

# Ezra 10:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of the sons of Elam; Mattaniah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Eliah.

## Analysis

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**And of the sons of Elam; Mattaniah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Eliah.** The family of **Elam** (עִילָם, 'Elam, meaning "hidden" or "eternity") contributed six offenders to the list. The name Zechariah (זְכַרְיָה, "Yahweh remembers") carries particular poignancy—Yahweh remembered His covenant promises to restore Israel from exile, yet Zechariah failed to remember covenant obligations by taking a foreign wife who would introduce idolatry into his household.

Mattaniah (מַתְנִיָּה, "gift of Yahweh") represents the bitter irony that God's gifts of restoration and renewed identity were being squandered through syncretistic compromise. The appearance of Jehiel (יְהִיאֵל, "God lives") among offenders raises the question whether marriages to women who worshiped dead idols demonstrated genuine faith that the living God inhabits His people. This roster serves as covenant lawsuit evidence—names invoking Yahweh's character now associated with covenant violation.

## Historical Context

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The Elam family numbered 1,254 returnees (Ezra 2:7), representing substantial portion of the restored community. Their six violators indicate widespread problem even among families who had experienced exile's judgment. The historical context of 458 BC involved constant pressure from Samaritan and other surrounding

populations to assimilate through intermarriage, making this list's public nature a bold stand for covenant distinctiveness.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. What does Zechariah's name ("Yahweh remembers") teach about the relationship between God's faithfulness and human responsibility?
2. How does the irony of these Yahweh-invoking names challenge superficial religious identity not rooted in obedience?
3. In what ways might modern believers compromise covenant faithfulness while maintaining outward religious appearance?

## Interlinear Text

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וּמִבְנֵי י	עֵילָם	מַתַּנְיָה	זְכַרְיָה	יְחִיאֵל	אֲבִידָן
And of the sons	of Elam	Mattaniah	Zechariah	and Jehiel	and Abdi
H1121	H5867	H4983	H2148	H3171	H5660
וְיֵרֵמְיָהוּ	אֵלִיָּה:				
and Jeremoth	and Eliah				
H3406	H452				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezra 10:2** (Parallel theme): And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing.

