

Royal roles in 2 Samuel

“OVER THE ARMY” [ʿAL-HATSTAVA]: 39x in Masoretic Text

As *royal servants*, 2 Samuel 8.16; 17.25; 1 Kings 2.34; 4.4; also used for “of hosts” as in “YHWH of hosts”, e.g., Isaiah 10.26; 14.22; Jeremiah 15.16

“RECORDER” [MAZKIR]: literally, “one who remembers”; 41 times in Masoretic Text

Verb used regularly for ordinary “remembering.”

As *royal servants*, 2 Sam 8.16; 20.24; 1 Kings 4.3) and 2 Kings 18.18, 37. As a prophetic remembrance, 1 Kings 17.18 (Elijah)

PRIEST [KOHEN]: 750 times in Masoretic Text; 150 times in Deuteronomistic History (Deut-2 Kings); 41 times in 1-2 Samuel

Before the Temple under Solomon and successors, the scope of their royal role is unclear.

“SECRETARY” [SOFER]: OR “SCRIBE”; 54 times in Masoretic Text

As *royal servants*, 2 Samuel 8.17; 20.24; 1 Kings 4.3 and 2 Kings 18.18, 37; 19.2; 22.3-12; 25.19; Jeremiah 36.10-37.20; 52.25. Served as the primary vehicle of written communication between royal court and others.

“IN CHARGE OF THE FORCED LABOR” [ʿAL-HAMMAS]: 6 times in Masoretic Text

As *royal servants*, 2 Samuel 20.24; 1 Kings 4.6; 1 Kings 5.28; 12.18.

“forced labor” [*mas*] itself 23x in Masoretic Text; recalls Exodus 1.11, Egyptian forced labor. In Joshua/Judges, as outcome of warfare.