

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

And of the sons of Elam; Mattaniah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Eliah. The family of **Elam** (אֶלְעָם, 'Elam, meaning "hidden" or "eternity") contributed six offenders to the list. The name Zechariah (זְכָרְיָה, "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 (יְחִיאֵל, "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

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

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

וְעָבֹד יְהוָה וַיְחִיא לְזִכְרֵה מַתָּנֵי הָעֵדָה וְמִמְּבָנֵי
And of the sons of Elam Mattaniah Zechariah and Jehiel and Abdi
H1121 H5867 H4983 H2148 H3171 H5660

וְעָלָה וַיְרִמֵּת
and Jeremoth and Elijah
H3406 H452

Additional Cross-References

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.

