

Ezra 2:65

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Beside their servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing women.

Analysis

Additional count: 'Beside their servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven.' Including servants shows the total community was nearly 50,000. The servants' inclusion demonstrates that the restoration community wasn't exclusively ethnic Israel but included those economically connected. The distinction between primary returnees and servants maintains social categories while including both in the counted community.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern households commonly included servants—some of foreign origin, others fellow Israelites in debt service. The 7,337 servants represent significant population beyond the 42,360 primary returnees. Their inclusion in the count shows they were part of the restoration community. Archaeological evidence shows Persian-period settlements were modest, suggesting this population represented significant proportion of Judah's total inhabitants. The community faced enormous rebuilding challenges with this relatively small workforce.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does inclusion of servants in the community count demonstrate that God's purposes include all who participate, regardless of social status?
2. What does the distinction between returnees and servants teach about maintaining social order while including all in covenant community?

Interlinear Text

מִלְבָד	עֲבָדִים	אַמְתִּים	אֵלֶּה	וְשְׁבַע	וְשְׁבַע
H905	Beside their servants	and their maids	and there were	and seven	
H5650		H519	H428	H7651	
אֶלֶף	שָׁלֹשׁ	מֵאֲתִים:	שָׁלֹשׁ	וְשְׁבַע	וְשְׁבַע
thousand	three	among them two hundred	thirty	and seven	H0
H505	H7969	H3967	H7970	H7651	
וְמַשְׁרֵר	וְתִּמְשְׁרֵר	מֵאֲתִים:			
and singing women	and singing women	among them two hundred			
H7891	H7891	H3967			

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 19:35 (Sin): I am this day fourscore years old: and can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?