

## Guarding *Bet Hamikdash*

Ref: *Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Bet Habechirah, Chapter 8*



To guard the *Mikdash*<sup>5</sup>, Not to cease from guarding it.<sup>6</sup>

Guarded by Priests within and *Leviim* without – 24 Companies

– 24 Posts

The Priests stood guard in 3 places and the *Leviim* in 21 places.

They stood guard the whole night.

The *Ish Har Habayit* (Officer of the Temple Mount) would go around throughout the night to check on all the watches to make sure no one was sleeping.

In the morning before dawn he would wake those Priests sleeping in *Bet Hamokeid*. (These were the elders of the Priestly watch.) They had the keys to enter the Courtyard. They would then proceed in two groups with two torches of fire, one going eastward and one westward, to check the entire Courtyard. The two groups met at the *Bet Osei Chavitin* where they prompted the bakers to begin their work.

### Reminder:

Pack on Priests

Pack on *Leviim*

