

Ezra 2

- Here we find a listing of names of those who returned to Jerusalem.
- The last chapter of Ezra ends with another listing of names

There are many places in the Bible where long lists of names are found:

1. Genesis 5—the generations from Adam to Noah
2. 2 Samuel 23—David's mighty men
3. Matthew 1 & Luke 3—the genealogy of Jesus
4. Romans 16—brethren who served well
5. Hebrews 11— people of God who walked by faith

- These are real people with real stories
- Each person is important to God
- In the N.T. names serve as a reference or footnote



Would You Go?

The commentator Roper says of Ezra 2, "It consists largely of a list of names—a list that may be difficult to read and probably seems uninteresting."

- Ezra 2 is the longest chapter in Ezra
- This chapter is a listing of those who returned to Jerusalem after decades in Babylon

For many of those returning, they had never lived in Judea.

- Jeremiah 29:4-11 shows what they were doing in Babylon
- The massive amount of money donated indicates that some had become wealthy during this time (2:69)

- The chapter begins with the officials
 - Zerubbabel was the governor
 - Jeshua was the high priest

A couple of clarifications:

- Nehemiah (2) is not THE Nehemiah of the next book
- Mordecai (2) is not the one from Esther

- The names are listed by:
 - Families (2-33)
 - Location (34)
 - Spiritual Occupations: priests, singers, gate keepers, Temple servants (36-43)

- The total that returned is 42,360 (2:64)
 - which is the same as in Neh 7:66
 - When the individual numbers are added up the amount is 12,000 less than the total given—which may be that the individual listings included on Judah and Benjamin, or more likely only men were initially counted

- The journey from Persia to Jerusalem was 900 miles and would have taken four months
Maclearn: *"It's a strange narrative of a journey that omits the journey altogether"*

- A total of 122 names are listed
 - Sons of Senaah represented the most (2:35) - 3,630 people
 - Sons of Azmaveth had the least (2:24) - 42 people
 - the longest name listed: Pochereth-hazzebaim (2:57)

- When they arrived they were to spread out to the city they were from (2:1)
- The return was part of God's plan and the fulfillment of prophecy



Lessons

1. Certain ones could not prove that they were from priestly families.
 - they were considered unclean, could not serve as priests and were not permitted to eat the holy food (2:59-63)
 - How would you “prove” that you were a Christian?
2. Ezra 2:63 refers to the Urim and Thummin. What is that and what was it for?
3. The conditions of Jerusalem was “post” war (Neh 1:3). It had been that way for 70 years. Would you have returned?
 - Why did so many go?
4. Many gave according to their ability (2:64)
She did what she could (Mk 14:8) teaches us what lessons?

In Your Life

Why was going back to a broken down Jerusalem so important to God?

