

# 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

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**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 (שֶׁפְּטָחִיָּה) means "Yahweh has judged," Hattil means "wavering" or "decaying," Pochereth of Zebaim (פְּכֶרֶת צְבִיִּים) means "binder of gazelles" or "trapper," and Ami (אֲמִי) 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

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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

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

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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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

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בְּנֵי י	שִׁפְטִיָּה ה	בְּנֵי י	חַטִּיל יל	בְּנֵי י	פְּכֵרֵת
<b>The children</b>	<b>of Shephatiah</b>	<b>The children</b>	<b>of Hattil</b>	<b>The children</b>	H0
H1121	H8203	H1121	H2411	H1121	
הַצִּבְיָיִם	בְּנֵי י	אֲמִי:			
<b>of Pochereth of Zebaim</b>	<b>The children</b>	<b>of Ami</b>			
H6380	H1121	H532			

## Additional Cross-References

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