

Ezra 2:57

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Ami.

Analysis

The children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Ami—The final group of Solomon's servants. Shephatiah (שְׁפָתִיאֵה) means "Yahweh has judged," Hattil means "wavering" or "decaying," Pochereth of Zebaim (פָּקַרְתַּת צְבָיִם) means "binder of gazelles" or "trapper," and Ami (עַמִּי) means "my people."

Read theologically, these names trace redemption's arc: "Yahweh has judged" the "wavering" and "trapped," declaring them "my people." This anticipates Hosea's prophecy reversed: "Lo-ammi" (not my people) becomes "Ammi" (my people) through God's covenant faithfulness (Hosea 1:9; 2:23). Peter applies this to Gentile Christians (1 Peter 2:10), showing that all believers are former slaves adopted as God's children.

Historical Context

This concludes the register of Solomon's servants returning from Babylon (verses 55-57). Though descended from subjugated peoples, they were fully integrated into post-exilic Judean society and temple service. The specificity of "Pochereth of Zebaim" (binder of gazelles) may indicate a specialized trade or location associated with this family.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does your identity shift from "wavering" and "trapped" to "my people" illustrate your salvation story?
2. What does God's adoption of former enemies and slaves as "my people" reveal about the gospel's reach?
3. In what areas of life do you still act like a slave rather than embracing your identity as God's beloved child?

Interlinear Text

פֶּתֶת	בָּנִי	בָּנִי	חֶטְאֵל	בָּנִי	שְׁפָטִי ה	בָּנִי
The children of Shephatiah		The children of Hattil		The children		H0
H1121	H8203	H1121	H2411	H1121		

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 7:59 (Parallel theme): The children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Amon.