

Service of *Leviim*

Ref: *Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Klei Hamikdash* , Chapter 3



A *Levi* should serve in the *Mikdash*.⁸

One person should not perform the duty of his friend in the *Mikdash*.⁹

A *Levi* must do all his duties that are expected of him.

- Guarding the Temple
- Gate – keepers
- Singing (were sung without musical instruments) accompany the Sacrifices
- Musicians – This was not a specific function for Levites alone. Stood on *duchan* with singers, but distinguished Israelites could also be musicians here.

A Levite must train for **5 years** from age **25 – 30**.

A Levite should not perform function of a Priest. Punishment is Death at the Hand of Heaven.

(Nor should a Priest perform function of *Levi*, nor should one *Levi* do the job of another *Levite*.)

Reminder:

Pack on *Leviim*

Pack on Punishment for *Sefer Avodah*



GUARDING



Shmuel Hanavi and *David Hamelech* divided the *Leviim* into **24** watches. (one per week) The head of each clan would assign work to each worker.

SINGING

This was a function of *Leviim* alone.

Would accompany the *Korbanot* (sacrifices).

- *Olot Hatzibur* (Communal Burnt Offerings)
- *Shalmei Atzeret* (Peace Offerings of *Shavuot*)
- *Nesachim* (Wine Libations) – associated with sacrifices

There should never be fewer than **12** *Leviim* singers on the *Duchan*. (3 steps between Courtyard of Israelites and Courtyard of Priests) – Musicians were additional

Reminder:

Pack on *Korbanot Basics*

Pack on *Bet Habechirah*



MUSICIANS

This was not a specific function of Levites. Priests and distinguished Israelites could also play.

Instruments used

- *Nevalim* (lyres) **2–6**
- *Chalalim* (flutes) **2–12** made from reeds and sounded on **12** days per year –
 - *Korban Pesach*
 - *Pesach* 1st day
 - *Pesach sheni*
 - *Shavuot*
 - 8 days of *Sukot*
- *Kinorot* (harps) **9 or more**
- *Chatzotzrot* (trumpets) **2 – 120** Silver

Sounded on

- All the days of the Festivals
- Every *Rosh Chodesh*

Priests would sound trumpets and *Leviim* would sing while sacrifices were being offered.

- *Tziltzal* (cymbal) **1**