

them before Aharon HaKohen, that they may minister unto him [*i.e., help, be of service to him*].

|7| And they [the Levi'im] shall be shomer mishmeret (watch the watch, keep the guard duty) for him and for the mishmeret kol HaEdah (duty of the whole Congregation) before the Ohel Mo'ed, to do avodat HaMishkan (the work, service of the Mishkan).

|8| And they shall be shomer mishmeret over kol klei Ohel Mo'ed (all the vessels, furnishings of the Ohel Mo'ed) for the Bnei Yisroel, doing the avodat HaMishkan (work of the Mishkan).

|9| And thou shalt give the Levi'im unto Aharon and to his banim; they are wholly given unto him from among the Bnei Yisroel.

|10| And thou shalt appoint Aharon and his banim; they shall be shomer to watch over their kehunah; the zar that encroach shall be put to death.

|11| And Hashem spoke unto Moshe, saying,

|12| And I, hinei, I have taken the Levi'im from among the Bnei Yisroel instead of all the bechor that openeth the womb among the Bnei Yisroel; therefore the Levi'im shall be Mine;

|13| Because all the bechor are Mine; for on the yom that I struck down all the bechor in Eretz Mitzrayim I set apart as kodesh unto Me all the bechor in Yisroel, both man and beast: Mine shall they be: I am Hashem.

|14| And Hashem spoke unto Moshe in the midbar of Sinai, saying,

|15| Count the Bnei Levi by the bais of their avot, by their mishpekhoh; every zachar from a month old and upward shalt thou number them.

|16| And Moshe numbered them according to the command of Hashem, as he had been commanded.

|17| And these were the Bnei Levi by their shmot: Gershon, Kehat, and Merari.

|18| And these are the shmot of the Bnei Gershon by their mishpekhoh: Livni, and Shimei.

|19| And the Bnei Kehat by their mishpekhoh: Amram, Yitzhar, Chevron, and Uzziel.

|20| And the Bnei Merari by their mishpekhoh: Machli and Mushi. These are the mishpekhoh of the Levi'im according to the bais of their avot.

|21| To Gershon belonged the mishpakhat of the Livni and the mishpakhat of the Shimi: these are the mishpekhoh of the Gershoni.

|22| Those that were numbered of them, according to the number of kol zachar (all the males), from a month old and upward, even those that were numbered of them were seven thousand and five hundred.

|23| The mishpekhoh of the Gershoni shall encamp behind the Mishkan westward.

|24| And the Nasi of the bais av of the Gershoni shall be Elyasaph ben Lael.

|25| And the mishmeret of the Bnei Gershon in the Ohel Mo'ed is as follows: the Mishkan, and the Ohel, the covering thereof, and the curtain at the entrance of the Ohel Mo'ed,

|26| And the curtains of the khatzer, and the curtain for the entrance of the khatzer, which is around the Mishkan, and around the mizbe'ach; and the cords of it for kol avodah thereof.

|27| And to Kehat belonged the mishpakhat of the Amrami, and the mishpakhat of the Yitzhari, and the

mishpakhat of the Chevronei, and the mishpakhat of the Uzzieli: these are the mishpekhoh of the Kehati.

|28| In the number of all the zachar, from a month old and upward, were eight thousand and six hundred, shomrei mishmeret haKodesh.

|29| The mishpekhoh of the Bnei Kehat shall encamp on the southward side of the Mishkan.

|30| And the Nasi bais av of the mishpekhoh of the Kehati shall be Elitzaphan ben Uzziel.

|31| And their guard duty shall be: the Aron and the Shulchan, and the Menorah, and the Mizbechot, and the vessels of HaKodesh (the Holy Place) wherewith they minister, and the curtain, and all the avodah thereof.

|32| And Eleazar ben Aharon HaKohen shall be Nasi over the Nasi'ei HaLevi'im, and have the oversight of them that do guard duty over HaKodesh (the Holy Place).

|33| To Merari belonged the mishpakhat of the Mahli, and the mishpakhat of the Mushi: these are the mishpekhoh of Merari.

|34| And those that were counted of them, according to the number of all the zachar, from a month old and upward, were six thousand and two hundred.

|35| And the Nasi bais av of the mishpekhoh of Merari was Tzuriel ben Avichayil; these shall encamp on the side of the Mishkan northward.

|36| And under the guard duty charge of the Bnei Merari shall be: the frames of the Mishkan, and the crossbars thereof, and the pillars thereof, and the bases thereof, and all the vessels thereof, and all that serveth thereto,