

Ezra 2

Verses 1- 2

Now these are the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had taken into exile to Babylon, and they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city. ² These came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, *and* Baanah.

There were 11 leaders in the group but Zerubbabel was the main leader of those who returned to Jerusalem. His name means seed of Babylon, indicating that he was born there.

Verses 3 – 20

This is the number of the men of the people of Israel:

³ the sons of Parosh, 2,172;

⁴ the sons of Shephatiah, 372;

⁵ the sons of Arah, 775;

⁶ the sons of Pahath-moab of the sons of Jeshua *and* Joab, 2,812;

⁷ the sons of Elam, 1,254;

⁸ the sons of Zattu, 945;

⁹ the sons of Zaccai, 760;

¹⁰ the sons of Bani, 642;

¹¹ the sons of Bebai, 623;

¹² the sons of Azgad, 1,222;

¹³ the sons of Adonikam, 666;

¹⁴ the sons of Bigvai, 2,056;

¹⁵ the sons of Adin, 454;

¹⁶ the sons of Ater, of Hezekiah, 98;

¹⁷ the sons of Bezai, 323;

¹⁸ the sons of Jorah, 112;

¹⁹ the sons of Hashum, 223;

²⁰ the sons of Gibbar, 95;

This first group of men was listed by their ancestry and the total was 12,243.

Verses 21 – 35

²¹ the men of Bethlehem, 123;

²² the men of Netophah, 56;

²³ the men of Anathoth, 128;

²⁴ the sons of Azmaveth, 42;

²⁵ the sons of Kiriath-arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, 743;

²⁶ the sons of Ramah and Geba, 621;

²⁷ the men of Michmas, 122;

²⁸ the men of Bethel and Ai, 223;

²⁹ the sons of Nebo, 52;

³⁰ the sons of Magbish, 156;

³¹ the sons of the other Elam, 1,254;

³² the sons of Harim, 320;

³³ the sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, 725;

³⁴ the men of Jericho, 345;

³⁵ the sons of Senaah, 3,630.

This second group of men was listed by their hometowns and the total was 11901.

Verses 36 - 39

³⁶ The priests:

the sons of Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua, 973;

³⁷ the sons of Immer, 1,052;

³⁸ the sons of Pashhur, 1,247;

³⁹ the sons of Harim, 1,017.

The priests listed here numbered 4,289 which was about a tenth of the entire number who returned.

Verses 40 - 42

⁴⁰ The Levites:

the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodaviah, 74.

⁴¹ The singers: the sons of Asaph, 128.

⁴² The sons of the gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, *and* the sons of Shobai, 139 in all.

Only 341 Levites returned to Palestine. We don't know for sure why this number was so low but it is possible that they were not happy with their duties as a helper of the priests.

Verses 43 - 54

⁴³ The temple servants: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth, ⁴⁴ the sons of Keros, the sons of Siaha, the sons of Padon, ⁴⁵ the sons of Lebanah, the sons of Hagabah, the sons of Akkub, ⁴⁶ the sons of Hagab, the sons of Shalmi, the sons of Hanan, ⁴⁷ the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, the sons of Reaiah, ⁴⁸ the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, the sons of Gazzam, ⁴⁹ the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, the sons of Besai, ⁵⁰ the sons of Asnah, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephisim, ⁵¹ the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur, ⁵² the sons of Bazluth, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha, ⁵³ the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah, ⁵⁴ the sons of Nezhiah, *and* the sons of Hatipha.

It is not clear which group these temple servants belong in. The name comes from a Hebrew expression which means given as helpers. Some think these were prisoners of war allocated to the temple to assist the Levites in the more mundane tasks.

Verses 55 - 58

⁵⁵ The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Hassophereth, the sons of Peruda, ⁵⁶ the sons of Jaalah, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel, ⁵⁷ the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, *and* the sons of Ami. ⁵⁸ All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants *totaled* 392.

The temple servants (verses 43 – 54) and the sons of Solomon's servants (verses 55 - 58) numbered 392.

Verses 59 - 60

⁵⁹ Now these *were* the ones who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, *and* Immer, but they were not able to provide evidence of their fathers' households and their descendants, whether they *were* of Israel: ⁶⁰ the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, *and* the sons of Nekoda, 652.

Some men could not prove they were from one of the 12 tribes. They numbered 652.

Verses 61 - 63

⁶¹ Of the sons of the priests: the sons of Hobaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and he was called by their name. ⁶² These searched *among* their genealogical registration but they could not be located; so they were considered defiled *and excluded* from the priesthood. ⁶³ The governor said to them that they were not to eat from the most holy things until a priest stood up with Urim and Thummim.

Barzillai was the friend of David who aided him during the rebellion of Absalom. His daughters had married priests, but their husbands could not prove their ancestry so they were excluded from the priesthood.

Verses 64 - 67

⁶⁴ **The whole assembly together totaled 42,360,** ⁶⁵ besides their male and female slaves who *totaled* 7,337; and they had two hundred singing men and women.

⁶⁶ Their horses *numbered* 736; their mules, 245; ⁶⁷ their camels, 435; *their* donkeys, 6,720.

See chart 205

People that returned to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel.	
By Ancestry	12,243
By Hometowns	11,901
Priests	4,289
Levites	341
Temple servants	
Sons of Solomon's servants	392
Uncertain Ancestry	652
Subtotal	29,818
Wives & daughters ?	12,542
New Subtotal	42,360
Male & Female Slaves	7,337
Total	49,697
The subtotal according to the text was 42,360 (Verse 64) But the actual subtotal is 29,818; a difference of 12,542. This difference of 12,542 may have been wives & daughters that were included in the 42,360 subtotal but not listed as a group.	

The whole assembly together *totaled* 42,360. Their male and female slaves totaled 7,337. So in all, about 50,000 people returned to Jerusalem at this time.

The number of wives and daughters appears to be somewhat low but it is possible that some of the wives and daughters stayed in Babylon until the city was resettled.

The property they brought with them indicates that most of the returnees were poor. According to the numbers in this section they only had one horse for every 60 people and one mule for every 175 people.

Verses 68 - 70

⁶⁸ **Some of the heads of fathers' *households*, when they arrived at the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem, offered willingly for the house of God to erect it on its site.** ⁶⁹ **According to their ability they gave to the treasury *for the work* sixty-one thousand gold drachmas, five thousand silver minas, and a hundred priestly garments.** ⁷⁰ **Now the priests and the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants lived in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.**

The drachma was a coin of ancient Greece dating from about the mid-6th century BC. Its name derives from the Greek verb meaning "to grasp". Its original value was equivalent to that of a handful of arrows.