

Ezra 02 - The Captives Who Returned to Jerusalem; Their Arrival in the Promised Land

I. Restoration of the Temple (Ezra 1:1–6:22)

(1) Return under Zerubbabel (Ezra 1:1–2:70)

(B) The 50,000 Jewish remnant that returned from Persia to Jerusalem in 537 BC (2:1-70)

(a) Leaders: Zerubbabel, Jeshua the priest, nine associates (2:1-2)

(b) People (2:3-35)

(i) Categorized by families (2:3-20)

(ii) Categorized by cities (2:21-35)

(c) Religious leaders (2:36-42)

(i) Priests (2:36-39)

(ii) Levites, singers, gatekeepers (2:40-42)

(d) Servants (2:43-58)

(i) Normal servants (2:43-54)

(ii) Servants that descended from Solomon's servants (2:55-58)

(e) Those returnees exhibiting uncertain genealogies (2:59-63)

(f) Grand totals (2:64-67)

(i) People (2:64-65)

(ii) Animals (2:66-67)

(g) Gifts given (2:68-69)

(h) Cities resided in (2:70)

Ezra 2

(B) The 50,000 Jewish remnant that returned from Persia to Jerusalem in 537 BC (2:1-70) (Cf. Neh 7:6-73)

(a) Leaders: Zerubbabel, Jeshua the priest, nine associates (2:1-2)

1 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.

1 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 carried away to Babylon, and returned to

Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city.

1 Here is a list of descendants of the province of Judah who returned from the captivity, from those who had been exiled. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had taken them to Babylon. They came back to Jerusalem and Judah, each one to his town,

1 Now these are the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city;

- "...the province" - Judah

2 These came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, **Nehemiah**, Seraiah, Reelaiah, **Mordecai**, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. **This is the number of the men of the people of Israel:**

2 These came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum and Baanah. **The number of the men of the people of Israel:**

2 along with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. Here is the enumeration of: The Men of Israel:

2 Which came with Zerubbabel: Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

- Ezra first recorded the 11 civil and religious leaders who were prominent

— Neh 7:7 records 12 names rather than 11 (Cf. Ezra 2:2): three names have different spellings. In v2 Seraiah, Reelaiah, and Rehum are probably the same persons as Azariah, Raamiah, and Nehum, respectively, in Neh 7:7.

— Nahamani's name, not in Ezra's list, may have been dropped out by an early scribal error in the copying of the original manuscripts

— It is likely that 12 men would have originally been listed as symbolic heads of the 12-tribe nation (Cf. 12 male goats offered for the 12 tribes of Israel, Ezra 6:17)

- "...Nehemiah" - not the same as the writer of the book that bears his name; he did not return to Judah for about another 100 years, in 444 BC (Cf. Neh 2:9)

- "...Mordecai" - not Esther's cousin (Cf. Esther 2:5) since he remained in Susa and lived about 50 years later than this Mordecai

- "...men of" - one of the two ways that the exiles demonstrated their Jewish ancestry: either by family ("son of") or by their hometown in Israel ("men of")

— The family names appears in v3-19,30-32; the town names appear in v20-29,33-35. It's interesting that few of the returnees ever lived in the Promised Land, but most could give evidence that their ancestors had lived in a particular town and/or had owned property there.

- "...the people of Israel" - represented all 12 tribes

Jeshua was the high priest; his name is spelled Joshua in the Books of Haggai and Zechariah. He was a grandson of Seraiah (Cf. 1 Chr 6:14 with Haggai 1:1), a priest whom Nebuchadnezzar killed at Riblah (2 Kings 25:18-21). The Nehemiah in Ezra 2:2 was not the Nehemiah who returned to Jerusalem more than 90 years later, 444 BC. Nor was the Mordecai here Esther's cousin (Esther 2:5-7), who lived in Susa about 60 years after the Jews' first return. Then Ezra listed people by their 18 families and clans, totaling 15,604 (2:3-20).

(b) People (2:3-35)

(i) Categorized by families (2:3-20)

- 3 the sons of Parosh, 2,172;
- 3 the sons of Parosh, 2,172;
- 3 Descendants of Parosh: 2,172
- 3 The children of Parosh, two thousand an hundred seventy and two.

- 4 the sons of Shephatiah, 372;
- 4 the sons of Shephatiah, 372;
- 4 Descendants of Shephatiah: 372
- 4 The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy and two.

- 5 the sons of Arah, 775;
- 5 the sons of Arah, 775;
- 5 Descendants of Arah: 775
- 5 The children of Arah, seven hundred seventy and five.

- 6 the sons of Pahath-moab of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,812;
- 6 the sons of Pahath-moab of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,812;
- 6 Descendants of Pahath-moab; that is, through Jeshua and Joab: 2,812
- 6 The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve.

- 7 the sons of Elam, 1,254;
- 7 the sons of Elam, 1,254;
- 7 Descendants of Elam: 1,254
- 7 The children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.

- 8 the sons of Zattu, 945;
- 8 the sons of Zattu, 945;

8 Descendants of Zattu: 945

8 The children of Zattu, nine hundred forty and five.

9 the sons of Zaccai, 760;

9 the sons of Zaccai, 760;

9 Descendants of Zaccai: 760

9 The children of Zaccai, seven hundred and threescore.

10 the sons of Bani, 642;

10 the sons of Bani, 642;

10 Descendants of Bani: 642

10 The children of Bani, six hundred forty and two.

11 the sons of Bebai, 623;

11 the sons of Bebai, 623;

11 Descendants of Bebai: 623

11 The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty and three.

12 the sons of Azgad, 1,222;

12 the sons of Azgad, 1,222;

12 Descendants of Azgad: 1,222

12 The children of Azgad, a thousand two hundred twenty and two.

13 the sons of Adonikam, 666;

13 the sons of Adonikam, 666;

13 Descendants of Adonikam: 666

13 The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and six.

14 the sons of Bigvai, 2,056;

14 the sons of Bigvai, 2,056;

14 Descendants of Bigvai: 2,056

14 The children of Bigvai, two thousand fifty and six.

15 the sons of Adin, 454;

15 the sons of Adin, 454;

15 Descendants of Adin: 454

15 The children of Adin, four hundred fifty and four.

16 the sons of Ater, of Hezekiah, 98;
16 the sons of Ater of Hezekiah, 98;
16 Descendants of Ater through Hezekiah: 98
16 The children of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety and eight.

17 the sons of Bezai, 323;
17 the sons of Bezai, 323;
17 Descendants of Bezai: 323
17 The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty and three.

18 the sons of Jorah, 112;
18 the sons of Jorah, 112;
18 Descendants of Jorah: 112
18 The children of Jorah, an hundred and twelve.

19 the sons of Hashum, 223;
19 the sons of Hashum, 223;
19 Descendants of Hashum: 223
19 The children of Hashum, two hundred twenty and three.

20 the sons of Gibbar, 95;
20 the sons of Gibbar, 95;
20 Descendants of Gibbar: 95
20 The children of Gibbar, ninety and five.

(ii) Categorized by cities (2:21-35)

21 the men of Bethlehem, 123;
21 the men of Bethlehem, 123;
21 Descendants of exiles from Bethlehem: 123
21 The children of Bethlehem, an hundred twenty and three.

22 the men of Netophah, 56;
22 the men of Netophah, 56;
22 People from Netophah: 56
22 The men of Netophah, fifty and six.

23 the men of Anathoth, 128;
23 the men of Anathoth, 128;

23 People from Anathoth: 128

23 The men of Anathoth, an hundred twenty and eight.

24 the sons of Azmaveth, 42;

24 the sons of Azmaveth, 42;

24 Descendants of exiles from Azmaveth: 42

24 The children of Azmaveth, forty and two.

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

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

25 Descendants of exiles from Kiriath-arim; that is, Chephirah and Beeroth: 743

25 The children of Kirjatharim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty and three.

26 the sons of Ramah and Geba, 621;

26 the sons of Ramah and Geba, 621;

26 Descendants of exiles from Ramah and Geba: 621

26 The children of Ramah and Gaba, six hundred twenty and one.

27 the men of Michmas, 122;

27 the men of Michmas, 122;

27 People from Michmas: 122

27 The men of Michmas, an hundred twenty and two.

28 the men of Bethel and Ai, 223;

28 the men of Bethel and Ai, 223;

28 People from Bethel and Ai: 223

28 The men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred twenty and three.

29 the sons of Nebo, 52;

29 the sons of Nebo, 52;

29 Descendants of exiles from Nebo: 52

29 The children of Nebo, fifty and two.

30 the sons of Magbish, 156;

30 the sons of Magbish, 156;

30 Descendants of exiles from Magbish: 156

30 The children of Magbish, an hundred fifty and six.

31 the sons of the other Elam, 1,254;
31 the sons of the other Elam, 1,254;
31 Descendants of exiles from the other Elam: 1,254
31 The children of the other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.

32 the sons of Harim, 320;
32 the sons of Harim, 320;
32 Descendants of exiles from Harim: 320
32 The children of Harim, three hundred and twenty.

33 the sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, 725;
33 the sons of Lod, Hadid and Ono, 725;
33 Descendants of exiles from Lod, Hadid, and Ono: 725
33 The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty and five.

34 the men of Jericho, 345;
34 the men of Jericho, 345;
34 Descendants of exiles from Jericho: 345
34 The children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five.

35 the sons of Senaah, 3,630.
35 the sons of Senaah, 3,630.
35 Descendants of exiles from Senaah: 3,630
35 The children of Senaah, three thousand and six hundred and thirty.

(c) Religious leaders (2:36-42)

(i) Priests (2:36-39)

36 The priests: the sons of Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua, 973;
36 The priests: the sons of Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua, 973;
36 The Priests: Descendants of Jedaiah from the household of Jeshua: 973
36 The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three.

37 the sons of Immer, 1,052;
37 the sons of Immer, 1,052;
37 Descendants of Immer: 1,052
37 The children of Immer, a thousand fifty and two.

38 the sons of Pashhur, 1,247;
38 the sons of Pashhur, 1,247;
38 Descendants of Pashhur: 1,247
38 The children of Pashur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven.

39 the sons of Harim, 1,017.
39 the sons of Harim, 1,017.
39 Descendants of Harim: 1,017
39 The children of Harim, a thousand and seventeen.
- In v36-39, only four of the 24 priestly families that David had organized (Cf. 1 Chr 24:7-18) had representatives among the returning exiles. However, even these four would have been sufficient to serve the worship needs of the other Israelites who returned.

(ii) Levites, singers, gatekeepers (2:40-42)

40 The Levites: the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodaviah, 74.
40 The Levites: the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodaviah, 74.
40 The Descendants of Levi: Descendants of Jeshua and Kadmiel; that is, descendants of Hodaviah: 74
40 The Levites: the children of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the children of Hodaviah, seventy and four.

41 The singers: the sons of Asaph, 128.
41 The singers: the sons of Asaph, 128.
41 The Singers: Descendants of Asaph: 128
41 The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred twenty and eight.

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.
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, the sons of Shobai, in all 139.
42 The Descendants of the Gatekeepers: Descendants of Shallum, Ater, Talmon, Akkub, Hatita, and Shobai, totaling: 139
42 The children of the porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, in all an hundred thirty and nine.
- Few Levites (v40-42), only 341, chose to leave the comforts of life in Babylon. The Levites assisted the priests. They included singers and gatekeepers (guards). There were

fewer Levites than priests, about one Levite for every 10 priests, which is the opposite of the situation that existed before the exile (Cf. Neh 7:43-60).

(d) Servants (2:43-58)

(i) Normal servants (2:43-54)

43 The **temple servants**: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,

43 The temple servants: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,

43 The Temple Servants: Descendants of Ziha, Hasupha, and Tabbaoth.

43 The Nethinims: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth,

- "...temple servants" - the *Nethinims* as some biblical writers called them, were an order of David had established to assist the Levites (Cf. 8:20). They were probably descendants of the Gibeonites, whom Joshua made subject to taskwork (Joshua 9:27).

44 the sons of Keros, the sons of Siahah, the sons of Padon,

44 the sons of Keros, the sons of Siahah, the sons of Padon,

44 Descendants of Keros, Siahah, and Padon.

44 The children of Keros, the children of Siahah, the children of Padon,

45 the sons of Levanah, the sons of Hagabah, the sons of Akkub,

45 the sons of Levanah, the sons of Hagabah, the sons of Akkub,

45 Descendants of Levanah, Hagabah, and Akkub.

45 The children of Levanah, the children of Hagabah, the children of Akkub,

46 the sons of Hagab, the sons of Shalmai, the sons of Hanan,

46 the sons of Hagab, the sons of Shalmai, the sons of Hanan,

46 Descendants of Hagab, Shalmai, and Hanan.

46 The children of Hagab, the children of Shalmai, the children of Hanan,

47 the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, the sons of Reaiah,

47 the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, the sons of Reaiah,

47 Descendants of Giddel, Gahar, and Reaiah.

47 The children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, the children of Reaiah,

48 the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, the sons of Gazzam,

48 the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, the sons of Gazzam,

48 Descendants of Rezin, Nekoda, and Gazzam.

48 The children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, the children of Gazzam,

49 the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, the sons of Besai,
49 the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, the sons of Besai,
49 Descendants of Uzza, Paseah, and Besai.
49 The children of Uzza, the children of Paseah, the children of Besai,

50 the sons of Asnah, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephisim,
50 the sons of Asnah, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephisim,
50 Descendants of Asnah, Meunim, and Nephisim.
50 The children of Asnah, the children of Mehunim, the children of Nephisim,

51 the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,
51 the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,
51 Descendants of Bakbuk, Hakupha, and Harhur.
51 The children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,

52 the sons of Bazluth, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha,
52 the sons of Bazluth, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha,
52 Descendants of Bazluth, Mehida, and Harsha.
52 The children of Bazluth, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,

53 the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah,
53 the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah,
53 Descendants of Barkos, Sisera, and Temah.
53 The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Thamah,

54 the sons of Neziah, and the sons of Hatipha.
54 the sons of Neziah, the sons of Hatipha.
54 Descendants of Neziah and Hatipha.
54 The children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha.

(ii) Servants that descended from Solomon's servants (2:55-58)

55 The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Hassophereth, the sons of Peruda,
55 The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Hassophereth, the sons of Peruda,
55 The Descendants of Solomon's Servants: Descendants of Sotai, Hassophereth, and Peruda.

55 The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Peruda,

56 the sons of Jaalah, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel,

56 the sons of Jaalah, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel,

56 Descendants of Jaalah, Darkon, and Giddel.

56 The children of Jaalah, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,

57 the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, *and* the sons of Ami.

57 the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, the sons of Ami.

57 Descendants of Shephatiah, Hattil, Pochereth-hazzebaim, and Ami.

57 The children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Ami.

58 All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants *totaled* 392.

58 All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants were 392.

58 All of the Temple Servants and descendants of Solomon's servants numbered 392.

58 All the Nethinims, and the children of Solomon's servants, were three hundred ninety and two.

(e) Those returnees exhibiting uncertain genealogies (2:59-63) (Cf. Neh 7:61-69)

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:

59 Now these are those who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan *and* Immer, but they were not able to give evidence of their fathers' households and their descendants, whether they were of Israel:

59 Here is a list of returnees from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer who could not prove their ancestry and lineage from Israel:

59 And these were they which went up from Tel-malah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer: but they could not shew their father's house, and their seed, whether they were of Israel:

- Even though these people could not establish their Jewish ancestry beyond doubt, the leaders of the restoration permitted them to return with those who could. It is

understandable that some of the Jews who were born in Babylon, perhaps of mixed parentage, would have had trouble tracing their genealogies.

60 the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, *and the sons of Nekoda*, 652.

60 the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, 652.

60 Descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah, and Nekoda: 652

60 The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty and two.

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.

61 Of the sons of the priests: the sons of Habaiah, 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.

61 Descendants of the Priests: Descendants of Habaiah, Hakkoz, and Barzillai, who married one of the daughters of Barzillai from Gilead and took that name.

61 And of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai; which took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after 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.

62 These searched *among* their ancestral registration, but they could not be located; therefore they were considered unclean *and excluded* from the priesthood.

62 These people searched for their ancestral registrations but they couldn't be located. Accordingly, they were assigned an "unclean" status and couldn't be priests.

62 These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put 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**.

63 The governor said to them that they should not eat from the most holy things until a priest stood up with Urim and Thummim.

63 Governor Zerubbabel also ruled that they shouldn't eat anything holy until a priest arose with Urim and Thummim.

63 And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.

- These men (priests, v61-63) returned but could not serve as priests until the high priest could determine that they were indeed descendants of Aaron (Cf. Num 16:40; 18:9-10).
 - Evidently the high priest did this using the Urim and Thummim, if these were still in existence (Ex 28:15-30; Cf. 1 Sam 23:9-12). Perhaps other records were available to him. Marriage with non-Israelites had led to idolatry and the exile, so the leaders of the restoration wanted to make sure that the priests had pure bloodlines.
- A total of 652 returnees could not clearly trace their ancestry (v59-63), thus they are listed last
- "...governor" - refers to the governor, Zerubbabel; in Neh 8:9 the same title is applied to Nehemiah
- "...Urim and Thummim" - see note on Ex 28:30 (Cf. Neh 7:65)

The priests who could not delineate their genealogies were not allowed by the governor (possibly a reference to Sheshbazzar [Cf. comments on 1:8] or to Zerubbabel) to eat the most sacred food until a priest was ministering with the Urim and Thummim. The Urim and Thummim are designated as part of the high priest's ceremonial dress (Cf. Ex 28:30; Lev 8:8; Num 27:21; Deut 33:8; 1 Sam 28:6; Neh 7:65). They were used in some way to determine the will of God. But it seems that God's will could no longer be determined in this way after the departure of the Shekinah glory in 592 BC (Ezek 8-11).

Though this list of names and locations seems unnecessary to some modern readers, it would have been of great encouragement to the original readers as they saw their own families and towns represented.

(f) Grand totals (2:64-67)

(i) People (2:64-65)

64 The whole assembly together *totaled* 42,360,

64 The whole assembly numbered 42,360,

64 The entire assembly numbered 42,360,

64 The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore,

65 besides their male and female slaves who *totaled* 7,337; and they had two hundred singing men and women.

65 besides their male and female servants who numbered 7,337; and they had 200 singing men and women.

65 not including 7,337 male and female servants, along with 200 singing "men and women.

65 Beside their servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing women.

(ii) Animals (2:66-67)

66 Their horses *numbered* 736; their mules, 245;

66 Their horses were 736; their mules, 245;

66 In addition, they had 736 horses, 245 mules,

66 Their horses were seven hundred thirty and six; their mules, two hundred forty and five;

67 their camels, 435; *their* donkeys, 6,720.

67 their camels, 435; *their* donkeys, 6,720.

67 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys.

67 Their camels, four hundred thirty and five; their asses, six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

- When added together the numbers in v2-42,58,60, which list the returnees, comes to 29,829 (including the 11 prominent men listed in v2)

— However, the total in v64-65—the whole company—is 49,897. The larger number may include women and children. It may also include Jews from the 10 Northern tribes who might have joined the remnant of the two Southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin (Cf. 1:5). It may also have included the priests who could not delineate their genealogies (2:61-62).

Ezra's grand total of 49,897 is very close to Nehemiah's total of 49,942 (Neh 7:66-67). Nehemiah's extra 45 people are in the singers (Ezra had 200 but Nehemiah referred to 245). This may have been a scribal error, an error not in the original manuscripts but in the numerous copyings of the text in its transmission. A scribe, in copying Neh 7:67, may have inadvertently picked up the 245 in v68, in reference to mules, and inserted that number for the 200 singers. This kind of error may also account for several variations in the other numbers in these lists. Even the animals were counted—a total of 8,136, most of them donkeys, commonly used for riding.

The journey from Babylon to Israel was about 900 miles and took about four months (Cf. 7:8-9), but Ezra did not state how long the return trip took. His focus was not on the people's hardships but on their task of rebuilding the temple.

(g) Gifts given (2:68-69) (Cf. Neh 7:70-73)

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.

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 restore it on its foundation.

68 When they arrived at the Temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, some of the heads of the families contributed toward building the Temple of God on its former site.

68 And some of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of the LORD which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God to set it up in his place:

- When the returnees arrived back in Israel at the house of the LORD (i.e., at its location site) they gave of their possessions according to their ability

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.

69 According to their ability they gave to the treasury for the work 61,000 gold drachmas and 5,000 silver minas and 100 priestly garments.

69 They contributed to the treasury for this work in accordance with their ability: 61,000 golden drachma, 5,000 units of silver, and 100 priestly robes.

69 They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pound of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

- The list of precious metals and materials differs from the corresponding list in Neh 7:70-72

— Ezra's 61,000 drachmas of gold are 41,000 in Nehemiah. Ezra recorded 5,000 minas of silver while Nehemiah referred to 4,200. Ezra mentioned 100 priestly garments whereas Nehemiah recorded 597. These differences were probably early scribal errors.

(h) Cities resided in (2:70)

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.

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.

70 As a result, the priests, descendants of Levi, certain people, the singers, door-keepers, and the Temple Servants were able to settle in their original cities, with the rest of the Israelis in their cities.

70 So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

- After arriving in Israel and going to the temple location (v68), they later settled in the towns where their ancestors had lived and where some of them had owned property

- After the Babylonian captivity, the terms "Jew" and "Israelite" are used interchangeably. Ezra calls the returning remnant "Jews" 8x and "Israel" 40x. Ezra also speaks of "all Israel"

(2:70; 3:11; 8:35; 10:25, et al).

— Nehemiah uses the term "Jews" 11x and "Israel" 22x. Nehemiah too speaks of "all Israel" being back in the land (Neh 12:47). The remnant that returned from Babylon is represented as "the nation" (Mal 1:1, et al.).