

# Ezra 2:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of  
Thamah,

## Analysis

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**The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Thamah—**

These are descendants of the Nethinim (temple servants), families whose names carry prophetic irony. Sisera (סִיסֵרָא) is the name of the Canaanite general defeated by Deborah and Barak (Judges 4-5), yet here his descendants serve in God's temple. This demonstrates God's redemptive grace—former enemies become devoted servants.

Barkos (בָּרְקָא) may derive from baraḳ (lightning), while Thamah (תַּמָּה) means "to strike" or "laugh." The meticulous preservation of these obscure family names in the sacred register emphasizes covenant faithfulness: God remembers those who serve Him, no matter how humble their station.

## Historical Context

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Written circa 450 BC, Ezra documents the return from Babylonian exile (538 BC). The Nethinim were temple servants, possibly descended from Gibeonites (Joshua 9) and prisoners of war whom David assigned to temple service. Their inclusion in this census demonstrates their full integration into Israel's covenant community despite non-Israelite origins.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does the inclusion of Sisera's descendants illustrate the transforming power of God's grace across generations?
2. What does God's careful recording of obscure servant families teach about His valuing of faithful service regardless of social status?
3. In what ways might your family history include redemption stories where former opposition to God became devoted service?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּנֵי	בֶּרֶק וֹס	בְּנֵי	סִיסֶרָה	בְּנֵי	תַּמַּח:
The children	of Barkos	The children	of Sisera	The children	of Thamah
H1121	H1302	H1121	H5516	H1121	H8547

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