

Ezra 10:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of the sons of Harim; Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uziah.

Analysis

And of the sons of Harim; Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uziah—this verse continues the priestly list, naming five members of Harim's family. Harim was a priestly division (2:39, 1 Chronicles 24:8), one of the prominent families returning from exile. The listing of five violators from one family suggests covenant compromise may have spread through kinship networks.

The names themselves carry theological irony: Elijah means 'Yahweh is God,' yet he married a woman who likely worshiped other gods. Shemaiah means 'Yahweh has heard,' yet he violated the covenant Yahweh established. Names that proclaimed faith in Yahweh coexisted with actions that denied Him—demonstrating the gap between religious identity and covenant faithfulness.

The proportional representation (five from Harim versus four from Jeshua's family, v. 18) shows the investigation didn't play favorites based on status. Each family received equal scrutiny, and violators received equal publicity regardless of lineage prominence.

Historical Context

Harim's family represented a major priestly division established in David's reorganization of temple service (1 Chronicles 24). The concentration of five violations in one family suggests intermarriage patterns may have followed kinship networks—one compromise leading to others as family members influenced each

other. In ancient Israelite culture, marriage alliances often reinforced family economic and political interests, creating pressure to conform to family marriage patterns even when they violated covenant law.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does the concentration of violations in certain families teach about the danger of compromised influence spreading through kinship networks?
2. How does the irony of names proclaiming Yahweh while actions deny Him challenge nominal Christianity today?
3. What does equal treatment across priestly families teach about impartiality in church discipline?

Interlinear Text

וּמִבְנֵי י	חֶרֶם	מַעֲשֵׂי ה	וְאֵלִיָּה	וְשִׁמְעִיָּה	וְיַחֲזִיאֵל
And of the sons	of Harim	Maaseiah	and Elijah	and Shemaiah	and Jehiel
H1121	H2766	H4641	H452	H8098	H3171
וְעִזְיָה׃					
and Uzziah					
H5818					

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 24:8 (Parallel theme): The third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim,