

# 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

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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

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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

לֹה	בְּ	שְׁמֵי	יְה	לֹאֵל	הָאָבָהָת	בְּנָא	בְּרָגְזָו	דִּין	מִן	לְהִ
<b>But</b>	<b>after</b>	H1768	<b>had provoked</b>	<b>that our fathers</b>	<b>the God</b>	<b>of heaven</b>	<b>he gave</b>			
H3861	H4481		H7265		H2		H426		H8065	H3052

גָּזָעִי אֶל בְּבָל:	מֶלֶךְ	בְּנֵי דָּמָם	בְּנֵי דָּמָם	בְּנֵי דָּמָם	בְּנֵי דָּמָם
them	into the hand	of Nebuchadnezzar	the king	into Babylon	the Chaldean
H1994	H3028	H5020	H4430	H895	H3679

לְבָבָל:	פָּגָל	וּבִתְּהִ	דָּנָה	סְתִּירָה	וְעַמְּה	ה	בְּנֵי	וּבְּנִיתִ
<b>house</b>	<b>this</b>	<b>who destroyed</b>	<b>the people</b>	<b>and carried</b>	<b>into Babylon</b>			
H1005	H1836	H5642	H5972	H1541	H895			

## 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.

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