

Forty-eight Cities of the Levites

21:1 **T**HEN the heads of ¹households of ^athe Levites approached Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of ¹households of the tribes of the sons of Israel. 2 And they spoke to them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, saying, “^aThe LORD commanded ¹through Moses to give us cities to live in, with their pasture lands for our cattle.” 3 So the sons of Israel gave the Levites from their inheritance these cities with their pasture lands, according to the ¹command of the LORD. 4 Then the lot came out for the families of the Kohathites. And the sons of Aaron the priest, who were of the Levites, ¹received thirteen cities by lot from the tribe of Judah and from the tribe of the Simeonites and from the tribe of Benjamin. 5 And the rest of the sons of Kohath ¹received ten cities by lot from the families of the tribe of Ephraim and from the tribe of Dan and from the half-tribe of Manasseh. 6 And the sons of Gershon ¹received thirteen cities by lot from the families of the tribe of Issachar and from the tribe of Asher and from the tribe of Naphtali and from the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan. 7 The sons of Merari according to their families ¹received twelve cities from the tribe of Reuben and from the tribe of Gad and from the tribe of Zebulun. 8 Now the ^asons of Israel gave by lot to the Levites these cities with their pasture lands, as the LORD had commanded ¹through Moses.

9 And they gave these cities which are *here* mentioned by name from the tribe of the sons of Judah and from the tribe of the sons of Simeon; 10 and they were for the sons of Aaron, one of the families of the Kohathites, of the sons of Levi, for the lot was theirs first. 11 Thus ^athey gave them Kiriath-arba, *Arba being* the ^bfather of Anak (that is, Hebron), in the hill country of Judah, with its surrounding pasture lands. 12 But the fields of the city and its villages, they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as his possession.

13 So ^ato the sons of Aaron the priest they gave ^bHebron, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasture lands, and ^cLibnah with its pasture lands, 14 and ^aJattir with its pasture lands and ^bEshtemoa with its pasture lands, 15 and ¹Holon with its pasture lands and ^aDebir with its pasture lands, 16 and ¹Ain with its pasture lands and ^aJuttah with its pasture lands *and* ^bBeth-shemesh with its pasture lands; nine cities from these two tribes. 17 And from the tribe of Benjamin, ^aGibeon with its pasture lands, ^bGeba with its pasture lands, 18 Anathoth with its pasture lands and ¹Almon with its pasture lands; four cities. 19 All the cities of the sons of Aaron, the priests, were thirteen cities with their pasture lands.

20 Then the cities from the tribe of Ephraim were allotted to the ^afamilies of the sons of Kohath, the Levites, *even to* the rest of the sons of Kohath. 21 And they gave them ^aShechem, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasture lands, in the hill country of Ephraim, and Gezer with its pasture lands, 22 and Kibzaim with its pasture lands and Beth-horon with its pasture lands; four cities. 23 And from the tribe of Dan, Elteke with its pasture lands, Gibbethon with its pasture lands, 24 Aijalon with its pasture lands, Gath-rimmon with its pasture lands; four cities. 25 And from the half-tribe of Manasseh, *they allotted* Taanach with its pasture lands and Gath-rimmon with its pasture lands; two cities. 26 All the cities with their pasture lands for the families of the rest of the sons of Kohath were ten.

27 And ^ato the sons of Gershon, one of the families of the Levites, from the half-tribe of Manasseh, *they gave* Golan in Bashan, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasture lands, and Be-eshterah with its pasture lands; two cities. 28 And from the tribe of

Issachar, *they gave* Kishion with its pasture lands, Daberath with its pasture lands, 29 Jarmuth with its pasture lands, En-gannim with its pasture lands; four cities. 30 And from the tribe of Asher, *they gave* Mishal with its pasture lands, Abdon with its pasture lands, 31 Helkath with its pasture lands and Rehob with its pasture lands; four cities. 32 And from the tribe of Naphtali, *they gave* ^aKedesh in Galilee, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasture lands and Hammoth-dor with its pasture lands and Kartan with its pasture lands; three cities. 33 All the cities of the Gershonites according to their families were thirteen cities with their pasture lands.

34 And to the families of ^athe sons of Merari, the rest of the Levites, *they gave* from the tribe of Zebulun, Jokneam with its pasture lands and Kartah with its pasture lands. 35 Dimnah with its pasture lands, Nahalal with its pasture lands; four cities. 36 And from the tribe of Reuben, *they gave* ^aBezer with its pasture lands and Jahaz with its pasture lands, 37 Kedemoth with its pasture lands and Mephaath with its pasture lands; four cities. 38 And from the tribe of Gad, *they gave* ^aRamoth in Gilead, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasture lands and ^bMahanaim with its pasture lands, 39 Heshbon with its pasture lands, Jazer with its pasture lands; four cities in all. 40 All *these were* the cities of the sons of Merari according to their families, the rest of the families of the Levites; and their lot was twelve cities.

41 ^aAll the cities of the Levites in the midst of the possession of the sons of Israel were forty-eight cities with their pasture lands. 42 These cities each had its surrounding pasture lands; thus *it was* with all these cities.

43 ^aSo the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and ^bthey possessed it and lived in it. 44 And the LORD ^agave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and ^bno one of all their enemies stood before them; ^cthe LORD gave all their enemies into their hand. 45 ^aNot ¹one of the good promises which the LORD had ²made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.

¹ Lit., *fathers*

^a Num. 35:1-8

¹ Lit., *fathers*

^a Num. 35:2

¹ Lit., *by the hand of*

¹ Lit., *mouth*

¹ Lit., *had*

¹ Lit., *had*

¹ Lit., *had*

¹ Lit., *had*

^a Gen. 49:5ff.

¹ Lit., *by the hand of*

^a 1 Chr. 6:55

^b Josh. 14:15; 15:13

^a 1 Chr. 6:57

^b Josh. 15:54

^c Josh. 15:42

^a Josh. 15:48

^b Josh. 15:50
¹ In 1 Chr. 6:58, *Hilen*
^a Josh. 15:49
¹ In 1 Chr. 6:59, *Ashan*
^a Josh. 15:55
^b Josh. 15:10
^a Josh. 18:25
^b Josh. 18:24
¹ In 1 Chr. 6:60, *Allemeth*
^a 1 Chr. 6:66
^a Josh. 20:7
^a 1 Chr. 6:71
^a Josh. 20:7
^a 1 Chr. 6:77
^a Deut. 4:43; Josh. 20:8
^a Deut. 4:43; 1 Kin. 4:13
^b Gen. 32:2; 2 Sam. 2:8
^a Num. 35:7
^a Deut. 34:4
^b Num. 33:53; Deut. 11:31; 17:14
^a Josh. 1:13; 23:1
^b Deut. 7:24
^c Ex. 23:31
^a Josh. 23:14; 1 Kin. 8:56
¹ Lit., *a word from every good word*
² Lit., *spoken*
ⁱ *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.