

# 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

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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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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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

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וְאֵל	שְׁמֵ	שָׂא לְנָא	לָהּ	לְהוֹדְעוֹתָ	דְּ
also	the names	We asked	H0	to certify	H1768
H638	H8036	H7593		H3046	
נִכְתָּב	שְׁמֵ	גְבֻרֵי	דְּ	בְּרָאשֵׁיהֶם:	
thee that we might write	the names	of the men	H1768	that were the chief	
H3790	H8036	H1400		H7217	

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