

# Ezra 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The children of Jorah, an hundred and twelve.

## Analysis

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**The children of Jorah, an hundred and twelve.** Jorah's family (יָרָה, Yorah, 'early rain' or 'teacher') comprised 112 returnees. The name evokes agricultural blessing—early rains were essential for successful planting season. In Deuteronomy 11:14, God promised early and latter rain as covenant blessing. Jorah's name thus testified to dependence on divine provision rather than human effort.

The alternative form Hariph appears in Nehemiah 7:24 for this same family (a common phenomenon in parallel biblical lists). Such variations arose from textual transmission, dialectical differences, or use of alternate family names. Rather than indicating contradiction, this demonstrates natural historical development and confirms independent source material.

Small families like Jorah's (112 members) exercised faith proportionate to their size. Leaving Babylon's security for Judah's uncertainty required trusting God as the true source of 'early rain'—both physical sustenance and spiritual renewal. The return embodied the faith equation: God's promises outweigh present circumstances.

## Historical Context

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The Nehemiah 7 parallel list preserves variant forms of several names, including Jorah/Hariph. Ancient Hebrew lacked standardized spelling; consonantal text allowed multiple vocalizations. Scribal practices, regional dialects, and time gaps

between documents naturally produced variations without compromising historical accuracy.

Agricultural imagery permeated Israelite thought because survival depended on harvest. 'Early rain' (October-November) enabled plowing and planting; 'latter rain' (March-April) brought crops to maturity. Names like Jorah reminded families of dependency on God's provision—a faith tested by returning to unworked land after seventy-year abandonment.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How do textual variations in parallel biblical accounts affect trustworthiness of Scripture?
2. What does agricultural imagery for spiritual life teach about patience, dependence, and seasonal rhythms?
3. How can believers maintain faith when stepping from security into uncertain obedience?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּנִים יְהוָה מֵאַה שְׁנָה וְשָׁנָה:  
The children of Jorah an hundred and twelve H6240  
H1121 H3139 H3967 H8147