

around the tabernacle and the altar, and their cords, according to all the work relating to them.

<sup>27</sup>From Kohath came the family of the Amramites, the family of the Izharites, the family of the Hebronites, and the family of the Uzzielites; these were the families of the Kohathites. <sup>28</sup>According to the number of all the males, from a month old and above, there were eight thousand six<sup>a</sup> hundred keeping charge of the sanctuary. <sup>29</sup>The families of the children of Kohath were to camp on the south side of the tabernacle. <sup>30</sup>And the leader of the fathers' house of the families of the Kohathites was Elizaphan the son of Uzziel. <sup>31</sup>Their duty included the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the utensils of the sanctuary with which they ministered, the screen, and all the work relating to them.

<sup>32</sup>And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest was to be chief over the leaders of the Levites, with oversight of those who kept charge of the sanctuary.

<sup>33</sup>From Merari came the family of the Mahlites and the family of the Mushites; these were the families of Merari. <sup>34</sup>And those who were numbered, according to the number of all the males from a month old and above, were six thousand two hundred. <sup>35</sup>The leader of the fathers' house of the families of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail. These were to camp on the north side of the tabernacle. <sup>36</sup>And the appointed duty of the children of Merari included the boards of the tabernacle, its bars, its pillars, its sockets, its utensils, all the work relating to them, <sup>37</sup>and the pillars of the court all around, with their sockets, their pegs, and their cords.

<sup>38</sup>Moreover those who were to camp before the tabernacle on the east, before the tabernacle of meeting, were Moses, Aaron, and his sons, keeping charge of the sanctuary, to meet the needs of the children of Israel; but the outsider who came near was to be put to death. <sup>39</sup>All who were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron numbered at the commandment of the LORD, by their families, all the males from a month old and above, were twenty-two thousand.

### Levites Dedicated Instead of the Firstborn

<sup>40</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses: "Number all the firstborn males of the children of Israel from a month old and above, and take the number of their names. <sup>41</sup>And you shall take the Levites for Me—I am the LORD—instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the livestock of the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the

livestock of the children of Israel." <sup>42</sup>So Moses numbered all the firstborn among the children of Israel, as the LORD commanded him. <sup>43</sup>And all the firstborn males, according to the number of names from a month old and above, of those who were numbered of them, were twenty-two thousand two hundred and seventy-three.

<sup>44</sup>Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>45</sup>"Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the livestock of the Levites instead of their livestock. The Levites shall be Mine: I am the LORD. <sup>46</sup>And for the redemption of the two hundred and seventy-three of the firstborn of the children of Israel, who are more than the number of the Levites, <sup>47</sup>you shall take five shekels for each one individually; you shall take them in the currency of the shekel of the sanctuary, the shekel of twenty gerahs. <sup>48</sup>And you shall give the money, with which the excess number of them is redeemed, to Aaron and his sons."

<sup>49</sup>So Moses took the redemption money from those who were over and above those who were redeemed by the Levites. <sup>50</sup>From the firstborn of the children of Israel he took the money, one thousand three hundred and sixty-five shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary. <sup>51</sup>And Moses gave their redemption money to Aaron and his sons, according to the word of the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.

### Duties of the Sons of Kohath

**4** <sup>1</sup>Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: <sup>2</sup>"Take a census of the sons of Kohath from among the children of Levi, by their

<sup>3:28</sup> <sup>a</sup>Some manuscripts of the Septuagint read *three*.



Mycenaean vase, 1400-1100 B.C.