

# Ezra 10:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of the sons of Bani; Meshullam, Malluch, and Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, and Ramoth.

## Analysis

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**And of the sons of Bani; Meshullam, Malluch, and Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, and Ramoth.** The **Bani** (בְּנֵי, Bani, meaning "built" or "builder") family produced six violators. Meshullam (מִשְׁלָּם, "repaid" or "restored") appears frequently in post-exilic records, his name suggesting divine restoration—yet he undermined that restoration through syncretistic marriage. Adaiah (אֲדַיָּה, "Yahweh has adorned") bore name celebrating divine beautification of His people, yet adorned himself with pagan wife who would corrupt household worship.

Jashub (יָשׁוּב, "he will return") carries prophetic significance—the remnant who returned (shub) from exile were meant to return (shub) to covenant faithfulness, yet Jashub returned to the very syncretism that caused the exile. Ramoth (רָמוֹת, "heights" or "high places") may evoke the idolatrous high places Israel was commanded to destroy—an ominous name for one introducing foreign religious influence through marriage. The six names from Bani create indictment of those who were being "built" by Yahweh yet allied themselves with covenant-breaking.

## Historical Context

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Bani was a large family with 642 members returning from Babylon (Ezra 2:10). Six offenders represented concerning proportion. The 458 BC context involved intense pressure from surrounding peoples to integrate through marriage. These weren't random romantic attachments but strategic alliances intended to secure economic and political position in hostile environment. Nehemiah's later reforms (Nehemiah

13:23-27) show the problem persisted, with children of mixed marriages unable to speak Hebrew—demonstrating the cultural assimilation these marriages produced.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What does Jashub's name ("he will return") teach about the irony of physical return from exile without spiritual return to covenant obedience?
2. How does the name Meshullam ("restored") challenge believers about whether God's restoration in their lives produces corresponding faithfulness or merely comfortable complacency?
3. In what areas might contemporary Christians undermine God's work of spiritual "building" through compromising relationships or alliances?

## Interlinear Text

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וּמִבְנֵי י	בְנֵי י	מִשָּׁלָם	מַלּוּחַ	וְעַדֵּי ה	יֵשׁ וּב	וְשָׁא ל
<b>And of the sons</b>	<b>of Bani</b>	<b>Meshullam</b>	<b>Malluch</b>	<b>and Adaiah</b>	<b>Jashub</b>	<b>and Sheal</b>
H1121	H1137	H4918	H4409	H5718	H3437	H7594

יְרֵמֹת:  
H3406