

# Ezra 5:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But after that our fathers had provoked the God of heaven unto wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house, and carried the people away into Babylon.

## Analysis

---

The elders' confession of national sin is theologically remarkable: "Our fathers had provoked the God of heaven unto wrath." The Aramaic *hargizu* (provoked to anger) acknowledges that exile was divine judgment, not merely political misfortune. They accepted responsibility rather than blaming circumstances, demonstrating genuine repentance and covenant understanding.

Nebuchadnezzar is explicitly named as God's instrument: God "gave them into the hand of" the Babylonian king. This confession echoes Jeremiah's prophecy that Nebuchadnezzar was God's servant executing divine judgment (Jeremiah 25:9). The Jews acknowledged that temple destruction and exile resulted from covenant unfaithfulness, not Babylonian superiority. Even in appealing to Persian authorities, they maintained theological integrity about their history.

## Historical Context

---

Nebuchadnezzar II (reigned 605-562 BC) conquered Jerusalem in stages: 605 BC (Daniel's deportation), 597 BC (Jehoiachin's exile), and 586 BC (temple destruction and final deportation). The title "king of Babylon, the Chaldean" uses both geographic and ethnic designations, reflecting the Neo-Babylonian Empire's

Chaldean dynasty. Archaeological evidence abundantly confirms Nebuchadnezzar's Jerusalem campaigns, including the Babylonian Chronicles.

## Related Passages

---

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

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

---

1. What does the elders' honest confession of national sin teach about taking responsibility rather than making excuses?
2. How does acknowledging God's discipline in the past provide proper context for understanding His restoration in the present?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְהָיָה	בְּשֵׁמִי	אֱלֹהֵי	אֲבֹתֵינוּ	הַרְגֵנוּ	זֶה	יְיָ	מִן	לְהָ
But	of heaven	the God	that our fathers	had provoked			after	
H3861	H8065	H426	H2	H7265			H4481	
כִּסְדֵּי	אֱלֹהֵי	בָבֶל:	מֶלֶךְ	נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר	בְּיָד	הֵמָּה		
the Chaldean	into Babylon		the king	of Nebuchadnezzar	into the hand	them		
H3679	H895		H4430	H5020	H3028	H1994		
לְבָבֶל:	הָגֵל	וְעַם	סָתַר	דָּנָה	וּבֵיתָ	הַ		
into Babylon	and carried	the people	who destroyed	this	house			
H895	H1541	H5972	H5642	H1836	H1005			

## Additional Cross-References

---

**2 Kings 24:2** (Parallel theme): And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the

children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servants the prophets.

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)