

Ezra 2:60

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty and two.

Analysis

The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty and two—These 652 individuals claimed Israelite descent but lacked proof. Delaiah (דֵּלַיָּה) means "Yahweh has drawn up" or "delivered," Tobiah (טֹבְיָה) means "Yahweh is good," and Nekoda (נֶכֶדָּה) means "distinguished" or "marked."

Ironically, their names proclaimed covenant identity—"Yahweh has delivered," "Yahweh is good"—yet they could not demonstrate covenant membership. This is the tragedy of nominal faith: bearing God's name without possessing God's credentials. Jesus warned of those who claim "Lord, Lord" without relationship (Matthew 7:21-23). True Israel is not genealogical but spiritual (Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 3:7-9).

Historical Context

This group (652 people) was significantly larger than the servant class (392 in verse 58) yet could not prove Israelite lineage. They were provisionally included in the community (not immediately expelled) but faced restrictions. This reflects post-exilic Judaism's increasing emphasis on genealogical purity and ethnic boundary-maintenance in response to exile trauma.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How might you be relying on family heritage or religious upbringing rather than personal covenant relationship?
2. What does it mean to bear God's name (Christian) without possessing the inward reality of regeneration?
3. How does Romans 2:28-29 address the difference between outward religious identity and true spiritual circumcision?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי י	דְּלָיָה	בְּנֵי י	טוֹבְיָה	בְּנֵי י	נֶקוֹדָא	שֵׁשׁ
The children	of Delaiah	The children	of Tobiah	The children	of Nekoda	six
H1121	H1806	H1121	H2900	H1121	H5353	H8337
וּשְׁנַיִם:	חֲמִשָּׁן	יָמָא				
hundred	fifty	and two				
H3967	H2572	H8147				

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