ho returned to Jeruyears later, 444 B.C. lecai here Esther's who lived in Susa ne Jews' first return. cords 12 names rath-2:2). (Three names igs. In verse 2 Seralehum are probably Azariah, Raamiah, ively, in Neh. 7:7.) ot in Ezra's list, may out by an early scribring of the original likely that 12 men v been listed as sym-2-tribe nation (cf. 12 for the 12 tribes of

people by their 18 totaling 15,604 (2:3sting of inhabitants 1 21 towns and vilthe map "Postexilic ). Then the priests e listed (vv. 36-39), ites which included pers (vv. 40-42). The 43-54) and descenservants (vv. 55-58) returnees who could : ancestry (vv. 59-63) e priests who could enealogies were not ernor (tiršātā', a Perreference to Sheshon 1:8] or to Zerubmost sacred food till ering with the Urim e Urim and Thumf the high priest's two stones used in ining God's will (cf. Num. 27:21; Deut. Jeh. 7:65). list of names and lo-

S GIVEN (2:64-67)

added together the 42, 58, and 60 which ne to 29,829 (includt men listed in v. 2). in verses 64-65—the

essary to some mod-1 have been of great e original readers as families and towns

