

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 (דְּלָיָה) means "Yahweh has drawn up" or "delivered," Tobiah (תּוֹבִיאָה) means "Yahweh is good," and Nekoda (נְקוֹדָה) 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

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| שׁ שׁ נְקֹדֶד אָ | בְּתִי בְּתִי | דָּלִי הָ | בְּתִי בְּתִי | טוֹבִי הָ | בְּתִי בְּתִי | תְּבִיבִי הָ | בְּתִי בְּתִי |
| The children | of Delaiah | The children | of Tobiah | The children | of Nekoda | six | |
| H1121 | H1806 | H1121 | H2900 | H1121 | H5353 | H8337 | |

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| וְשְׁנִים: סָמֵךְ יְמִינָה מֵאַת | hundred | fifty | and two |
| | H3967 | H2572 | H8147 |

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