

~ELNATHAN 1 (63)

(El-na'than) [God Has Given]

- The father of King Jehoiachin's mother Nehushta.
- Eighteen years old was Jehoiachin when he began to reign, and for three months he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of **Elnathan** of Jerusalem. (**2 Kings 24:8**)
- Likely he is the **Elnathan** identified as the son of Achbor whom King Jehoiakim sent down to Egypt to bring back the prophet Urijah.
- But King Jehoiakim sent men to Egypt, **Elnathan** the son of Achbor and other men with him to Egypt. (**Jeremiah 26:22**)
- And they proceeded to bring Urijah out from Egypt and to bring him to King Jehoiakim, who then struck him down with the sword and cast his dead body into the graveyard of the sons of the people. (**Jeremiah 26:23**)
- Interestingly, one of the Lachish Letters dating from this period mentions the name **Elnathan**, saying; **The commander of the host, Coniah son of Elnathan, hath come down in order to go into Egypt.** [**Ancient New Eastern Texts, edited by J. Pritchard, 1974, p. 322**]2,3,4]
- Three men bearing the name **Elnathan** are mentioned in the book of Ezra. Two are designated as head ones and the other as an instructor. At the river Ahava, before making the trip to Jerusalem, Ezra gave them a command to appeal to Iddo and the Nethinim at Casiphia to provide from their number ministers for the house of God, to which the Levites and the Nethinim responded.
- And I proceeded to collect them at the river that comes to Ahava, and we kept encamped there three days, that I might scrutinize the people and the priests, but none of the sons of Levi did I find there. (**Ezra 8:15**)
- Accordingly I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah and Elnathan and Jarib and Elnathan and Nathan and Zechariah and Meshullam, head ones, and for Joiarib and **Elnathan**, instructors. (**Ezra 8:16**)

- **Accordingly I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah and Elnathan and Jarib and Elnathan and Nathan and Zechariah and Meshullam, head ones, and for Joiarib and Elnathan, instructors. (Ezra Chapter 8)**
- **Then I gave them a command concerning Iddo the head one in the place Casiphia, and I put in their mouth words to speak to Iddo and his brothers the Nethinim in the place Casiphia, to bring to us ministers for the house of our God. (Ezra 8:17)**
- **So they brought to us, according to the good hand of our God upon us, a man of discretion from the sons of Mahli the grandson of Levi the son of Israel, namely, Sherebiah and his sons and his brothers, eighteen. (Ezra 8:18)**
- **And Hashabiah and with him Jeshaiiah from the sons of Merari, his brothers, and their sons, twenty. (Ezra 8:19)**