

# Ezra 8:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the sons of Pahath-moab; Elihoenai the son of Zerahiah,  
and with him two hundred males.

## Analysis

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**Of the sons of Pahath-moab; Elihoenai the son of Zerahiah, and with him two hundred males.** Pahath-moab, meaning 'governor of Moab,' was a prominent family (2,812 returned with Zerubbabel per Ezra 2:6). Elihoenai means 'to Yahweh are my eyes,' expressing dependence on God's guidance. Zerahiah means 'Yahweh has risen/shone,' commemorating divine deliverance. These theophoric names (containing God's name) demonstrate that even in Babylonian exile, families maintained Yahweh-centered identity by naming children with covenant confessions.

The two hundred males from Pahath-moab represented substantial group, larger than average in this census. This suggests either the family's size, prosperity (enabling more to make the journey), or particular devotion to restoration. The variance in numbers across families (from 28 to 300 males) shows that response to God's call wasn't uniform—some families sent large contingents while others contributed minimally.

Theologically, these names function as mini-testimonies. Every roll call proclaimed Yahweh's faithfulness: 'My eyes are to Yahweh,' 'Yahweh has risen.' The census thus became inadvertent worship, each name a remembered mercy.

## Historical Context

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Pahath-moab's prominence in both returns (Ezra 2 and 8) suggests they were wealthy or influential. Ancient Near Eastern genealogies often highlighted socially significant families. The preservation of names like Elihoenai and Zerariah demonstrates that Hebrew naming practices, which embedded theology in personal identity, survived exile despite Babylonian cultural pressure. This maintained covenant consciousness across generations.

## Related Passages

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

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What theological truths do your children's or family members' names proclaim about God's character and faithfulness?
2. How does the variance in family response (28 to 300 males) challenge assumptions about uniform devotion within covenant communities?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּנֵי	פַּתְמוֹאֵב	אֱלִיהוֹנַי	בְּנֵי	זֵרַחְיָה
Of the sons	of Pahathmoab	Elihoenai	Of the sons	of Zerariah
H1121	H6355	H454	H1121	H2228
וְעִמּוֹ	מֵאֵת	הַזָּכָרִים:		
H5973	and with him two hundred	males		
	H3967	H2145		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezra 2:6** (Parallel theme): The children of Pahath-moab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve.

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