

Ezra 8:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now on the fourth day was the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our God by the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas; and with them was Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, Levites;

Analysis

Now on the fourth day was the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our God—the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our God (בַּיּוֹם הַרְבִּיעִי bayyom harevi'i, on the fourth day) references the three-day rest period (v. 32). The וַיַּשְׁקַל (vayyishshaqel, was weighed) fulfills Ezra's command in v. 29 for public accounting before Jerusalem leadership. The בֵּית אֱלֹהִינוּ (b'veit Eloheinu, in the house of our God—the temple) location sanctifies the transaction, making it worship offering, not mere asset transfer.

By the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas—the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our God (על־יד מְرֵמוֹת עַדְוָה פְּקָדָה al-yad Meremot ben-Uriyyah hakohen, upon the hand of Meremoth son of Uriah the priest). מְרֵמוֹת (Meremot, 'heights/elevations') descended from אורְנָה (Uriyyah, 'Yahweh is my light'), establishing priestly pedigree. אלְעֹזֵר בֶּן־פִּינְחָס (El'azar ben-Pinechas, Eleazar son of Phinehas) invokes illustrious ancestry: Eleazar was Aaron's son (Exodus 6:23), and Phinehas was the zealous priest who stopped plague (Numbers 25:7-13). Naming these priests validates the transaction through recognized religious authority.

And with them was Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of

Binnui, Levites—the inclusion of יָזָבָד (Yozavad, 'Yahweh has bestowed') and נָעִילָה (Noadyah, 'Yahweh has met by appointment'), both Levites, ensures comprehensive witness from both priestly and Levitical orders. The careful recording of genealogies (son of X) authenticates each witness's credentials.

Historical Context

Meremoth appears again rebuilding Jerusalem's wall (Nehemiah 3:4, 21), showing he was trusted leader in the restoration community. The involvement of multiple witnesses from different priestly/Levitical families prevented any single clan from controlling the narrative about the treasure's arrival and distribution. This transparency protected against later disputes and ensured the entire religious establishment collectively validated the transaction. The pattern mirrors ancient Near Eastern legal contracts requiring multiple witnesses.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does the careful recording of witnesses' names and genealogies teach about accountability in ministry leadership?
2. How does conducting the formal accounting 'in the house of our God' transform financial transaction into worship?
3. In what ways should modern church leadership ensure transparency through multi-party witness in financial matters?

Interlinear Text

וּבְלִי	וּבְלִי	בְּ	נָשָׁק	לְ	כְּבָשָׂר	נָשָׁק	בְּ	וּבְלִי	וּבְלִי	וּבְלִי
day	Now on the fourth		weighed		was the silver		and the gold		and the vessels	
H3117	H7243		H8254		H3701		H2091		H3627	
בְּבֵית	עַל	אֱלֹהִים	יָכוֹל	בְּ	יָד	מְרֵמָה	וְתִּתְּנִסְתָּה	בֶּן	אֹוְרִיאָה	
in the house	of our God		H5921	by the hand	H3027	of Meremoth		the son	of Uriah	
H1004	H430					H4822		H1121	H223	
בְּכָה	וְעַמְּדָה	רְאֵלָזָר		בֶּן	פִּינְחָס	סְפִינְחָס	וְעַמְּדָה			
the priest	H5973	and with him was Eleazar		the son	H1121	H6372				H5973
H3548		H499								
וְיָצַב	בֶּן	הַנּוֹעֲדִי	וְיִשְׁעָה	בֶּן	וְיִשְׁעָה	בֶּן	וְיִזְבְּדָעִי	בֶּן	וְיִזְבְּדָעִי	
and with them was Jozabad	H3107	the son	H1121	of Jeshua	H3442		and Noadiah	the son	of Binnui	
							H5129	H1121	H1131	

פלוי

Levites

H3881

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 3:4 (Parallel theme): And next unto them repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz. And next unto them repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel. And next unto them repaired Zadok the son of Baana.

Nehemiah 3:21 (Parallel theme): After him repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah the son of Koz another piece, from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the end of the house of Eliashib.

Ezra 8:30 (References God): So took the priests and the Levites the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem unto the house of our God.

