

Ezra 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now these are the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city;

Analysis

The chapter heading 'Now these are the children of the province that went up out of the captivity' identifies returnees as those who had been exiled. The phrase 'whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon' acknowledges the exile's source. The statement 'they returned unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city' emphasizes restoration to ancestral territories. This geographical and genealogical precision demonstrates God's faithfulness in returning people to specific covenant inheritance.

Historical Context

The return (538 BC) fulfilled Jeremiah's seventy-year prophecy (Jeremiah 25:11-12, 29:10). The preservation of genealogical records through exile enabled proper restoration to ancestral cities. Each family's return to 'his city' restored tribal territories despite seventy years' disruption. Archaeological evidence shows many sites were reoccupied during Persian period after decades of abandonment. This meticulous documentation served legal, religious, and theological purposes.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does preservation of genealogies through seventy years of exile demonstrate God's sovereignty over historical continuity?
2. What does return to specific ancestral cities teach about God's attention to particular covenant promises?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת הַהִיא	בָּנִים	הַמְּדִינָה הַ	בָּעָלִים	וְאֵת
H428	Now these are the children	of the province	that went up	
	H1121	H4082	H5927	
מִשְׁבֵּת	הַגּוֹלָה	רָאשֵׁת	הַגּוֹלָה	had carried away
out of the captivity	of those which had been carried away	H834	had carried away	
H7628	H1473		H1540	
וְאֵת	לְבָבָךְ	לְבָבָךְ	וְאֵת	
whom Nebuchadnezzar	the king	of Babylon	and came again	
H5019	H4428	H894	H7725	
לְעִירָה	וְאֵת	וְאֵת	וְאֵת	
unto Jerusalem	and Judah	every one	unto his city	
H3389	H3063	H376	H5892	

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 25:11 (Kingdom): Now the rest of the people that were left in the city, and the fugitives that fell away to the king of Babylon, with the remnant of the multitude, did Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carry away.

Acts 23:34 (Parallel theme): And when the governor had read the letter, he asked of what province he was. And when he understood that he was of Cilicia;

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