Ezra

1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to
fulfill the word of the LORD through Jeremiah,
the LORD stirred the spirit of Cyrus king of
Persia. He issued a proclamation throughout his
kingdom and also put it in writing:
2 “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: The
LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the
kingdoms of the earth and has charged me to
build him a house in Jerusalem in Judah.
3 Whoever among you belongs to his people,
may his God be with him, and let him go up to
Jerusalem in Judah and build the house of the
LORD, the God of Israel. He is the God who is in
Jerusalem.
4 Let the people of every place where a
survivor is living as a foreigner support him
with silver, gold, goods, and livestock, besides
the freewill offering for the house of God in
Jerusalem.”
5 Then the heads of the ancestral houses of
Judah and Benjamin, the priests, and the Levites
arose—everyone whose spirit God had stirred to
go up and build the house of the LORD in
Jerusalem.
6 All their neighbors supported them with
silver articles, gold, goods, livestock, and
precious gifts, besides everything that was freely
offered.

7 King Cyrus brought out the vessels of the
house of the LORD that Nebuchadnezzar had
taken from Jerusalem and placed in the house of
his gods.
8 Cyrus king of Persia brought them out
through Mithredath the treasurer, who counted
them out to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.
9 This was their number: 30 gold bowls, 1,000
silver bowls, 29 knives,
10 30 gold cups, 410 silver cups of a second
kind, and 1,000 other vessels.
11 The total of the gold and silver vessels was
5,400. Sheshbazzar brought them all up when
the exiles came up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

2

1 These are the people of the province who
came up from captivity, from the exiles whom
Nebuchadnezzor king of Babylon had deported
to Babylon. They returned to Jerusalem and
Judah, each to his own city.
2 They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua,
Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan,
Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. The
number of the men of the people of Israel was:
3 The descendants of Parosh: 2,172.
4 The descendants of Shephatiah: 372.
5 The descendants of Arah: 775.
6 The descendants of Pahath-moab, from the
descendants of Jeshua and Joab: 2,812.
7 The descendants of Elam: 1,254.
8 The descendants of Zattu: 945.
9 The descendants of Zaccai: 760.
10 The descendants of Bani: 642.

11 The descendants of Bebai: 623.
12 The descendants of Azgad: 1,222.
13 The descendants of Adonikam: 666.
14 The descendants of Bigvai: 2,056.
15 The descendants of Adin: 454.
16 The descendants of Ater, of Hezekiah: 98.
17 The descendants of Bezai: 323.
18 The descendants of Jorah: 112.
19 The descendants of Hashum: 223.
20 The descendants of Gibbar: 95.
21 The people of Bethlehem: 123.
22 The men of Netophah: 56.
23 The men of Anathoth: 128.
24 The people of Azmaveth: 42.
25 The people of Kiriath-arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth: 743.
26 The people of Ramah and Geba: 621.
27 The men of Michmas: 122.
28 The men of Bethel and Ai: 223.
29 The people of Nebo: 52.
30 The people of Magbish: 156.
31 The people of the other Elam: 1,254.
32 The people of Harim: 320.
33 The people of Lod, Hadid, and Ono: 725.
34 The people of Jericho: 345.
35 The people of Senaah: 3,630.
36 The priests: the descendants of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, 973.
37 The descendants of Immer: 1,052.
38 The descendants of Pashhur: 1,247.
39 The descendants of Harim: 1,017.
40 The Levites: the descendants of Jeshua and Kadmiel, from the descendants of Hodaviah, 74.
41 The singers: the descendants of Asaph, 128.

42 The descendants of the gatekeepers—the
descendants of Shallum, Ater, Talmon, Akkub,
Hatita, and Shobai—139 in all.
43 The temple servants: the descendants of
Ziha, Hasupha, and Tabbaoth;
44 of Keros, Siaha, and Padon;
45 of Lebanah, Hagabah, and Akkub;
46 of Hagab, Shamlai, and Hanan;
47 of Giddel, Gahar, and Reaiah;
48 of Rezin, Nekoda, and Gazzam;
49 of Uzza, Paseah, and Besai;
50 of Asnah, Meinim, and Nephisim;
51 of Bakbuk, Hakupha, and Harhur;
52 of Bazluth, Mehida, and Harsha;
53 of Barkos, Sisera, and Tamah;
54 of Neziah and Hatipha.
55 The descendants of Solomon's servants: the
descendants of Sotai, Hassophereth, and Peruda;
56 of Jaalah, Darkon, and Giddel;
57 of Shephatiah, Hattil, Pochereth-hazzebaim,
and Ami.
58 All the temple servants and the descendants
of Solomon's servants totaled 392.
59 These came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha,
Cherub, Addan, and Immer, but they could not
establish their ancestral house or their descent,
whether they were of Israel:
60 the descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah, and
Nekoda, 652.
61 Among the descendants of the priests were
the descendants of Habaiah, Hakkoz, and
Barzillai, who had married one of the daughters
of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by their
name.

62 These searched for their entries in the
genealogical records, but they were not found,
so they were excluded from the priesthood as
unclean.
63 The governor told them not to eat of the
most holy things until a priest should arise with
Urim and Thummim.
64 The whole assembly together numbered
42,360,
65 besides their 7,337 male and female slaves.
They also had 200 male and female singers.
66 They had 736 horses and 245 mules,
67 435 camels and 6,720 donkeys.
68 When they came to the house of the LORD
in Jerusalem, some of the heads of the ancestral
houses gave freewill offerings for the house of
God, to restore it on its site.
69 According to their ability, they gave to the
treasury for the work 61,000 gold coins, about
6,250 pounds of silver, and 100 priestly robes.
70 The priests, the Levites, some of the people,
the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple
servants settled in their cities, and all Israel in
their cities.

3

1 When the seventh month arrived and the
Israelites were in their cities, the people
gathered as one in Jerusalem.
2 Jeshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests,
together with Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and
his brothers, arose and built the altar of the God
of Israel to offer burnt offerings on it, as written
in the law of Moses, the man of God.

3 They set the altar on its bases, for fear of the
peoples of the lands had come upon them. On it,
burnt offerings were offered to the LORD
morning and evening.
4 They celebrated the Festival of Booths as
written and offered the daily burnt offerings in
the prescribed number, according to the
requirement for each day.
5 Afterward they offered the regular burnt
offering, the offerings for the new moons and all
the LORD's consecrated festivals, and the
offerings of everyone who brought a freewill
offering to the LORD.
6 From the first day of the seventh month they
began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD,
though the foundation of the LORD's temple had
not yet been laid.
7 They gave silver to the stonecutters and
craftsmen, and food, drink, and oil to the
Sidonians and Tyrians, to bring cedar timber
from Lebanon to the sea at Joppa, according to
the authorization Cyrus king of Persia had
granted them.
8 In the second month of the second year after
their arrival at the house of God in Jerusalem,
Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Jeshua son of
Jozadak, the rest of their brothers the priests and
Levites, and all who had come from captivity to
Jerusalem began the work. They appointed the
Levites twenty years old and upward to oversee
the work on the house of the LORD.
9 Jeshua, his sons and his brothers, and
Kadmiel and his sons, the descendants of Judah,

joined together to oversee those working on the house of God, along with the descendants of Henadad, their sons and their brothers the Levites.

10 When the builders laid the foundation of the LORD's temple, they stationed the priests, dressed in their robes, with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD according to the directions of David king of Israel.

11 They sang in response, praising and giving thanks to the LORD: “For he is good, for his faithful love toward Israel endures forever.” All the people raised a great shout, praising the LORD because the foundation of the house of the LORD had been laid.

12 But many of the priests, Levites, and heads of ancestral houses, the older men who had seen the first house, wept loudly when they saw the foundation of this house being laid. Many others raised their voices with shouts of joy.

13 The people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shouting from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people raised a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.

4

1 The adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the LORD, the God of Israel.

2 They approached Zerubbabel and the heads of the ancestral houses and said to them, “Let us build with you, for we seek your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him since the

days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who
brought us here."
3 But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the other heads
of Israel's ancestral houses answered them, "You
have no part with us in building a house for our
God. We ourselves together will build it for the
LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king
of Persia, commanded us."
4 Then the people of the land discouraged the
people of Judah and frightened them away from
building.
5 They hired counselors against them to
frustrate their plans throughout the days of
Cyrus king of Persia and until the reign of
Darius king of Persia.
6 At the beginning of the reign of Ahasuerus,
they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants
of Judah and Jerusalem.
7 In the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam,
Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of his associates
wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia. The letter
was written in Aramaic script and set out in
Aramaic.
8 Rehum the chief official and Shimshai the
scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to King
Artaxerxes in these terms:
9 Then Rehum the chief official, Shimshai the
scribe, and the rest of their associates—the
Dinaites, Apharsathchites, Tarpelites,
Apharsites, people of Erech, Babylonians, and
people of Susa, that is, the Elamites,
10 and the other peoples whom the great and
honored Osnappar deported and settled in the

city of Samaria and the rest of Beyond the River.
And now:
11 This is a copy of the letter they sent to King
Artaxerxes: “Your servants, the men of Beyond
the River. And now:

12 Let it be known to the king that the Jews
who came up from you to us have arrived in
Jerusalem. They are rebuilding the rebellious
and wicked city, completing its walls and
repairing its foundations.
13 Now let it be known to the king that if this
city is rebuilt and its walls are completed, they
will not pay tribute, tax, or toll, and the royal
revenues will suffer.
14 Since we eat the salt of the palace and it is
not fitting for us to see the king dishonored, we
have sent word to inform the king,
15 so that a search may be made in the record
book of your fathers. In the record book you
will find and learn that this city is rebellious and
harmful to kings and provinces, and that
sedition has been stirred up in it since ancient
times. That is why this city was destroyed.
16 We inform the king that if this city is rebuilt
and its walls are completed, you will have no
possession in Beyond the River.”

17 The king sent this reply: “To Rehum the
chief official, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of
their associates living in Samaria and the rest of
Beyond the River: Peace. And now:

18 The letter you sent us has been read clearly
before me.

19 I issued an order, and a search was made. It
was found that this city has risen against kings
since ancient times and that rebellion and
sedition have taken place in it.
20 Powerful kings have ruled over Jerusalem
and governed all of Beyond the River, and
tribute, tax, and toll were paid to them.
21 Now issue an order to make these men stop,
and let this city not be rebuilt until an order is
issued by me.
22 Be careful not to neglect this. Why should
harm increase to the detriment of the kings?"
23 As soon as the copy of King Artaxerxes'
letter was read before Rehum, Shimshai the
scribe, and their associates, they hurried to
Jerusalem to the Jews and made them stop by
force and power.
24 Then the work on the house of God in
Jerusalem ceased and remained suspended until
the second year of the reign of Darius king of
Persia.

5

1 Then Haggai the prophet and Zechariah son
of Iddo, both prophets, prophesied to the Jews in
Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of
Israel, who was over them.
2 Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua
son of Jozadak arose and began to build the
house of God in Jerusalem. The prophets of God
were with them, helping them.
3 At that time Tattenai the governor of Beyond
the River, Shethar-bozenai, and their associates

came to them and asked, “Who authorized you
to build this house and complete this structure?”
4 Then we said to them, “What are the names
of the men constructing this building?”
5 But the eye of their God was on the elders of
the Jews, and the officials did not make them
stop pending a report to Darius and a written
reply about the matter.
6 This is a copy of the letter that Tattenai the
governor of Beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai,
and his associates, the Apharsachites in Beyond
the River, sent to King Darius.
7 They sent him a report, in which this was
written: “To King Darius: All peace.
8 Let it be known to the king that we went to
the province of Judah, to the house of the great
God. It is being built with large stones, and
timber is being laid in the walls. This work is
being done diligently and is prospering in their
hands.
9 Then we asked those elders, ‘Who authorized
you to build this house and complete this
structure?’
10 We also asked them their names to inform
you, so that we could write down the names of
the men leading them.
11 They gave us this answer: ‘We are servants
of the God of heaven and earth, and we are
rebuilding the house that was built many years
ago. A great king of Israel built it and completed
it.
12 But because our fathers provoked the God
of heaven to anger, he gave them into the hand

of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the
Chaldean, who destroyed this house and exiled
the people to Babylon.
13 However, in the first year of Cyrus king of
Babylon, King Cyrus issued a decree to build this
house of God.
14 King Cyrus also brought out from the
temple in Babylon the gold and silver vessels of
the house of God that Nebuchadnezzar had
taken from the temple in Jerusalem and brought
to the temple in Babylon. They were given to a
man named Sheshbazzar, whom he had
appointed governor.
15 He said to him, “Take these vessels, go and
deposit them in the temple in Jerusalem, and let
the house of God be rebuilt on its site.”
16 Then this Sheshbazzar came and laid the
foundations of the house of God in Jerusalem.
From then until now it has been under
construction and has not been finished.’
17 Now, if it seems good to the king, let a
search be made there in the king's treasury in
Babylon to determine whether King Cyrus
issued a decree to build this house of God in
Jerusalem. Let the king send us his decision
about this matter.”

6

1 Then King Darius issued an order, and a
search was made in the archives where the
treasures were stored in Babylon.
2 A scroll was found in the citadel at
Achmetha, in the province of Media, with this
record written in it:

3 “In the first year of King Cyrus, King Cyrus
issued a decree concerning the house of God in
Jerusalem: Let the house be rebuilt as a place
where sacrifices are offered, and let its
foundations be firmly laid. Let it be about 90
feet high and about 90 feet wide,
4 with three courses of large stones and a
course of new timber. Let the expenses be paid
from the king's house.
5 Also, let the gold and silver vessels of the
house of God that Nebuchadnezzar took from
the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon
be returned. Let them go back to their place in
the temple in Jerusalem, and deposit them in the
house of God.”

6 “Now Tattenai the governor of Beyond the
River, Shethar-bozenai, and their associates, the
Apharsachites in Beyond the River, keep away
from there.
7 Do not interfere with the work on this house
of God. Let the governor of the Jews and the
elders of the Jews build this house of God on its
site.
8 I also decree what you are to do for these
elders of the Jews in building this house of God:
The expenses are to be paid promptly to these
men from the king's property, from the tribute of
Beyond the River, so that the work does not stop.
9 Whatever is needed—young bulls, rams, and
lambs for burnt offerings to the God of heaven,
and wheat, salt, wine, and oil—is to be given to
them day by day without fail, as the priests in
Jerusalem request,

10 so that they may offer sacrifices of a
pleasing aroma to the God of heaven and pray
for the life of the king and his sons.
11 I also decree that if anyone alters this edict,
a beam is to be pulled from his house, and he is
to be raised and impaled on it. His house is to be
made a heap of dung because of this.
12 May the God who has caused his name to
dwell there overthrow every king and every
nation that stretches out a hand to alter or
destroy this house of God in Jerusalem. I,
Darius, have issued the decree. Let it be carried
out diligently."
13 Then Tattenai the governor of Beyond the
River, Shethar-bozenai, and their associates
diligently did what King Darius had sent word to
do.
14 The elders of the Jews built and prospered
through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet
and Zechariah son of Iddo. They built and
completed the house according to the command
of the God of Israel and the decree of Cyrus,
Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.
15 This house was finished on the third day of
the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign
of King Darius.
16 The Israelites—the priests, the Levites, and
the rest of the returned exiles—joyfully
celebrated the dedication of this house of God.
17 For the dedication of this house of God, they
offered 100 bulls, 200 rams, and 400 lambs, and
twelve male goats as a sin offering for all Israel,
according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

18 They appointed the priests in their divisions
and the Levites in their groups for the service of
God in Jerusalem, as written in the Book of
Moses.
19 The returned exiles celebrated the Passover
on the fourteenth day of the first month.
20 For the priests and the Levites had purified
themselves together; all of them were clean.
They slaughtered the Passover sacrifices for all
the returned exiles, for their brothers the
priests, and for themselves.
21 The Israelites who had returned from exile
ate it, along with everyone who had separated
himself from the uncleanness of the nations of
the land to join them in seeking the LORD, the
God of Israel.
22 They joyfully celebrated the Festival of
Unleavened Bread for seven days, for the LORD
had given them joy and turned the heart of the
king of Assyria toward them, strengthening
their hands in the work on the house of God, the
God of Israel.

7

1 After these events, during the reign of
Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra was the son of
Seraiah, son of Azariah, son of Hilkiah,
2 son of Shallum, son of Zadok, son of Ahitub,
3 son of Amariah, son of Azariah, son of
Meraioth,
4 son of Zerahiah, son of Uzzi, son of Bukki,
5 son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of
Eleazar, son of Aaron the chief priest.

6 This Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a
scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which the
LORD, the God of Israel, had given. The king
granted him everything he requested, for the
hand of the LORD his God was on him.
7 Some of the Israelites, priests, Levites,
singers, gatekeepers, and temple servants also
went up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King
Artaxerxes.
8 Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month
of the king's seventh year.
9 For on the first day of the first month he
began the journey up from Babylon, and on the
first day of the fifth month he arrived in
Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on
him.
10 For Ezra had set his heart to study the law
of the LORD, to do it, and to teach its statutes
and ordinances in Israel.
11 This is a copy of the letter King Artaxerxes
gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, a scribe of the
words of the LORD's commandments and his
statutes for Israel:
12 “Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest,
a scribe of the law of the God of heaven: Perfect
peace. And now:
13 I decree that anyone in my kingdom from
the people of Israel, their priests, or their Levites
who freely wishes to go to Jerusalem with you
may go.
14 You are sent by the king and his seven
counselors to investigate Judah and Jerusalem
according to the law of your God that is in your
hand,

15 and to carry the silver and gold that the king
and his counselors have freely offered to the
God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem,
16 along with all the silver and gold you find
throughout the province of Babylon, and the
freewill offerings that the people and the priests
freely give for the house of their God in
Jerusalem.
17 Therefore, diligently use this silver to buy
bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain
offerings and drink offerings, and offer them on
the altar of the house of your God in Jerusalem.
18 Whatever seems good to you and your
brothers to do with the rest of the silver and
gold, do according to the will of your God.
19 Deliver the vessels given to you for the
service of the house of your God before the God
of Jerusalem.
20 Whatever else is needed for the house of
your God that you are required to provide,
provide from the king's treasury.
21 I, King Artaxerxes, also decree to all the
treasurers in Beyond the River that everything
Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God
of heaven, asks of you is to be done diligently,
22 up to about 7,500 pounds of silver, up to
about 500 bushels of wheat, up to about 550
gallons of wine, up to about 550 gallons of oil,
and salt without a set limit.
23 Let everything commanded by the God of
heaven be done carefully for the house of the
God of heaven. Why should wrath come upon
the kingdom of the king and his sons?

24 We also inform you that it is not lawful to
impose tribute, tax, or toll on any of the priests,
Levites, singers, gatekeepers, temple servants, or
other servants of this house of God.
25 And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of
your God that is in your hand, appoint
magistrates and judges to judge all the people in
Beyond the River, all who know the laws of your
God. Teach those who do not know them.
26 Let judgment be carried out promptly on
anyone who does not obey the law of your God
and the law of the king, whether death,
banishment, confiscation of property, or
imprisonment."
27 Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers,
who put this in the king's heart to beautify the
house of the LORD in Jerusalem,
28 and extended his faithful love to me before
the king, his counselors, and all the king's
mighty officials! I took courage because the
hand of the LORD my God was on me, and I
gathered leaders from Israel to go up with me.

8

1 These are the heads of the ancestral houses
and the genealogical record of those who came
up with me from Babylon during the reign of
King Artaxerxes:
2 From the descendants of Phinehas, Gershom;
from the descendants of Ithamar, Daniel; from
the descendants of David, Hattush,
3 from the descendants of Shecaniah. From
the descendants of Parosh, Zechariah, and with
him 150 males registered by genealogy.

4 From the descendants of Pahath-moab,
Eliehoenai son of Zerahiah, and with him 200
males.
5 From the descendants of Shecaniah, the son
of Jahaziel, and with him 300 males.
6 From the descendants of Adin, Ebed son of
Jonathan, and with him 50 males.
7 From the descendants of Elam, Jeshaiah son
of Athaliah, and with him 70 males.
8 From the descendants of Shephatiah,
Zebadiah son of Michael, and with him 80 males.
9 From the descendants of Joab, Obadiah son
of Jehiel, and with him 218 males.
10 From the descendants of Shelomith, the son
of Josiphiah, and with him 160 males.
11 From the descendants of Bebai, Zechariah
son of Bebai, and with him 28 males.
12 From the descendants of Azgad, Johanan
son of Hakkatan, and with him 110 males.
13 From the descendants of Adonikam, the last
ones, whose names were Eliphelet, Jeiel, and
Shemaiah, and with them 60 males.
14 From the descendants of Bigvai, Uthai and
Zabbud, and with him 70 males.
15 I gathered them at the river that runs to
Ahava, and we camped there for three days. I
examined the people and the priests, but I found
none of the descendants of Levi there.
16 I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan,
Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, and
Meshullam, who were leaders, and for Joiarib
and Elnathan, men of understanding.
17 I sent them out to Iddo, the leader at the
place called Casiphia, and put in their mouths

the words to speak to Iddo and his brothers, the men assigned to temple service at Casiphia, to bring us ministers for the house of our God.
18 Because the good hand of our God was on us, they brought us a man of understanding from the descendants of Mahli son of Levi, son of Israel: Sherebiah, with his sons and brothers, eighteen in all;
19 and Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiah from the descendants of Merari, his brothers and their sons, twenty in all.

20 From the temple servants whom David and the officials had appointed to serve the Levites, they brought 220 temple servants. All were designated by name.
21 I proclaimed a fast there at the Ahava River, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our little ones, and all our possessions.
22 For I was ashamed to ask the king for troops and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the way, because we had told the king, “The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, but his power and his anger are against all who forsake him.”
23 So we fasted and sought our God about this, and he answered our plea.
24 Then I set apart twelve of the leading priests, with Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brothers.
25 I weighed out to them the silver, gold, and vessels, the contribution for the house of our

God that the king, his counselors, his officials,
and all the Israelites present had given.
26 I weighed into their hands about 24 tons of
silver, silver vessels weighing about 7,500
pounds, about 7,500 pounds of gold,
27 twenty gold bowls worth 1,000 gold coins,
and two vessels of fine, polished bronze, as
precious as gold.
28 I said to them, “You are holy to the LORD,
and the vessels are holy. The silver and gold are
a freewill offering to the LORD, the God of your
fathers.
29 Be watchful and guard them until you
weigh them out before the leading priests and
Levites and the heads of Israel's ancestral
houses in Jerusalem, in the chambers of the
house of the LORD.”
30 So the priests and the Levites received the
weighed silver, gold, and vessels to bring to
Jerusalem, to the house of our God.

31 We set out from the Ahava River on the
twelfth day of the first month to go to Jerusalem.
The hand of our God was on us, and he rescued
us from the hand of the enemy and from those
lying in wait along the way.
32 We arrived in Jerusalem and stayed there
three days.
33 On the fourth day the silver, gold, and
vessels were weighed out in the house of our
God into the hands of Meremoth son of Uriah,
the priest. With him was Eleazar son of
Phinehas, and with them were the Levites
Jozabad son of Jeshua and Noadiah son of

Binnui.
34 Everything was counted and weighed, and
the entire weight was recorded at that time.
35 The exiles who had returned from captivity
offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel:
twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams,
seventy-seven lambs, and twelve male goats as a
sin offering. All this was a burnt offering to the
LORD.
36 They delivered the king's decrees to the
king's satraps and to the governors of Beyond
the River, who supported the people and the
house of God.

9

1 When these things were finished, the
officials approached me and said, “The people of
Israel, the priests, and the Levites have not
separated themselves from the peoples of the
lands and their detestable practices—those of
the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites,
Ammonites, Moabites, Egyptians, and Amorites.
2 For they have taken some of their daughters
as wives for themselves and their sons, so that
the holy offspring have mixed with the peoples
of the lands. The officials and the deputies have
taken the lead in this unfaithfulness.”
3 When I heard this, I tore my garment and my
robe, pulled hair from my head and beard, and
sat appalled.
4 Everyone who trembled at the words of the
God of Israel gathered around me because of the
unfaithfulness of the returned exiles. I remained
seated, appalled, until the evening offering.

5 At the evening offering I rose from my
humiliation, with my garment and robe torn,
fell to my knees, and spread out my hands to the
LORD my God.
6 I said, “My God, I am ashamed and
humiliated to lift my face to you, my God, for
our iniquities have risen above our heads, and
our guilt has grown up to heaven.
7 From the days of our fathers to this day we
have been deeply guilty. Because of our
iniquities, we, our kings, and our priests have
been given into the hands of the kings of the
lands—to the sword, captivity, plunder, and
shame of face, as it is today.
8 But now, for a brief moment, favor has come
from the LORD our God, leaving us a surviving
remnant and giving us a peg in his holy place, so
that our God may brighten our eyes and give us
a little new life in our slavery.
9 For we are slaves, but our God has not
forsaken us in our slavery. He has extended his
faithful love to us before the kings of Persia,
giving us new life to raise up the house of our
God, restore its ruins, and give us a wall in
Judah and Jerusalem.
10 And now, our God, what can we say after
this? For we have forsaken your
commandments,
11 which you commanded through your
servants the prophets, saying, ‘The land you are
entering to possess is a land of uncleanness
because of the uncleanness of the peoples of the
lands and their detestable practices, with which

they have filled it from end to end with their impurity.
12 Now do not give your daughters to their
sons or take their daughters for your sons.
Never seek their peace or welfare, so that you
may be strong, eat the good of the land, and
leave it as an inheritance to your children
forever.'
13 After all that has come upon us for our evil
deeds and our great guilt, you, our God, have
punished us less than our iniquities deserve and
have given us such a surviving remnant.
14 Should we again break your
commandments and intermarry with the
peoples who do these detestable things? Would
you not be angry with us until you consumed us,
leaving no remnant or survivor?
15 LORD, God of Israel, you are righteous, for
we remain as a surviving remnant to this day.
Here we are before you in our guilt, for we
cannot stand before you because of this."

10

1 While Ezra prayed and confessed, weeping
and throwing himself down before the house of
God, a very large assembly of Israelites—men,
women, and children—gathered around him,
for the people were weeping bitterly.
2 Shecaniah son of Jehiel, from the
descendants of Olam, spoke up and said to Ezra,
"We have been unfaithful to our God and have
married foreign women from the peoples of the

land. Yet even now there is hope for Israel in
this matter.
3 Now let us make a covenant with our God to
send away all these wives and those born to
them, according to the counsel of my lord and of
those who tremble at the commandment of our
God. Let it be done according to the law.
4 Rise, for this matter is your responsibility,
and we are with you. Be strong and act."
5 Then Ezra arose and made the leaders of the
priests, the Levites, and all Israel swear to do
according to this word, and they swore.
6 Ezra rose from before the house of God and
went to the chamber of Jehohanan son of
Eliashib. When he went there, he ate no bread
and drank no water, for he was mourning the
unfaithfulness of the returned exiles.
7 They issued a proclamation throughout
Judah and Jerusalem that all the returned exiles
were to gather in Jerusalem.
8 Anyone who did not come within three days,
according to the decision of the officials and the
elders, would forfeit all his possessions and be
excluded from the assembly of the returned
exiles.
9 All the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered
in Jerusalem within three days. It was the
twentieth day of the ninth month. All the people
sat in the square before the house of God,
trembling because of the matter and because of
the rains.
10 Ezra the priest stood and said to them, "You
have been unfaithful by marrying foreign
women, adding to the guilt of Israel.

11 Now make confession to the LORD, the God
of your fathers, and do his will. Separate
yourselves from the peoples of the land and
from the foreign wives."
12 The whole assembly answered with a loud
voice, "Yes, we must do according to your words.
13 But the people are many, and it is the rainy
season. We cannot stand outside, and this is not
work for a day or two, for we have greatly
transgressed in this matter.
14 Let our officials represent the whole
assembly. Let everyone in our cities who has
married a foreign woman come at appointed
times, along with the elders and judges of each
city, until the fierce anger of our God over this
matter is turned away from us."
15 Only Jonathan son of Asahel and Jahzeiah
son of Tikvah opposed this, and Meshullam and
Shabbethai the Levite supported them.
16 The returned exiles did so. Ezra the priest
and men who were heads of ancestral houses
were set apart according to their ancestral
houses, all designated by name. They sat down
on the first day of the tenth month to investigate
the matter.
17 By the first day of the first month they had
finished dealing with all the men who had
married foreign women.
18 Among the descendants of the priests, these
were found to have married foreign women:
from the descendants of Jeshua son of Jozadak
and his brothers, Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib, and
Gedaliah.

19 They gave their hands in pledge to send
away their wives and, being guilty, offered a
ram from the flock for their guilt.
20 From the descendants of Immer: Hanani
and Zebadiah.
21 From the descendants of Harim: Maaseiah,
Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel, and Uzziah.
22 From the descendants of Pashhur: Elioenai,
Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and
Elasah.
23 From the Levites: Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah,
who is Kelita, Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer.
24 From the singers: Eliashib. From the
gatekeepers: Shallum, Telem, and Uri.
25 From Israel, from the descendants of
Parosh: Ramiah, Izziah, Malchijah, Mijamin,
Eleazar, Malchijah, and Benaiah.
26 From the descendants of Elam: Mattaniah,
Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Elijah.
27 From the descendants of Zattu: Elioenai,
Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad, and Aziza.
28 From the descendants of Bebai: Jehohanan,
Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai.
29 From the descendants of Bani: Meshullam,
Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal, and Jeremoth.
30 From the descendants of Pahath-moab:
Adna, Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah,
Bezalel, Binnui, and Manasseh.
31 From the descendants of Harim: Eliezer,
Isshijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Simeon,
32 Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah.
33 From the descendants of Hashum: Mattenai,
Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh,
and Shimei.

34 From the descendants of Bani: Maadai,
Amram, Uel,
35 Benaiah, Bedeiah, Keluhi,
36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,
37 Mattaniah, Mattenai, Jaasau,
38 Bani, Binnui, Shimei,
39 Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiah,
40 Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai,
41 Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah,
42 Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph.
43 From the descendants of Nebo: Jeiel,
Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Iddo, Joel, and
Benaiah.
44 All these had married foreign women, and
some of the women had borne children.

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