

Ezra 2:64

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore,

Analysis

The total count 'The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore' provides precise number. This wasn't mere estimate but careful count, demonstrating administrative precision. The number (42,360) represents only a fraction of the exiled population—most chose to remain in Babylon. This selective return shows that genuine faith requires costly choice. The remnant who returned demonstrated covenant commitment over comfortable prosperity.

Historical Context

Approximately 42,360 people returned from an exile population likely in the hundreds of thousands. Most Jews had established lives in Babylon over two generations. The returnees abandoned security, prosperity, and established communities to resettle a devastated land. This sacrifice demonstrated faith in God's promises and commitment to covenant identity. The number's precision (verified by parallel list in Nehemiah 7) demonstrates historical accuracy and administrative thoroughness.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the small percentage returning demonstrate that genuine discipleship requires costly sacrifice, not mere cultural affiliation?
2. What does the precision of the count teach about God's concern for individuals within the corporate body?

Interlinear Text

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|----------|------------------------|-----------|------------|--------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|----------|------------------|------|-----------|--|
| כָּל | לְ | בְּקָבָּה | לְ | כִּאֵת | עַ | כִּאֵת | רַב | וְאֶ | אַרְבָּה | רַב | וְאֶ | אַלְפִּים | |
| H3605 | The whole congregation | H6951 | together | H259 | | H702 | was forty | H7239 | | and two thousand | H505 | | |
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| שָׁשִׁים | מֵא | וְת | שָׁלַשׁ | | | | | | | | | | |
| three | hundred | and | threescore | H7969 | H3967 | H8346 | | | | | | | |

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