

Ezra 2:56

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The children of Jaalah, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,

Analysis

The children of Jaalah, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel—

More descendants of Solomon's servants, each name carrying theological significance. Jaalah (יָעָלָה) means "mountain goat" or "to ascend," symbolizing the spiritual ascent from exile to Jerusalem. Darkon (דָּרְקוֹן) means "carrier" or "rough," describing their servile labor. Giddel (גִּידֶל) means "to make great" or "magnify."

The progression is prophetic: those who were "carriers" and "rough laborers" now "ascend" to Jerusalem to "magnify" the Lord. Exile refined their identity—they returned not as reluctant servants but as worshipers. This patterns Christian discipleship: bearing Christ's "rough" cross leads to ascension and glorifying God (Philippians 2:8-11).

Historical Context

These families descended from Canaanite populations Solomon subjected to levy service (mas oved) approximately 550 years earlier. Their preservation of distinct family identity through conquest, exile, and return demonstrates the stability of ancient Near Eastern social structures and the importance of genealogical records in post-exilic Jewish society.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do these names (carrier, rough, ascend, magnify) describe stages of your own spiritual journey?
2. What "rough" service has God used to refine your worship and prepare you for spiritual ascent?
3. How does bearing the weight of humble service today prepare you to magnify God tomorrow?

Interlinear Text

בָּנִים	בָּנִים	בָּנִים	בָּנִים	בָּנִים	בָּנִים
The children of Jaalah	The children of Darkon	The children of Giddel	H1121	H1874	H1121

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