

Ezra 10:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Benaiah, Bedeiah, Chelluh,

Analysis

Benaiah, Bedeiah, Chelluh, This verse continues the list from verse 34, presenting three more names without family designation, likely still from the Bani clan. Benaiah (בְּנֵיָהּ, "Yahweh has built") appears multiple times in these chapters, emphasizing the building/construction theme—God was building a holy people, yet these men undermined that divine architecture through syncretistic marriages. The name's frequency suggests it commemorated the rebuilding after exile.

Bedeiah (בְּדֵיָהּ, "servant of Yahweh") presents striking irony—true servanthood to Yahweh required covenant obedience, yet Bedeiah served his own desires by taking a foreign wife. Jesus later taught that "no one can serve two masters" (Matthew 6:24)—Bedeiah's attempt to serve Yahweh while marrying outside covenant demonstrates this impossibility. Chelluh (כְּלוּהוּ, possibly "completed" or "perfected") may suggest wholeness or completion, yet his marriage created incompleteness and compromise in the covenant community. The terse, name-only format creates relentless accumulation of evidence against the community's widespread unfaithfulness.

Historical Context

These three names continue the Bani family roster begun in verse 34. The absence of genealogical detail suggests the list's primary purpose was confession and accountability rather than administrative record-keeping. In 458 BC post-exilic Judah, Ezra's reform movement demanded public acknowledgment of sin as prerequisite for covenant renewal. Similar to the New Covenant practice of

confession (James 5:16, 1 John 1:9), naming ensured transparency and prevented minimizing the offense's severity.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Bedeiah's name ("servant of Yahweh") challenge believers to examine whether their lives demonstrate authentic servanthood or merely religious profession?
2. What does the "building" theme (Benaiah) teach about how individual covenant faithfulness or unfaithfulness affects the church community God is building?
3. In what ways might contemporary believers undermine God's work of "building" His church through compromising relationships or divided loyalties?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵיָהּ	בְּדֵיָהּ	כֶּלְהִי
Benaiah	Bedeiah	Chelluh
H1141	H912	H3622