

Ezra 2:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The children of Pashur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven.

Analysis

The children of Pashur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven—Pashur (פֶּשֶׁחור) appears to derive from an Egyptian root meaning 'portion of Horus,' suggesting this priestly family may have had Egyptian connections, perhaps from the Exodus generation or later sojourns in Egypt. With 1,247 members, this was the largest returning priestly family, nearly 29% of all priests—a remarkable concentration from one lineage.

This Pashhur is distinct from Immer's son who persecuted Jeremiah (20:1) and from the Pashhur who heard Jeremiah's warnings to Zedekiah (21:1). The name's Egyptian etymology creates poignant irony: descendants of those who left Egypt's gods now return to serve Yahweh exclusively at His temple. Their prominence in the return demonstrates God's transforming grace—even those with syncretistic name-origins became wholly devoted to the covenant.

Historical Context

Pashhur headed the 5th priestly division (1 Chronicles 24:9). The family's Egyptian-influenced name suggests they may have been among the 'mixed multitude' who left Egypt with Israel (Exodus 12:38), later integrated into the priesthood. Their numerical dominance in the return (1,247) indicates successful preservation of priestly identity through the Babylonian exile.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does the transformation of a family with Egyptian-influenced names into devoted Yahweh-worshippers teach about God's power to redeem cultural compromise?
2. How does Pashhur's numerical prominence despite questionable origins challenge assumptions about spiritual 'pedigree' in ministry?
3. In what ways might your own cultural or family background—even if mixed—be redeemed for God's purposes rather than being an obstacle?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי י	פָּשׁוּר וִיר	אֶלֶף	מֵאֵת יָם	אַרְבָּעֵי יָם	וְשִׁבְעָה:
The children	of Pashur	a thousand	two hundred	forty	and seven
H1121	H6583	H505	H3967	H705	H7651

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 9:12 (Parallel theme): And Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pashur, the son of Malchijah, and Maasiai the son of Adiel, the son of Jahzerah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Meshillemith, the son of Immer;