

# **Ezra – Chapter Two**

## **“Everything Matters”**

### **Introduction 1**

The province = Judah

In this chapter we find details about people, places, numbers, animals, offerings, etc.

Much of this chapter is repeated as part of Nehemiah 7

It teaches us some very important things about God!

### **Leaders 2**

Zerubbabel was the Jewish leader of the return – He was the grandson of King Jehoiachin

He was the only surviving heir to the throne of David

He is mentioned in the Messianic genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:12 and Luke 3:27

Jeshua = Joshua, the High Priest referenced in Haggai and Zechariah

Together Zerubbabel and Joshua would lead the rebuilding of the Temple

Nehemiah and Mordecai in this verse are not the well-known Biblical figures

### **People by Their Families 3-20**

Verse 20 is in question as to whether it is a family name or a city (Nehemiah 7:25 = Gibeon)

### **People by Their Cities 21-35**

Cities with name recognition: Bethlehem ~ Bethel ~ Ai ~ Jericho

### **The Priests 36-39**

4,289 – Or about one tenth of the total company of those who returned (42,360)

Only 4 of David’s original 24 family groups of Priests returned

### **The Levites 40**

74 – This represents a great shortage of these who assisted the Priests in Temple worship

### **The Singers 41**

128 - These were Temple singers

### **The Sons of the Gatekeepers 42**

139 – Most likely they were gatekeepers of the Temple.

They were also in charge of chambers and offerings within the Temple.

They worked under the direction of high-ranking Levites.

### **The Nethinim 43-54**

This name means “those given” or “those dedicated”.

They were descendants of slaves captured in foreign wars.

They were “given” to the Priests and Levites to carry out menial temple tasks such as carrying water.

### **The Sons of Solomon’s Servants 55-58**

These were descendants of slaves like the Nethinim, but their responsibilities were more secular.

The total of Nethinim and Sons of Solomon’s servants was 392

### **Unable to Prove Their Genealogy 59-63**

652 were unable to prove their genealogy but allowed to return with God's people.  
Restrictions were placed on them forbidding service in the Temple until a determination could be made.  
The determination was to be made by a Priest consulting the Urim and Thummim.  
Urim and Thummim were used as a type of lot to determine God's will or receive an answer from Him.

### **Totals 64-65**

The total of 42,360 is also given in Nehemiah 7:66  
This number is not the sum of the numbers in vv. 3-60 (29,818)  
Several potential explanations have been suggested for the discrepancy:  
The 29,818 represents men only ~ The 29,818 represents those from the tribes of Benjamin and Judah only.  
The 29,818 does not include the male and female servants (7,337).  
Nor does it include 200 men and women singers (not Temple singers).

### **Animals 66-67**

This comparatively small number of horses, mules and camels does not indicate that these people were poor.

### **Freewill Offering 68-69**

By weight this offering would have been 1,100 pounds of gold and three tons of silver.  
See 1:4 as part of the Decree of Cyrus

### **Conclusion 70**

The return trip and resettlement in Israel was successfully completed.

## **Doctrinal Conclusions**

**Why would God include a chapter like this in His Word? Twice?**

**1. Laborers are often difficult to find in the Lord's work.**

**2. Zerubbabel is evidence of God's grace.**

**3. God's standard for giving is "according to ability".**

**4. God keeps all His promises.**

He kept His promise to David made in 2 Samuel 7:12-17

**5. God has the power to bring all His promises to fulfillment.**

**6. God knows all the details.**

He knows all the families.

He knows all the numbers (the number of the names and the names of the numbers!).

He even knows the details of animals, and every offering ever taken.

Nothing ever escapes His attention: Luke 12:6-7

He especially knows and loves those who are His: 2 Timothy 2:19