

Ezra 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

We asked their names also, to certify thee, that we might write the names of the men that were the chief of them.

Analysis

The officials requested names "to certify thee"—that is, to provide the king with documented accountability. The Aramaic *lehodautakh* (to inform you) indicates the letter's purpose was providing complete information for royal evaluation. Recording "the names of the men that were the chief of them" would enable the king to investigate the leaders' backgrounds and legitimacy.

This bureaucratic meticulousness, though threatening to the Jews, demonstrated Persian administrative thoroughness. Every significant project required identifiable leadership accountable to imperial authority. Yet God used this documentation requirement to establish the legitimacy of Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and other leaders—their names would be permanently recorded in both Persian archives and Scripture.

Historical Context

Persian administrative documents consistently recorded the names of responsible officials and project supervisors. The satrapies maintained extensive archives of correspondence, authorizations, and personnel records. This documentation served both administrative efficiency and imperial control, enabling the central government to track activities throughout the vast empire stretching from India to Egypt.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God use documentation and record-keeping to establish the legitimacy of His work across generations?
2. What responsibility do church leaders have to maintain transparent, accountable records of their ministry activities?

Interlinear Text

דְּבָרִים 1:1 לְהַזְׁכִּיר שָׁם שָׁא לְנָא

also the names **We asked** **to certify** H1768

H638 H8036

H0

H3046

בְּרִאשִׁים: אֲנָכָת בְּשָׁם גָּבְבָּי

thee that we might write the names **of the men** **that were the chief**

H3790

H8036

H1400

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H7217

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