

## ~ABIJAH 4 (54)

(A-bi'jah) [My Father Is Yehowah]

- A priestly descendant of Aaron, who in King David's day was recognized as head of one of the paternal houses of Israel. David divided the priesthood into 24 divisions, each to serve at the sanctuary for a one week period every six months. The paternal house of **Abijah** was chosen by lot to head the eighth division and thereafter it was known as **the division of Abijah**.
- And David, and Zadok from the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech from the sons of Ithamar proceeded to make divisions of them for their office in their service. (**1 Chronicles 24:3**)
- But the sons of Eleazar were found to be more numerous in headmen than the sons of Ithamar. So they distributed them to the sons of Eleazar, as heads for their paternal houses, sixteen, and to the sons of Ithamar, as heads for their paternal houses, eight. (**1 Chronicles 24:4**)
- Further, they distributed them by lots, these along with those, for there had to be chiefs of the holy place and chiefs of the true God from the sons of Eleazar and from the sons of Ithamar. (**1 Chronicles 24:5**)
- Then Shemaiah the son of Nethanel the secretary of the Levites wrote them down before the king and the princes and Zadok the priest and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar and the heads of the fathers of the priests and of the Levites, one paternal house being picked out for Eleazar and one being picked out for Ithamar. (**1 Chronicles 24:6**)
- And the lot proceeded to come out, the first for Jehoiarib, for Jedaiah the second. (**1 Chronicles 24:7**)
- For Harim the third, for Seorim the fourth. (**1 Chronicles 24:8**)
- For Malchijah the fifth, for Mijamin the sixth. (**1 Chronicles 24:9**)
- For Hakkoz the seventh, for **Abijah** the eighth. (**1 Chronicles 24:10**)

- In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there happened to be a certain priest named Zechariah of the division of **Abijah**, and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. (**Luke 1:5**)
- So it is said that priest Zechariah, the father of John the Baptizer, belonged to **the division of Abijah**.