

# Ezra 8:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of the sons of Elam; Jeshaiiah the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy males.

## Analysis

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**And of the sons of Elam; Jeshaiiah the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy males.** The Elam family contributed seventy males. Jeshaiiah means 'Yahweh is salvation,' a name particularly apt for exile context—only God could deliver from Babylon and restore Jerusalem. Athaliah, despite being predominantly a feminine name (notably the wicked queen in 2 Kings 11), was occasionally used for males, meaning 'Yahweh is exalted.'

The number seventy carries symbolic resonance in Scripture: seventy elders (Exodus 24:1), seventy years of exile (Jeremiah 25:11), seventy descendants of Jacob (Genesis 46:27), Jesus sending seventy disciples (Luke 10:1). While this may be coincidental, the biblical pattern associates seventy with completeness in governance and mission. Elam's seventy males thus represented a complete, organized family unit ready for covenant community participation.

Geographically, 'Elam' also named a region east of Babylon (modern southwestern Iran). Whether this family descended from Elamite converts or Israelites who had lived in Elam remains unclear. Either interpretation demonstrates that God's covenant people transcend pure ethnic boundaries—faith, not bloodline alone, determined membership in restored community.

## Historical Context

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The Elam family sent 1,254 with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:7), making the seventy males with Ezra a smaller subsequent wave. The regional name Elam appears in Genesis 10:22 (son of Shem) and throughout biblical history as a significant civilization. By the Persian period, Elam was incorporated into the empire. Whether this family had Elamite ancestry or simply lived there during exile, their Hebrew names demonstrate maintained covenant identity despite geographical dispersion.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jeshaiah's name ('Yahweh is salvation') proclaim the gospel truth that only God, not human effort, accomplishes redemption?
2. What does the inclusion of families possibly connected to Elamite region teach about the inclusive yet theologically defined nature of God's people?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּנֵי	יֵשַׁעְיָה הַ	בְּנֵי	אֶתְלִי הַ	וְעַמּוֹ
And of the sons	of Elam	Jeshaiah	And of the sons	of Athaliah
H1121	H5867	H3470	H1121	H6271
				H5973
שְׁבַע יָמִים	הַזְּכָרִים:			
and with him seventy	males			
H7657	H2145			

