

# Ezra 2:62

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.

## Analysis

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**These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood**—The Hebrew *yitchasem* (their genealogical registration) was searched but not found (אָפֿגֿען נאָט). The verb *ga'al* (polluted/defiled) carries cultic overtones: ritual impurity disqualifying from sacred service.

This isn't moral judgment but covenantal reality: priestly service required Aaronic descent (Numbers 3:10; 16:40). Those unable to prove lineage were excluded (אֵלֶּיךָ לֹא יָבִיאוּ מִן־הַכֹּהֲנִים) not as punishment but as protection—unauthorized priesthood brought divine judgment (Numbers 16; 2 Chronicles 26:16-21). Similarly, Christian ministry requires genuine calling and apostolic succession in doctrine, not self-appointment (Hebrews 5:4).

## Historical Context

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Post-exilic Judaism developed strict genealogical requirements for priests following Ezekiel 44:15-16. Without documentation proving Aaronic descent, these families could not serve at the altar, wear priestly garments, eat priestly portions, or pronounce the Aaronic blessing. This safeguarded worship purity but created hardship for sincere families who lost records in exile.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does legitimate spiritual authority depend on verifiable calling and sound doctrine, not self-designation?
2. What modern forms of "unauthorized priesthood" occur when people assume ministry roles without genuine divine calling?
3. How does Hebrews 5:4 ("no one takes this honor on himself") apply to pastoral and leadership selection today?

## Interlinear Text

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הַמְתִּיחֵשׁ יִם      כְּתֹבָם      בְּקֹשׁ ו      אֵלָּה  
H3187      H3791      H1245      H428  
**among those that were reckoned by genealogy**  
**their register**  
**These sought**

מִן      וַיִּגָּאֵל ו      נִמְצָא ו      וְלֹא א      הָכֵהְנָה:  
H4480      H1351      H4672      H3808  
**therefore were they as polluted**  
**but they were not found**  
**put from the priesthood**

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 3:10** (Parallel theme): And thou shalt appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall wait on their priest's office: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

