

Ezra 2:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The children of Senaah, three thousand and six hundred and thirty.

Analysis

The children of Senaah, three thousand and six hundred and thirty—With 3,630 people, Senaah provided the largest single family contingent in the entire census, yet this town is otherwise unknown in Scripture. The Hebrew name Senaah (סְנָאָה) possibly means 'thorny' or 'hated,' making this massive representation remarkably significant—the despised became the most numerous.

This statistical prominence of an obscure town illustrates God's kingdom paradox: 'the last shall be first' (Matthew 20:16). While famous families like Jedaiah's priests (v. 36) numbered 973, unknown Senaah contributed nearly four times as many. God's restoration includes—and often prioritizes—the forgotten and marginalized. Their later work rebuilding Jerusalem's Fish Gate (Nehemiah 3:3) gave them strategic importance in the reconstruction.

Historical Context

Senaah's location is uncertain, possibly near Jericho or in the hill country north of Jerusalem. The town appears only in post-exilic lists (here and Nehemiah 7:38), suggesting it may have been a settlement that grew during the exile period. Its obscurity makes its numerical dominance even more remarkable—God often works mightily through the unknown.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does Senaah's obscurity combined with its numerical prominence teach about God's value system versus human recognition?
2. How does God's use of forgotten towns and families challenge the modern church's celebrity culture and platform-building?
3. In what ways might your own 'obscure' faithfulness contribute more to God's kingdom than you realize?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁלַשִׁים:	מֵא	וּת	וְשָׁשׁ	אֶלֶף	יִם	שֶׁל	שְׁשָׁת	סְנָאָה	ה	בָּנָי
The children	of Senaah	three	thousand	and six	hundred	and thirty				
H1121	H5570	H7969	H505	H8337	H3967	H7970				

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