loud voice. Second Chronicles 20:19

**The Musical Tradition of Korah** Psalms 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 84, 85, 87 & 88. Among them are some of our favourite psalms. Asaph who is associated with other Psalms was a Levite, but of the family of Marari.

Acknowledgements: Analytical Concordance - Young, Hebrew and English Lexicon - Brown Driver & Briggs, Interlinear Bible - Green, Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia - Voss & Rea.

Bible quotations are from the NASB

*Welcome* Glen Park Gospel Church  
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Sundays 10.30 am

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