

Ezra 10:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover of Israel: of the sons of Parosh; Ramiah, and Jeziah, and Malchiah, and Miamin, and Eleazar, and Malchijah, and Benaiah.

Analysis

Moreover of Israel: of the sons of Parosh; Ramiah, and Jeziah, and Malchiah, and Miamin, and Eleazar, and Malchijah, and Benaiah. This verse begins the detailed roster of Israelites who took foreign wives, starting with the **sons of Parosh** (פָּרֹעַשׁ, Par'osh, meaning "flea" or "dividing"). Seven men from this prominent family violated the covenant prohibition against intermarriage with pagan peoples. Each name reveals theological irony: Malchiah (מֶלֶךְ) means "Yahweh is king," yet he failed to submit to divine kingship by marrying outside covenant boundaries.

The list functions not merely as administrative record but as public confession and permanent memorial. These names were inscribed in Scripture as warning against covenant compromise. The inclusion of Benaiah (בָּנְיָה, "Yahweh has built") among transgressors underscores the tragedy—men whose very names testified to Yahweh's faithfulness now stood accused of undermining the holy community through syncretistic marriages that threatened Israel's distinct covenant identity.

Historical Context

The family of Parosh was among the largest returning from exile (2,172 members, Ezra 2:3), making their compromised members' particularly significant. As influential leaders, their intermarriages set dangerous precedent. The public naming served both judicial and pedagogical functions in 458 BC post-exilic Judah,

where maintaining ethnic-religious boundaries was existential necessity against cultural absorption into surrounding paganism.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the inclusion of names meaning "Yahweh is king" and "Yahweh has built" among offenders illustrate the gap between profession and practice?
2. What does the public nature of this confession teach about accountability in faith communities?
3. How can believers today maintain distinct covenant identity while avoiding legalistic isolation from surrounding culture?

Interlinear Text

וְמַלְכֵי הָיָה	וְמַשְׁרָאָל	בֶּן מִיחָה	בֶּן מִבְנֵי	פְּרֻעַשׂ	וְמַבְנֵי	וְמַשְׁרָאָל
Moreover of Israel	of the sons	of Parosh	Ramiah	and Jeziah	and Malchiah	
H3478	H1121	H6551	H7422	H3150	H4441	

וּמְלִיכֵי הָר וּמִתְמִימָה	וְאֶלְעָזָר	וְמַלְכֵי הָר	וְבְנֵיהֶן
and Miamin	and Eleazar	and Malchiah	and Benaiah

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 2:3 (Parallel theme): The children of Parosh, two thousand an hundred seventy and two.

Nehemiah 7:8 (Parallel theme): The children of Parosh, two thousand an hundred seventy and two.

