

# Ezra 10:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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**And of the sons of Harim; Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uzziah**—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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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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

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וְיַחְיָא לְ	שְׁמֹנִי הָ	וְאֶלְיָהָ	מְעָשֵׁי הָ	חֶרְמִי מְ	וְמִתְבֵּן יְ
<b>and Jehiel</b>	<b>and Shemaiah</b>	<b>and Elijah</b>	<b>Maaseiah</b>	<b>of Harim</b>	<b>And of the sons</b>
H3171	H8098	H452	H4641	H2766	H1121

וְיַחְיָא לְשְׁמֹנִי הָשְׁמָנִי הָ  
and Uzziah  
H5818

## Additional Cross-References

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