

Ezra 2:70

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

Analysis

The settling: 'So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.' The comprehensive list shows all categories of returnees established themselves in ancestral territories. The phrase 'all Israel in their cities' emphasizes completeness—despite only two tribes numerically significant, they maintained all-Israel identity. The settlement in specific cities restored covenant land inheritance.

Historical Context

The scattering throughout Judah's various cities restored ancient tribal patterns despite seventy years interruption. Each group settling 'in their cities' involved claiming ancestral properties, rebuilding homes, and reestablishing agriculture. Archaeological evidence shows numerous sites in Judah were reoccupied in Persian period after abandonment. The distribution throughout the land rather than concentrating in Jerusalem enabled agricultural self-sufficiency and territorial possession. The comprehensive list shows all needed vocations—priests, singers, gatekeepers—settled appropriately.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does settling 'in their cities' demonstrate the importance of proper order and covenant land inheritance?
2. What does maintaining all-Israel identity teach about hope for comprehensive restoration despite partial present reality?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּשֶׁב אֲלֵי פְּלִימִים וְמִן אֲלֵי פְּלִימִים
dwelt So the priests and the Levites H4480 and some of the people
H3427 H3548 H3881 H5971

וּבְמִשְׁרָרִים וּבְשֹׁעֲרִים וּבְגַתִּים וּבְנְתִינִים וְכָל בָּעֲרִיקָם:
and the singers and the porters and the Nethinims in their cities H3605
H7891 H7778 H5411 H5892

בָּעֲרִיקָם: שָׁבָא לְ
and all Israel in their cities
H3478 H5892

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 7:73 (Sin): So the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and some of the people, and the Nethinims, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities; and when the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities.