

# LEVITES REPLACE THE FIRSTBORN OF ISRAEL

- Vs. 11 lost to both Christianity and Judaism
- God regarded the firstborns of Israel as special
- NOW, the Levites are set apart to substitute and REDEEM the firstborns of Israel
- Firstborns were dedicated to Yehoveh on the first Passover in Egypt
- The first of everything belongs to God... applies to ALL things, not just Israel
- Firstborns held a special status, a sacred status, especially BEFORE the priesthood was established



# THE FIRSTBORN: A PRE-PRIESTHOOD PRIEST

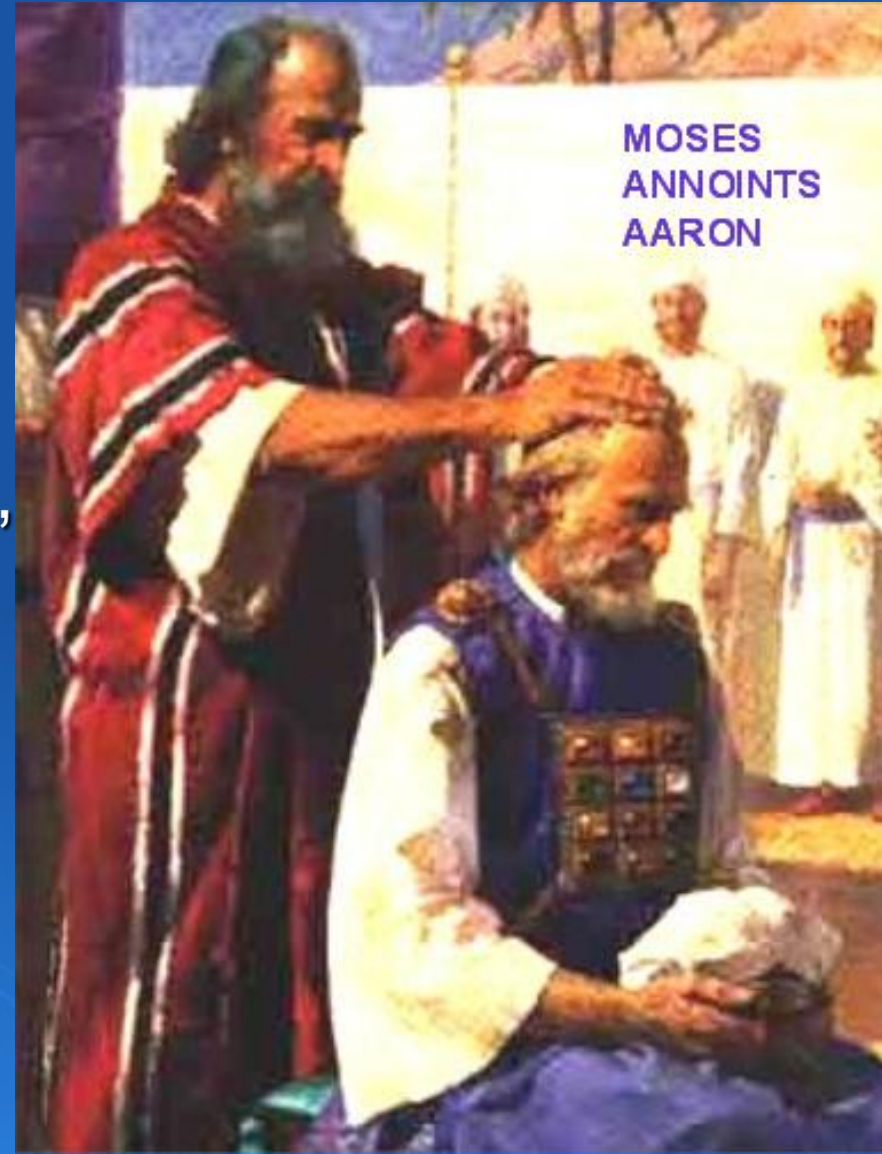


- Duty of the firstborn to perform sacrifices and rituals for the family
- Ancestor worship was at the center
- If firstborn conducted rituals properly, the dead parents would intercede with the gods
- If not, bad consequences
- Prevalent throughout Middle East
- *“he died and went to be with his fathers”*
- Ancestor worship hold-over



# DRASTIC CHANGE WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIESTHOOD

- A) Ritual duties transferred from families to a group of priests under central authority
- B) Firstborn son relieved of the duty as the family “priest”
- Firstborns of Israel to be replaced with Levites on a one-to-one basis



# LEVITES COUNTED MALES 1 MONTH OLD



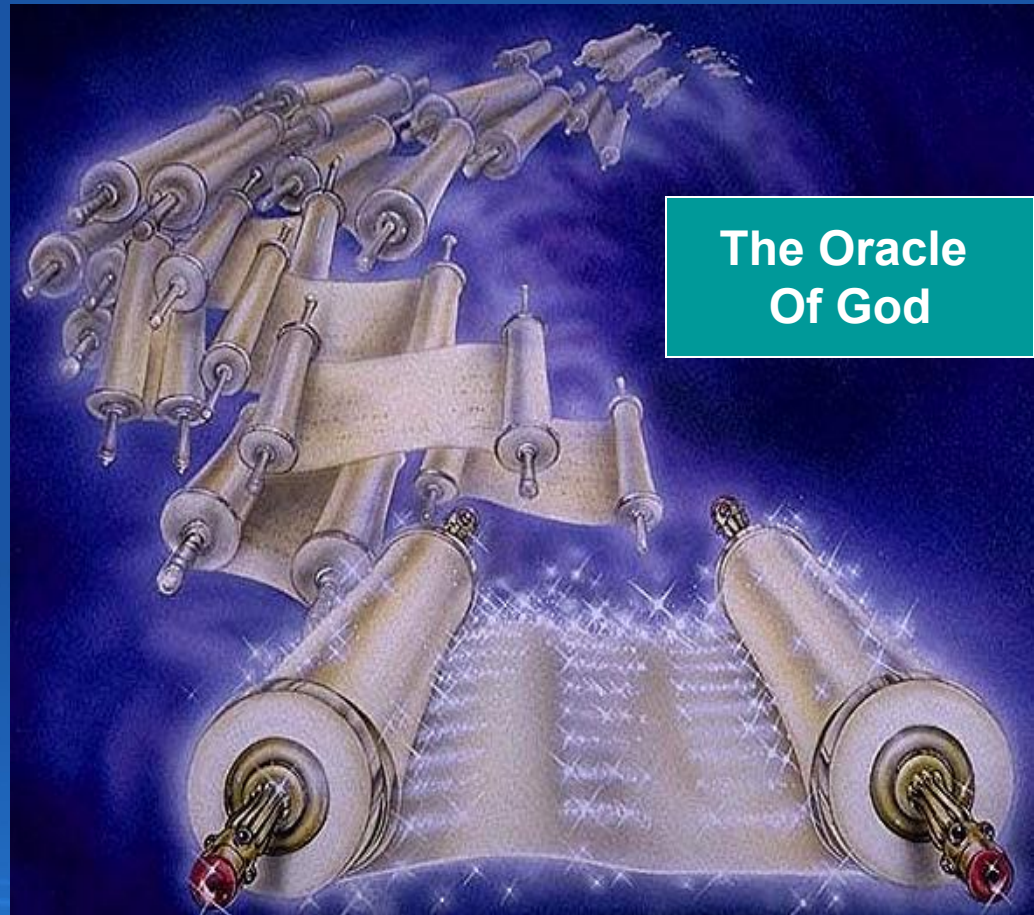
- Circumcision at 8 days
- Circumcision brings child under Abrahamic Covenant
- Child must be 1 month old to be redeemed
- Until a child is 30 days old, is not considered a “person”
- Jewish mourning rites suspended on child of less than 1 month of age





# THE ORACLE OF GOD

- Vss. 1 – 13 at Mt. Sinai
- After vs. 13 in the Wilderness
- The census of the Levites was conducted by God.....not humans!
- ***Paqad*** = recorded
- ***'al pi*** = oracle
- Moses simply recorded what God told Him to record (the count of the Levites)



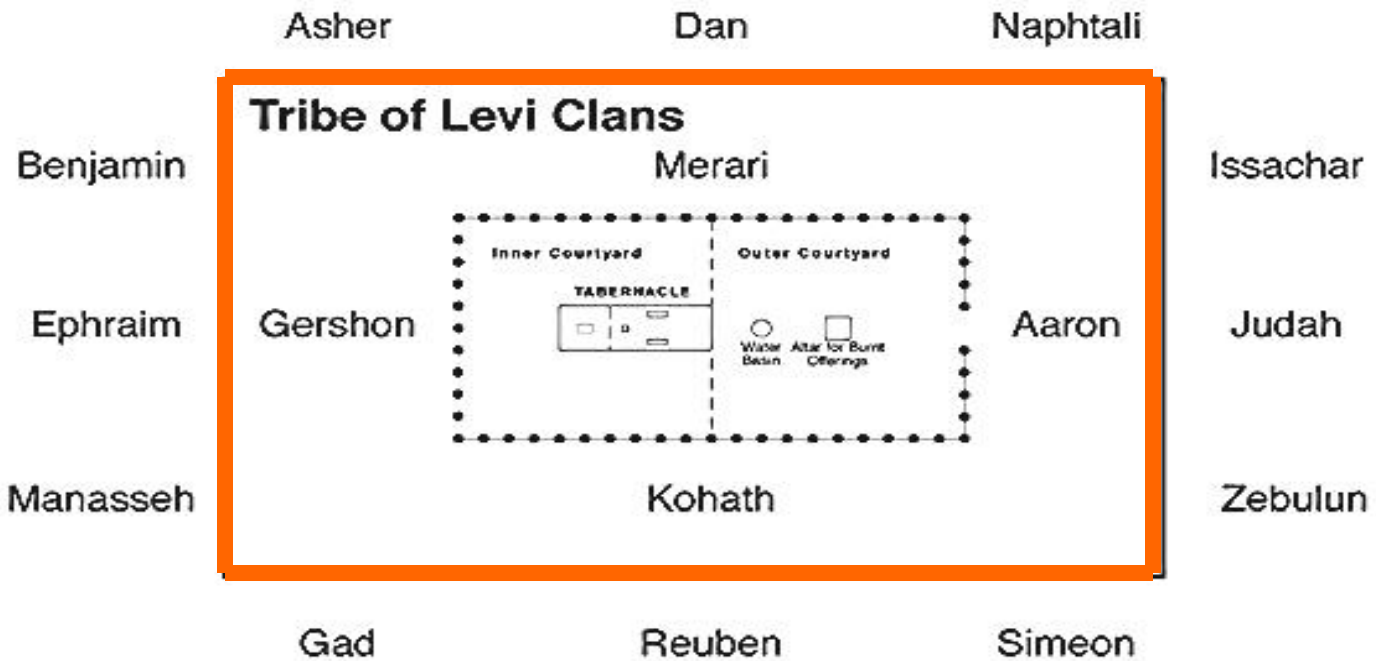


# GOD WILL DO THE COUNTING

- Principle of Yehoveh counting the Levites applies to Him counting the redeemed
- Church records, Baptism records, Ordination Certificates mean nothing when God takes His final census!
- Not ONE will be left behind that is saved
- NONE that should NOT be taken, will be taken

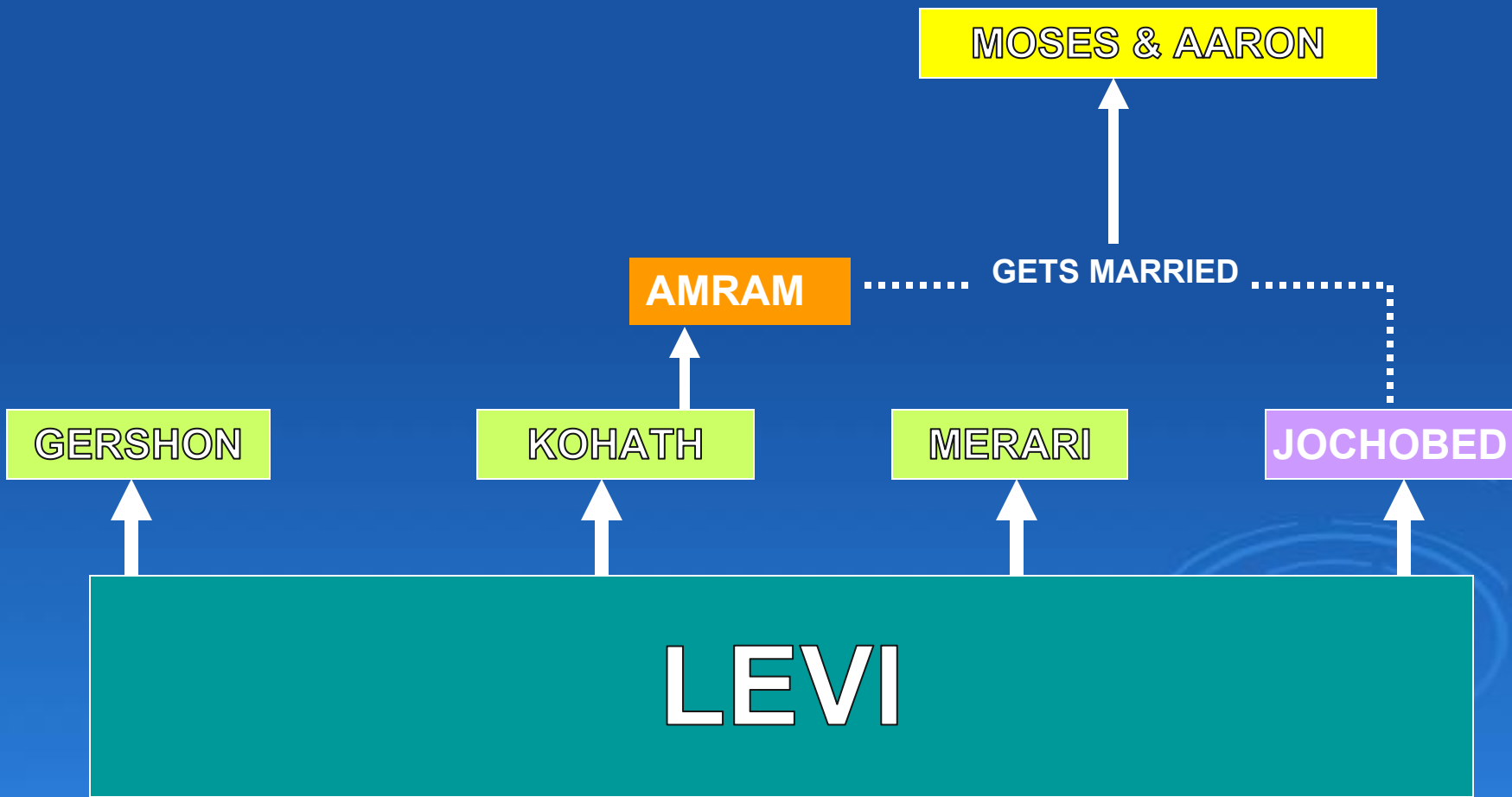


## Twelve Tribes



- Levites divided up by CLAN for different duties
- These duties were generally ONLY for the Exodus
- Levites and priests camped BETWEEN the 12 Tribes and the Tabernacle
- Levites and priests were mediators, intercessors, and guardians of God's holiness



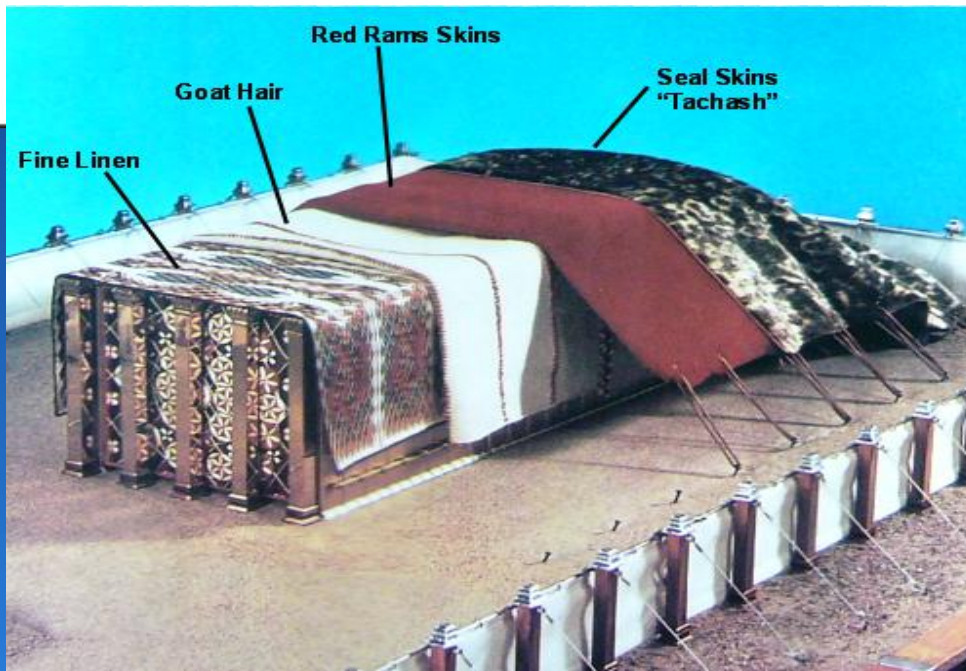
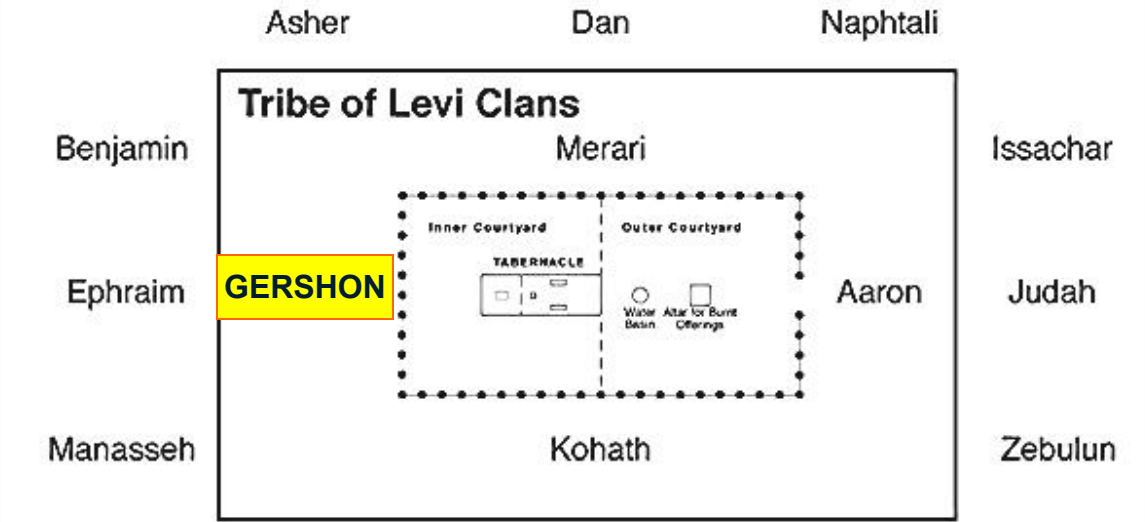




# GERSHON

- 7,500 males
- West
- 3<sup>rd</sup> most prestigious

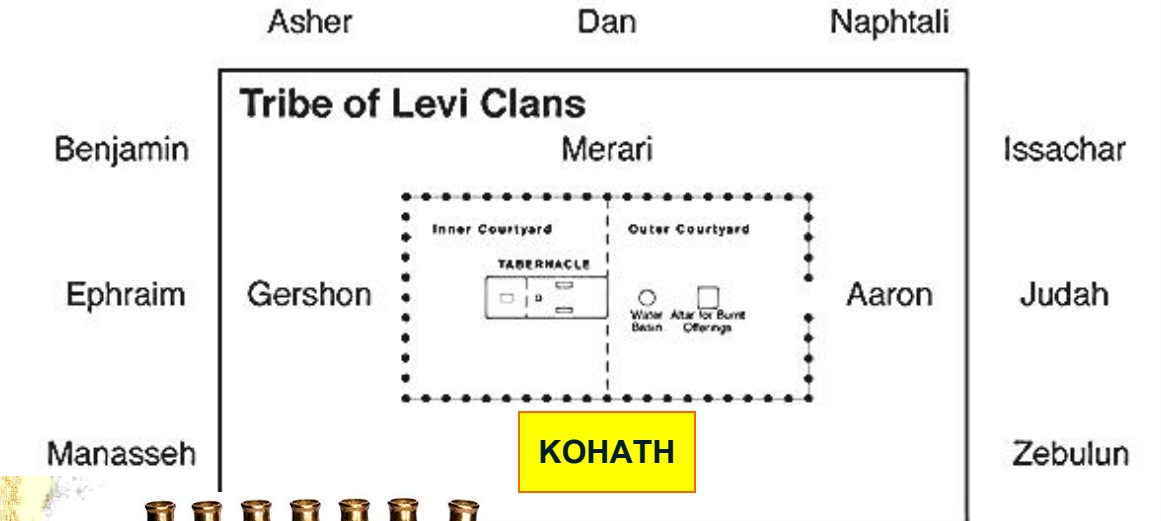
## Twelve Tribes



- Care for:
  - 1) The Tent
  - 2) Screen
  - 3) Altar
  - 4) Cords

# KOHATH

## Twelve Tribes



- 8,300 Males
- South
- 2<sup>nd</sup> most prestigious

- Care for:
  - 1) Ark
  - 2) Table of Shewbread
  - 3) Menorah
  - 4) Golden Altar

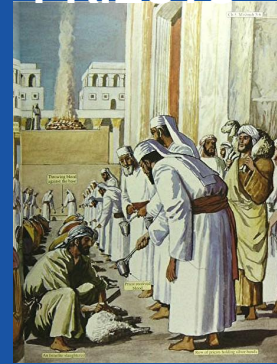




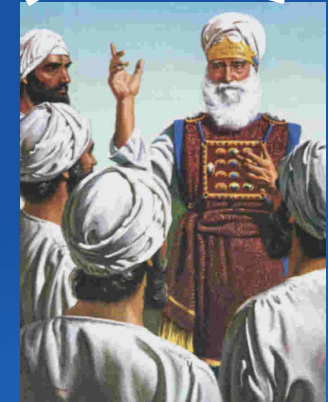
**HIGH PRIEST**



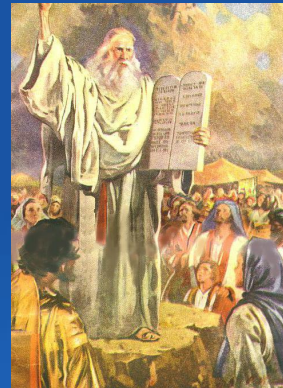
**ORDINARY  
PRIESTS**



**AARON**



**MOSES**



**TRIBE OF LEVI**

**MUSICIANS  
GUARDS  
LABORERS  
SINGERS  
TEND FIRES  
FILL WATER BASINS  
ALL OTHER LEVITES**



# MERARI

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- 6,200 Males
- North
- Least prestigious

## Twelve Tribes

Asher

Dan

Naphtali

Benjamin

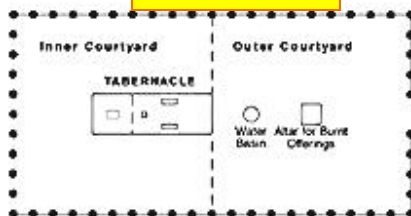
## Tribe of Levi Clans

MERARI

Issachar

Ephraim

Gershon



Aaron

Judah

Manasseh

Kohath

Zebulun

E

W



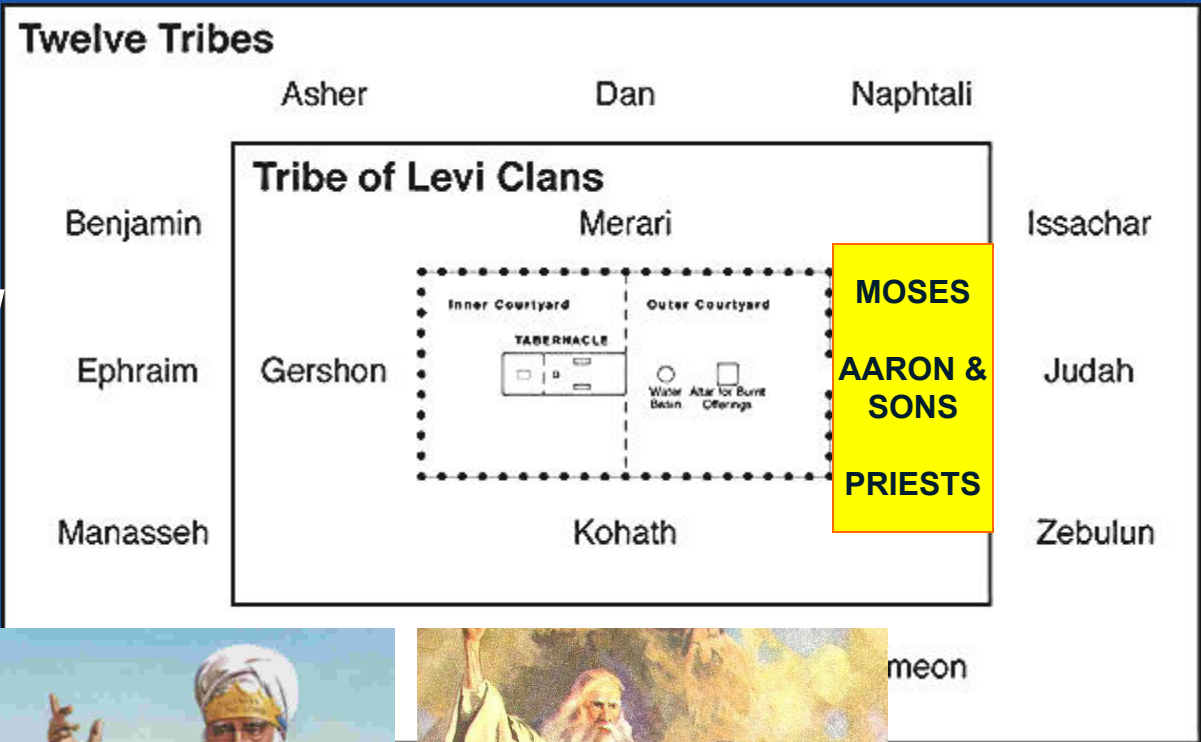
- Care for:
  - 1) Planks
  - 2) Poles
  - 3) Sockets
  - 4) Ropes



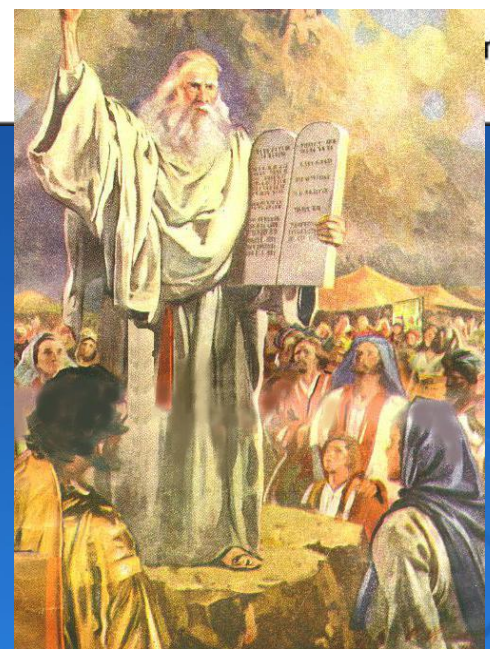
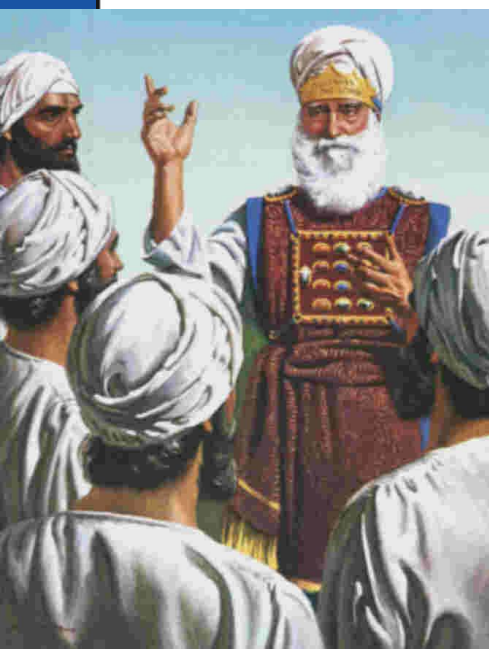
# MOSES, AARON, PRIESTS

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- Attend to duties of the Sanctuary
- No coming near to Sanctuary if not "holy"
- NO count of the Priests
- 22,000 total Male Levites



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# ANOTHER CENSUS

- All tribes of Israel, FIRSTBORN males 1 month and up
- There are 273 more Israelite Firstborns, than Levite males to substitute for them
- For the 273 extra, a “redemption price” of 5 Shekel of silver is set
- The Israelite Firstborns paid the money to the Priests
- The Levites now belonged to God IN PLACE OF the Israelite Firstborns
- Firstborn dedicated to God at birth, “bought back” after 30 days
- If not redeemed, first obligated to service to God
- Could NOT do the work of Levites or Priests



# SAMSON THE NAZARITE

- Nazarite vow put a person in service to God
- John the Baptist was not a Nazarite
- He was a LEVITE, therefore born into service to God, and no redemption was possible
- Even Jesus was redeemed by his parents!





# REDEMPTION OF YESHUA

- Luke 2: 21 – 35
- *Pidyon HaBen*
- Upon circumcision, baby got his name
- Purification of Mary
- Woman was unclean for 40 days after bearing a boy child
- The 2 birds were part of Mary's purification

