

# Ezra 8:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are now the chief of their fathers, and this is the genealogy of them that went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king.

## Analysis

**These are now the chief of their fathers, and this is the genealogy of them that went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king.**

The Hebrew *rashei avotam* (רָאשֵׁי אֲבוֹתָם, 'heads of their fathers') identifies family patriarchs leading the second return—Ezra's delegation departing nearly 80 years after Zerubbabel's first wave (538 BC). The phrase **went up with me** (olim immi, עָלִים עִמִּי) marks Ezra's personal leadership, while **Artaxerxes the king** (אַרְתַּחְשַׁשְׁתָּא הַמֶּלֶךְ) specifies Artaxerxes I Longimanus (464-424 BC), whose seventh year (458 BC) frames this journey.

The careful genealogical record demonstrates covenant continuity—these returnees weren't random emigrants but legitimate heirs of Israel's tribes maintaining ancestral identity through exile. Like Matthew 1's genealogy establishing Jesus's royal-priestly lineage, Ezra 8 proves God preserves His people across generations. The *yachas* (יָכַח, 'genealogy') links post-exilic community to patriarchal promises, fulfilling Jeremiah 29:10's 70-year restoration prophecy.

## Historical Context

Ezra's return (458 BC) occurred between temple completion (516 BC) and Nehemiah's wall rebuilding (445 BC). Artaxerxes I granted extraordinary authority—treasures, safe passage, and legal power (Ezra 7:11-26). This second aliyah

brought scholars and priests to strengthen Jerusalem's spiritual life, not just rebuild infrastructure.

## Related Passages

---

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

---

1. How does the meticulous recording of family heads demonstrate that God works through identifiable, accountable leaders rather than anonymous masses?
2. What does Ezra's 80-year gap from the first return teach about God's patient, multi-generational restoration plans?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְאֵלֶּה	רֹאשֵׁי	אֲבוֹתֵיהֶם	וְהַתִּיחֹשׁ	
H428	<b>These are now the chief</b>	<b>of their fathers</b>	<b>and this is the genealogy</b>	
	H7218	H1	H3187	
הָעֹלִים	עִמִּי	בְּמֶלֶךְ	אֲרֻחְשֵׁשְׁטָא	הַמֶּלֶךְ
<b>of them that went up</b>	H5973	<b>in the reign</b>	<b>of Artaxerxes</b>	<b>the king</b>
H5927		H4438	H783	H4428
מִבָּבֶל:				
<b>with me from Babylon</b>				
H894				

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Ezra 7:7** (Kingdom): And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.

---

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