

Ezra 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The children of Adin, four hundred fifty and four.

Analysis

The children of Adin, four hundred fifty and four. The family of Adin (אֲדִין, Adin, 'delicate' or 'ornament') numbered 454 returnees. This mid-sized clan appears also in Ezra 8:6 (contributing additional members in the second return) and Nehemiah 10:16 (covenant signatories). The name's meaning suggests possible priestly or aristocratic heritage, as 'ornament' often described cultic objects or honored persons.

The repetition of Adin across three books (Ezra, Nehemiah) demonstrates how Scripture validates historical reliability through multiple attestation. The census wasn't propaganda but careful documentation. Discrepancies between Ezra 2 and Nehemiah 7 parallel accounts (different reckonings at different times) actually strengthen historical credibility, as fabricated documents typically maintain artificial consistency.

The moderate size of Adin's family reminds us that God's work doesn't depend on numerical majority. Throughout Scripture, God accomplishes purposes through remnants—Gideon's 300, Isaiah's faithful few, Jesus's twelve. Faithfulness, not magnitude, determines kingdom impact.

Historical Context

Mid-sized families like Adin's (400-500 members) formed the backbone of the returning community. Too small to dominate, too large to be marginal, such clans provided stable, invested leadership. They had enough resources to contribute

significantly but depended on collective action rather than autonomous power.

The journey from Babylon required each family to provision itself for four months of travel plus initial settlement before first harvest. Families of Adin's size could pool resources effectively while maintaining manageable logistics. Archaeological evidence from Persian-period Judah shows small agricultural settlements consistent with these family-based resettlement patterns.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's use of 'mid-sized' groups challenge both triumphalism and defeatism in ministry?
2. What role do moderately resourced believers play in kingdom work compared to very wealthy or very poor?
3. How can churches leverage the stability and commitment of 'core families' without creating exclusive insider culture?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי י	עַד י'	וְאַרְבָּעָה:	מֵא וְ	חֲמִשָּׁ ים	וְאַרְבָּעָה:
The children	of Adin	and four	hundred	fifty	and four
H1121	H5720	H702	H3967	H2572	H702

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 7:20 (Parallel theme): The children of Adin, six hundred fifty and five.