

Ezra 1:9-2:70

1:9- “And this was the number of them: 30 basins of gold, 1,000 basins of silver, 29 censers,

	6242 [e]	8672 [e]	4252 [e]	505 [e]	3701 [e]	105 [e]	7970 [e]	2091 [e]	105 [e]	4557 [e]	428 [e]
s	wə'ēs-rīm,	tīš'āh	ma-hā-lā pīm	'ā-lep,	ḵe-sep	ā-gar-te-lē-	šə-lō-šīm,	zā-hāb	ā-gar-te-lē	mis-pā-rām;	wə'ēl-leh
ס .	וְעֶשְׂרִים:	תִּשְׁעָה	מַחְלָפִים	אֶלֶף	כֶּסֶף	אֲגָרְתֵי-לֶבַח	שְׁלֹשִׁים	זָהָב	אֲגָרְתֵי-לֶבַח	מִסְפָּרָם	וְאֵלֶּה 9
-	and twenty	nine	knives	a thousand	silver	platters	thirty	gold	platters	the numbers of them	And these [are]
Punc	Conj-w Number-cp	Number-ms	N-mp	Number-ms	N-ms	N-mpc	Number-cp	N-ms	N-mpc	N-masc 3mp	Conj-w Pro-cp

1. These were actual lists that were copied from the official court documents used to record what pieces of the government’s treasures were handed over and who was given responsibility for them.
2. “Basins” is a Persian word that likely came directly from an inventory written by a Persian recorder at the time of handing the temple treasures over.
3. “Gold dishes” (*agartelim*) and “gold bowls” (*keporim*) are uncertain translations
4. “Censers” is a guess at the Hebrew word *mahalaim*. Also options are “knives” or “changes” of priestly clothes

1:10 – “30 bowls of gold, 410 bowls of silver, and 1,000 other vessels;

	505 [e]	312 [e]	3627 [e]	6235 [e]	3967 [e]	702 [e]	4932 [e]	3701 [e]	3713 [e]	7970 [e]	2091 [e]	3713 [e]
s	'ā-lep.	'ā-ḵē-rīm	kē-līm	wa-'ā-šā-rāh;	mē-'ō-wt	'ar-ba'	miš-nīm,	ḵe-sep	ke-pō-w-rē	šə-lō-šīm,	zā-hāb	ke-pō-w-rē
ס .	אֶלֶף:	אַחַרִים	כִּלִּים	וְעֶשְׂרֵה	מֵאוֹת	אַרְבַּע	מִשְׁנִים	כֶּסֶף	כְּפֹרִי	שְׁלֹשִׁים	זָהָב	כְּפֹרִי 10
-	a thousand	[and] other	articles	and ten	hundred	four	a similar [kind]	of silver	basins	thirty	gold	Basins
Punc	Number-ms	Adj-mp	N-mp	Conj-w Number-ms	Number-fp	Number-fsc	N-mp	N-ms	N-mpc	Number-cp	N-ms	N-mpc

1:11 – “all the vessels of gold and of silver were 5,400. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up, when the exiles were brought up from Babylonia to Jerusalem.

	5927 [e]	3605 [e]	3967 [e]	702 [e]	505 [e]	2568 [e]	3701 [e]	2091 [e]	3627 [e]	3605 [e]
	he-'ō-lāh	hak-kōl	mē-'ō-wt;	wə-'ar-ba'	'ā-lā-pīm	ḥā-mē-šet	wə-lak-ke-sep,	laz-zā-hāb	kē-līm	kāl-
	הָעֵלָה	הַכֹּל .	מֵאוֹת	וְאַרְבַּע	אֶלְפִים	חַמֶּשֶׁת	וְלִכְסָף	לְזָהָב	כִּלִּים	כֹּל- 11
	took	All [these]	hundred	and four	thousand	five	and silver	of gold	the articles	All [were]
V-Hifil-Perf-3ms	Art N-ms	Number-fp	Conj-w Number-fs	Number-mp	Number-msc	Conj-w, Prep-l, Art N-ms	Prep-l, Art N-ms	N-mp	N-msc	

	3389 [e]	894 [e]	1473 [e]	5927 [e]	5973 [e]	8339 [e]
	ḵ	lī-rū-šā-lim.	mib-bā-bel	hag-gō-w-lāh,	hē-'ā-lō-wt	'im
	פ .	לִירוּשָׁלַם:	מִבָּבֶל	הַגּוֹלָה	הַעֲלוֹת	עִם
	-	to Jerusalem	from Babylon	the captives	who were brought	with
Punc	Prep-l N-proper-fs	Prep-m N-proper-fs	Art N-fs	V-Nifal-Inf	Prep	N-proper-ms

1. The totaled numbers do not add up.
 - a. The list of components or the total numbers have been misinterpreted in translation from Aramaic to Hebrew.
 - b. The items mentioned (knives, platters, basins or dishes, bowls) were the only items identified in the recording of the Persian documents in the text of the Book of Ezra.
 - i. The identified items (knives, platters, bowls, etc.) = 2,499 of the total 5,400
 - ii. All the items given to the Jews from the Persian treasure house were 5,400. There were 2,931 other unidentified objects of silver and gold.
 - iii. But, this point makes no sense if these “unidentified” objects (2,901 of them) were identified as “1,000 other vessels”. So, it seems some things are missing or the numbers were mistranslated.

2:1 – “Now these were the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried captive to Babylonia. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town.

834 [e]	1473 [e]	7628 [e]	5927 [e]	4082 [e]	1121 [e]	428 [e]
'ā-šer	hag-gō-w-lāh,	miš-šə-bī	hā-'ō-līm	ham-mə-đī-nāh,	bə-né	wə-'ēl-leh
אֲשֶׁר	הַגּוֹלָה	מִשְׁבִּי	הָעֵלִים	הַמְּדִינָה	בְּנֵי	וְאֵלֶּה 1
whom	of those who had been carried away	from the captivity	who came back	of the province	the sons	Now these [are]
Pro-r	Art N-fs	Prep-m N-msc	Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	Art N-fs	N-mpc	Conj-w Pro-cp
7725 [e]	894 [e]	894 [e]	4428 [e]	5020 [e]		1540 [e]
way-yā-šū-bū	le-bā-bel;	bā-bel	me-leḵ-	nə-bū-ḵad-neš-šar	nə-bū-ḵad-neš-šō-wr	heḡ-lāh
וַיָּשׁוּבוּ	לְבָבֶל	בָּבֶל	מֶלֶךְ-	(נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר)	[נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר]	הֶגְלָה
and who returned	to Babylon	Babylon	the king of	Nebuchadnezzar	Nebuchadnezzar	had carried away
Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmperf-3mp	Prep-I N-proper-fs	N-proper-fs	N-msc	N-proper-ms	N-proper-ms	V-Hifil-Perf-3ms
			5892 [e]	376 [e]	3063 [e]	3389 [e]
			le-'ī-rōw.	'iš	wī-hū-dāh	lī-rū-šā-lim
			לְעִירוֹ:	אִישׁ	וַיְהִי	לְיְרוּשָׁלַיִם
			to his [own] city	everyone	and Judah	to Jerusalem
			Prep-I N-fsc 3ms	N-ms	Conj-w N-proper-fs	Prep-I N-proper-fs

1. This is not just a list of Jews returning, but a list of Jews associated with their God given family and their God given territory. Their identification as a people included their nation, their tribe, their family and their land. They had not forgotten.
 - a. This returning remnant was bringing the nation back as a plant to be resettled. They were not seeds to start over nor where they dead, dry leaves of the past. They had kept the nation alive and would be re-planted as a full, living plant in the land.
2. These are the people’s who had their heart stirred by the Lord to return. It should be considered that those who had been attentive to the Word of God and had been daily living their lives anticipating the fulfillment of Jeremiah and Isaiah’s specific prophecy and the overall message of the other prophets where the ones who were stirred by the news of the fall of Babylon and the reading of Cyrus’ decree. Those whose hearts were stirred had been waiting for this time. It is hard (but not impossible) to imagine someone who had neglected the Word of God and the promises to Israel to even recognize this moment in history. They most likely had settled into the world of Babylon and were happy to live as Persians. These would be much less likely to have their hearts stirred by the Lord.
3. This is an orderly arrangement and an orderly return to their land.
4. Notice they are returning to the province of Judah. This was the Persian province for Israel. The capital city was Jerusalem.
 - a. Judah would be a province in the Persian territory known as the lands “Beyond the River”. This would include Syria, Lebanon, Samaria, etc.
 - b. Interesting their governor is being sent back with them which means there is not a governor waiting for them. So, the province of Judah is likely carved out of the land of some other province such as the land of Samaria.
 - c. This “new” province of Judah may not have been welcomed among the peoples living “Beyond the River.”

2:2 – “**They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah.**

1. There are 11 names here, but likely this is to be a list of 12 names indicating this is the complete and official list.
 - a. This is confirmed when the same list is given in Nehemiah 7:7 with the 12th name Nahamani. Nehemiah writes:
“I found the genealogical record of those who had been the first to return. This is what I found written there: These are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken captive (they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town, in company with **Zerubbabel, Joshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum and Baanah**):
2. Zerubbabel is a grandson of King Jehoiachin the son of Jehoiachin’s oldest son Shealtiel (3:2).
 - a. 1 Chr. 3:19 states that Zerubbabel was the son of Pedaiah, the younger brother of Shealtiel. This may indicate that Zerubbabel’s oldest son had no children so according to the Levitical law (Dt. 25 and Ruth 4:10) Pedaiah married Shealtiel’s widow and their first son inherited Shealtiel’s position. In this case, the title of heir to the throne.
3. Jeshua (Joshua in Nehemiah) is the high priest. He is called Joshua in Haggai and Zechariah. His name would be Jesus in the rising Greek culture.

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, namely 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, namely 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.
- 21 The sons 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 sons of Jericho, 345.
 35 The sons of Senaah, 3,630.
1. This a list of the non-priestly families.
 2. The list is repeated in Nehemiah 7.
 - a. Nehemiah transmits the names with only slight variations.
 - b. Nehemiah transmits the numbers with wild range of variations. There is no pattern for the variations. And, the variation differ from single digits to several hundred. Again, it would seem to be clear that the copiest and translators of the ancient world were having trouble communicating the numbers from Persian to Hebrew, from Aramaic to Hebrew then to Greek.

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.

1. The priests add up to 4,289 or about 1/10th of the remnant

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, in all 139.

1. The Levites are few compared to the priests.
2. The Levites were to also receive their living from the tithe of the nation. The only difference is they had to hand 1/10th of it over to the priest. This would seem to prove the point that the books of Moses and the Law was NOT being written at this time since this very small minority is still given great benefits. The Law was ancient and this generation inherited it, they did not create it.
- 3.

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 Shamlai, 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 Neziah, and the sons of Hatipha.

1. Temple servants were a group created by David to help the Levites
2. The foreign names in this list may indicate conquered people taken by David and given to the Levites

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 were 392.

59 The following were those who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer, though they could not prove their fathers' houses or their descent, whether they belonged to Israel:

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

61 Also, of the sons of the priests: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, and the sons of Barzillai (who had taken a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name).

62 These sought their registration among those enrolled in the genealogies, but they were not found there, and so they were excluded from the priesthood as unclean.

63 The governor told them that they were not to partake of the most holy food, until there should be a priest to consult Urim and Thummim.

64 The whole assembly together was 42,360,

65 besides their male and female servants, of whom there were 7,337, and they had 200 male and female singers.

66 Their horses were 736, their mules were 245, 67 their camels were 435, and their donkeys were 6,720.

68 Some of the heads of families, when they came to the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem, made freewill offerings for the house of God, to erect it on its site.

69 According to their ability they gave to the treasury of the work 61,000 darics of gold, 5,000 minas of silver, and 100 priests' garments.

70 Now the priests, the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants lived in their towns, and all the rest of Israel in their towns.