

# Ezra 2:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The children of Bani, six hundred forty and two.

## Analysis

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**The children of Bani, six hundred forty and two.** The family of Bani (בְּנֵי) bears a name meaning 'built' or 'my building,' derived from the root banah (בָּנָה, to build). This name carries extraordinary significance in Ezra's context: a family named 'built' returning specifically to build the temple (Ezra 1:5). Their very identity testified to construction and establishment, making them living symbols of restoration's purpose.

The verb banah appears throughout Scripture for both physical construction and spiritual establishment. God promised to 'build' David a house (dynasty) in 2 Samuel 7:27. Wisdom 'builds' her house in Proverbs 9:1. Jesus declared He would 'build' His church (Matthew 16:18). The Bani family's name thus connected to deep biblical theme of God as divine builder who establishes what endures.

Theologically, the family demonstrates that identity shapes calling. Those named 'built' would naturally participate in rebuilding work. This pattern applies to believers: our identity in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) shapes our calling to build His kingdom. The 642 members each contributed to restoration—no one exempt from building work. Nehemiah 3 later describes how different families rebuilt specific sections of Jerusalem's wall, likely including Bani descendants.

## Historical Context

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The name Bani appears multiple times in post-exilic records, suggesting either common name or large extended clan. Nehemiah 10:14 lists Bani among those

sealing covenant renewal. The family's involvement in covenant commitment paralleled their participation in physical rebuilding—both were acts of construction establishing God's purposes.

The specific count (642) indicates census precision. Each numbered individual represented commitment to difficult rebuilding work. The journey from Babylon took four months, and returnees faced hostile neighbors, economic hardship, and massive reconstruction task. Those counted had chosen hard work over exile's comfort.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does the name 'built' illustrate the connection between identity and calling in Christian life?
2. What does participation in building projects (temple, wall) teach about practical faith versus mere theological assent?
3. How can modern believers discern between building God's kingdom versus constructing personal empires?

## Interlinear Text

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וּשְׁנָיִם:	אַרְבָּעִים	יָמָּה	וְשֵׁשׁ	בָּנֵי	בָּנֵי
<b>The children</b>	<b>of Bani</b>	<b>six</b>	<b>hundred</b>	<b>forty</b>	<b>and two</b>
H1121	H1137	H8337	H3967	H705	H8147

