

Ezra

¹ And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, at the completion of the word of YHWH from the mouth of Jeremiah, has YHWH awoken the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, and he causes an intimation to pass over into all his kingdom, and also in writing, saying,

² “Thus said Cyrus king of Persia: YHWH, God of the heavens, has given all kingdoms of the earth to me, and He has laid a charge on me to build a house for Him in Jerusalem, that [is] in Judah;

³ who [is] among you of all His people? His God is with him, and he goes up to Jerusalem, that [is] in Judah, and builds the house of YHWH, God of Israel (He [alone is] God), that [is] in Jerusalem.

⁴ And everyone who is left, of any of the places where he [is] a sojourner, the men of his place assist him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, along with a free-will offering for the house of God, that [is] in Jerusalem.”

⁵ And heads of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin rise, and the priests and the Levites, even everyone whose spirit God has awoken, to go up to build the house of YHWH, that [is] in Jerusalem;

⁶ and all those around them have strengthened [them] with their hands, with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with

precious things, apart from all that has been offered willingly.

⁷ And King Cyrus has brought out the vessels of the house of YHWH that Nebuchadnezzar has brought out of Jerusalem, and puts them in the house of his gods;

⁸ indeed, Cyrus king of Persia brings them out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbers them to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

⁹ And this [is] their number: dishes of gold thirty, dishes of silver one thousand, knives twenty-nine,

¹⁰ basins of gold thirty, basins of silver (seconds) four hundred and ten, other vessels one thousand.

¹¹ All the vessels of gold and of silver [are] five thousand and four hundred; the whole has Sheshbazzar brought up with the going up of the expulsion from Babylon to Jerusalem.

2

¹ And these [are] sons of the province who are going up—of the captives of the expulsion that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon removed to Babylon, and they return to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city—

² who have come in with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

³ sons of Parosh, two thousand one hundred seventy-two;

⁴ sons of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy-two;

⁵ sons of Arah, seven hundred seventy-five;

⁶ sons of Pahath-Moab, of the sons of Jeshua [and] Joab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve;

⁷ sons of Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four;

⁸ sons of Zattu, nine hundred and forty-five;

⁹ sons of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty;

¹⁰ sons of Bani, six hundred forty-two;

¹¹ sons of Bebai, six hundred twenty-three;

¹² sons of Azgad, one thousand two hundred twenty-two;

¹³ sons of Adonikam, six hundred sixty-six;

¹⁴ sons of Bigvai, two thousand fifty-six;

¹⁵ sons of Adin, four hundred fifty-four;

¹⁶ sons of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety-eight;

¹⁷ sons of Bezai, three hundred twenty-three;

¹⁸ sons of Jorah, one hundred and twelve;

¹⁹ sons of Hashum, two hundred twenty-three;

²⁰ sons of Gibbar, ninety-five;

²¹ sons of Beth-Lehem, one hundred twenty-three;

²² men of Netophah, fifty-six;

²³ men of Anathoth, one hundred twenty-eight;

²⁴ sons of Azmaveth, forty-two;

²⁵ sons of Kirjath-Arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty-three;

²⁶ sons of Ramah and Gaba, six hundred twenty-one;

²⁷ men of Michmas, one hundred twenty-two;

²⁸ men of Beth-El and Ai, two hundred twenty-three;

²⁹ sons of Nebo, fifty-two;

³⁰ sons of Magbish, one hundred fifty-six;

³¹ sons of another Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four;

³² sons of Harim, three hundred and twenty;

³³ sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty-five;

³⁴ sons of Jericho, three hundred forty-five;

³⁵ sons of Senaah, three thousand and six hundred and thirty.

³⁶ The priests: sons of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy-three;

³⁷ sons of Immer, one thousand fifty-two;

³⁸ sons of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred forty-seven;

³⁹ sons of Harim, one thousand and seventeen.

⁴⁰ The Levites: sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodaviah, seventy-four.

⁴¹ The singers: sons of Asaph, one hundred twenty-eight.

⁴² Sons of the gatekeepers: sons of Shallum, sons of Ater, sons of Talmon, sons of Akkub, sons of Hatita, sons of Shobai, the whole [are] one hundred thirty-nine.

⁴³ The Nethinim: sons of Ziha, sons of Hasupha, sons of Tabbaoth,

⁴⁴ sons of Keros, sons of Siaha, sons of Padon,

⁴⁵ sons of Lebanah, sons of Hagabah, sons of Akkub,

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

⁴⁷ sons of Giddel, sons of Gahar, sons of Reaiah,
⁴⁸ sons of Rezin, sons of Nekoda, sons of Gazzam,

⁴⁹ sons of Uzza, sons of Paseah, sons of Besai,
⁵⁰ sons of Asnah, sons of Mehunim, sons of Nephusim,

⁵¹ sons of Bakbuk, sons of Hakupha, sons of Harhur,

⁵² sons of Bazluth, sons of Mehida, sons of Harsha,

⁵³ sons of Barkos, sons of Sisera, sons of Thamah,

⁵⁴ sons of Neziah, sons of Hatipha.

⁵⁵ Sons of the servants of Solomon: sons of Sotai, sons of Sophereth, sons of Peruda,

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

⁵⁷ sons of Shephatiah, sons of Hattil, sons of Pochereth of Zebaim, sons of Ami.

⁵⁸ All the Nethinim, and the sons of the servants of Solomon [are] three hundred ninety-two.

⁵⁹ And these [are] those going up from Tel-Melah, Tel-Harsa, Cherub, Addan, Immer, and they have not been able to declare the house of their fathers, and their seed, whether they [are] of Israel:

⁶⁰ sons of Delaiah, sons of Tobiah, sons of Nekoda, six hundred fifty-two.

⁶¹ And of the sons of the priests: sons of Habaiah, sons of Koz, sons of Barzillai (who took a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and is called by their name);

⁶² these have sought their register among those

reckoning themselves by genealogy, and they have not been found, and they are redeemed from the priesthood,

⁶³ and the Tirshatha says to them that they do not eat of the most holy things until the standing up of a priest with [the] Lights and with [the] Perfections.

⁶⁴ All the assembly together [is] forty-two thousand three hundred sixty,

⁶⁵ apart from their servants and their handmaids; these [are] seven thousand three hundred thirty-seven: and of them [are] two hundred male and female singers.

⁶⁶ Their horses [are] seven hundred thirty-six, their mules, two hundred forty-five,

⁶⁷ their camels, four hundred thirty-five, donkeys, six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

⁶⁸ And some of the heads of the fathers in their coming to the house of YHWH that [is] in Jerusalem, have offered willingly for the house of God, to establish it on its base;

⁶⁹ according to their power they have given to the treasure of the work; of gold, sixty-one thousand drams, and of silver, five thousand pounds, and of priests' coats, one hundred.

⁷⁰ And the priests dwell, and the Levites, and of the people, and the singers, and the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim, in their cities; even all Israel in their cities.

3

¹ And the seventh month comes, and the sons of Israel [are] in the cities, and the people are

gathered, as one man, to Jerusalem.

² And Jeshua son of Jozadak rises, and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and his brothers, and they build the altar of the God of Israel, to cause to ascend on it burnt-offerings, as it is written in the Law of Moses, the man of God.

³ And they establish the altar on its bases, because of the fear on them of the peoples of the lands, and he causes burnt-offerings to ascend on it to YHWH, burnt-offerings for the morning and for the evening.

⁴ And they make the Celebration of the Shelters as it is written, and the burnt-offering of the day daily in number according to the ordinance, the matter of a day in its day;

⁵ and after this a continual burnt-offering, and for new moons, and for all appointed times of YHWH that are sanctified; and for everyone who is willingly offering a willing-offering to YHWH.

⁶ From the first day of the seventh month they have begun to cause burnt-offerings to ascend to YHWH, and the temple of YHWH has not been founded,

⁷ and they give money to hewers and to craftsmen, and food, and drink, and oil to Zidonians and to Tyrians, to bring in cedar-trees from Lebanon to the Sea of Joppa, according to the permission of Cyrus king of Persia concerning them.

⁸ And in the second year of their coming to the house of God, to Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and

Jeshua son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all those coming from the captivity to Jerusalem, and they appoint the Levites from a son of twenty years and upward, to overlook the work of the house of YHWH.

⁹ And Jeshua stands, [and] his sons, and his brothers, Kadmiel and his sons, sons of Judah together, to overlook those doing the work in the house of God; the sons of Henadad, [and] their sons and their brothers the Levites.

¹⁰ And those building have founded the temple of YHWH, and they appoint the priests, clothed, with trumpets, and the Levites, sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise YHWH, by means of [the instruments of] David king of Israel.

¹¹ And they respond in praising and in giving thanks to YHWH, "For [He is] good, for His kindness [is] for all time over Israel!" And all the people have shouted [with] a great shout in giving praise to YHWH, because the house of YHWH has been founded.

¹² And many of the priests, and the Levites, and the heads of the fathers, the aged men who had seen the first house—in this house being founded before their eyes—are weeping with a loud voice, and many with a shout, in joy, lifting up the voice;

¹³ and the people are not discerning the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people, for the people are shouting [with] a great shout, and the noise has been heard to a distance.

4

¹ And adversaries of Judah and Benjamin hear that the sons of the captivity are building a temple to YHWH, God of Israel,

² and they draw near to Zerubbabel, and to heads of the fathers, and say to them, "Let us build with you; for, like you, we seek to your God, and we are not sacrificing since the days of Esar-Haddon king of Asshur, who brought us up here."

³ And Zerubbabel says to them, also Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of the fathers of Israel, "Not for you, and for us, to build a house to our God; but we ourselves together build to YHWH God of Israel, as King Cyrus, king of Persia, commanded us."

⁴ And it comes to pass, the people of the land are making the hands of the people of Judah feeble, and troubling them in building,

⁵ and are hiring against them counselors to make void their counsel all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

⁶ And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the commencement of his reign, they have written an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem;

⁷ and in the days of Artaxerxes have Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of his companions written to Artaxerxes king of Persia, and the writing of the letter is written in Aramaic, and interpreted in Aramaic.

⁸ Rehum counselor, and Shimshai scribe have

written a letter concerning Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king, thus:

⁹ Then Rehum counselor, and Shimshai scribe, and the rest of their companions, Dinaites, and Apharsathchites, Tarpelites, Apharsites, Archevites, Babylonians, Susanchites (who are Elamites),

¹⁰ and the rest of the nations that the great and honorable Asnapper removed and set in the city of Samaria, and the rest beyond the river, and at such a time:

¹¹ This [is] a copy of a letter that they have sent to him, to Artaxerxes the king: "Your servants, men beyond the river, and at such a time;

¹² be it known to the king, that the Jews who have come up from you to us, have come to Jerusalem, the rebellious and base city they are building, and the walls they have finished, and the foundations they join.

¹³ Now let it be known to the king, that if this city is built and the walls finished, that they do not give toll, tribute, and custom; and at length it causes loss [to] the kings.

¹⁴ Now because that the salt of the palace [is] our salt, and we have no patience to see the nakedness of the king, therefore we have sent and made known to the king;

¹⁵ so that he seeks in the scroll of the records of your fathers, and you find in the scroll of the records, and know, that this city [is] a rebellious city, and causing loss [to] kings and provinces, and makers of sedition [are] in its midst from the days of old, therefore this city has been ruined.

16 We are making known to the king that, if this city be built and the walls finished, by this means you have no portion beyond the river.”

17 The king has sent an answer to Rehum counselor, and Shimshai scribe, and the rest of their companions who are dwelling in Samaria, and the rest beyond the river, “Peace, and at such a time:

18 The letter that you sent to us, explained, has been read before me,

19 and by me a decree has been made, and they sought, and have found that this city is lifting up itself against kings from the days of old, and rebellion and sedition is made in it,

20 and mighty kings have been over Jerusalem, even rulers over all beyond the river, and toll, tribute, and custom is given to them.

21 Now make a decree to cause these men to cease, and this city is not built, until a decree is made by me.

22 And beware of negligence in doing this; why does the hurt become great to the loss of the kings?”

23 Then from the time that a copy of the letter of King Artaxerxes is read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they have gone in haste to Jerusalem, to the Jews, and caused them to cease by force and strength;

24 then ceased the service of the house of God that [is] in Jerusalem, and it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

5

¹ And the prophets have prophesied (Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah son of Iddo) to the Jews who [are] in Judah and in Jerusalem, in the Name of the God of Israel—to them.

² Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua son of Jozadak, have risen, and begun to build the house of God, that [is] in Jerusalem, and with them are the prophets of God supporting them.

³ At that time have come to them Tatnai, governor beyond the river, and Shethar-Boznai, and their companions, and thus they are saying to them, “Who has made for you a decree to build this house, and to finish this wall?”

⁴ Then we have said thus to them, “What [are] the names of the men who are building this building?”

⁵ And the eye of their God has been on [the] elders of [the] Jews, and they have not caused them to cease until [the] matter goes to Darius, and then they send back a letter concerning this thing.

⁶ The copy of a letter that Tatnai, governor beyond the river, has sent, and Shethar-Boznai and his companions, the Apharsachites who [are] beyond the river, to Darius the king.

⁷ A letter they have sent to him, and thus is it written in it:

⁸ “To Darius the king, all peace! Be it known to the king that we have gone to the province of Judah, to the great house of God, and it is built [with] rolled stones, and wood is placed in the walls, and this work is done speedily, and

prospering in their hand.

⁹ Then we have asked of these elders, thus we have said to them, Who has made for you a decree to build this house, and to finish this wall?

¹⁰ And also their names we have asked of them, to let you know, that we might write the names of the men who [are] at their head.

¹¹ And thus they have returned us word, saying, We [are] servants of the God of the heavens and earth, and are building the house that was built many years before this, that a great king of Israel built and finished:

¹² but after that our fathers made the God of the heavens angry, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon the Chaldean, and this house he destroyed, and the people he removed to Babylon;

¹³ but in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, Cyrus the king made a decree to build this house of God,

¹⁴ and also, the vessels of the house of God, of gold and silver, that Nebuchadnezzar had taken forth out of the temple that [is] in Jerusalem, and brought them to the temple of Babylon, them has Cyrus the king brought forth out of the temple of Babylon, and they have been given to [one], Sheshbazzar [is] his name, whom he made governor,

¹⁵ and said to him, Lift up these vessels, go, put them down in the temple that [is] in Jerusalem, and the house of God is built on its place.

¹⁶ Then this Sheshbazzar has come—he has laid the foundations of the house of God that [is]

in Jerusalem, and from there even until now it has been building, and is not finished.

¹⁷ And now, if it is good to the king, let a search be made in the treasure-house of the king, that [is] there in Babylon, whether it be that there was a decree made by Cyrus the king to build this house of God in Jerusalem, and the will of the king concerning this thing he sends to us."

6

¹ Then Darius the king made a decree, and they sought in the house of the scrolls of the treasuries placed there in Babylon,

² and there has been found at Achmetha, in a palace that [is] in the province of Media, a scroll, and a record thus written within it [is]:

³ "In the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king has made a decree concerning the house of God in Jerusalem: let the house be built in the place where they are sacrificing sacrifices, and its foundations strongly laid; its height sixty cubits, its breadth sixty cubits;

⁴ three rows of rolled stones, and a row of new wood, and let the outlay be given out of the king's house.

⁵ And also, the vessels of the house of God, of gold and silver, that Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple that [is] in Jerusalem, and brought to Babylon, let be given back, and go to the temple that [is] in Jerusalem, [each] to its place, and put [them] down in the house of God.

⁶ Now Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shethar-Boznai, and their companions, the

Apharsachites, who [are] beyond the river, be far from here;

⁷ let alone the work of this house of God, let the governor of the Jews, and [the] elders of the Jews, build this house of God on its place.

⁸ And a decree is made by me concerning that which you do with [the] elders of these Jews to build this house of God, that of [the] riches of [the] king, that [are] of [the] tribute beyond [the] river, let the outlay be given speedily to these men, that they do not cease;

⁹ and what they are needing—both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs for burnt-offerings to the God of the heavens, wheat, salt, wine, and oil according to the saying of the priests who [are] in Jerusalem—let be given to them day by day without fail,

¹⁰ that they are bringing sweet saviors near to the God of the heavens, and praying for the life of the king, and of his sons.

¹¹ And a decree is made by me, that anyone who changes this thing, let wood be pulled down from his house, and being raised up, let him be struck on it, and let his house be made a dunghill for this.

¹² And God, who caused His Name to dwell there, casts down any king and people that puts forth his hand to change, to destroy this house of God that [is] in Jerusalem; I Darius have made a decree; let it be done speedily.”

¹³ Then Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shethar-Boznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king has sent, so

they have done speedily;

¹⁴ and [the] elders of [the] Jews are building and prospering through [the] prophecy of Haggai [the] prophet, and Zechariah son of Iddo, and they have built and finished by [the] decree of [the] God of Israel, and by [the] decree of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

¹⁵ And this house has gone out until the third day of the month Adar, that is [in] the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

¹⁶ And the sons of Israel have made, [and] the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the sons of the captivity, a dedication of this house of God with joy,

¹⁷ and have brought near for the dedication of this house of God: one hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and twelve young male goats for a sin-offering for all Israel according to the number of the tribes of Israel;

¹⁸ and they have established the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, over the service of God that [is] in Jerusalem, as it is written in the scroll of Moses.

¹⁹ And the sons of the captivity make the Passover on the fourteenth of the first month,

²⁰ for the priests and the Levites have been purified together—all of them [are] pure—and they slaughter the Passover for all the sons of the captivity, and for their brothers the priests, and for themselves.

²¹ And the sons of Israel, those returning from the captivity, and everyone who is separated from the uncleanness of the nations of the land

to them, to seek to YHWH, God of Israel, eat,
²² and they make the Celebration of Unleavened Things seven days with joy, for YHWH made them to rejoice, and turned around the heart of the king of Asshur to them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

7

¹ And after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra 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 head priest;

⁶ Ezra himself has come up from Babylon, and he [is] a scribe ready in the Law of Moses, that YHWH God of Israel gave, and the king gives to him—according to the hand of his God YHWH on him—all his request.

⁷ And there go up of the sons of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim, to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.

⁸ And he comes to Jerusalem in the fifth month, that [is in] the seventh year of the king,

⁹ for on the first of the month he has founded the ascent from Babylon, and on the first of the fifth month he has come to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God on him,

¹⁰ for Ezra has prepared his heart to seek the Law of YHWH, and to do, and to teach in Israel statute and judgment.

¹¹ And this [is] a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, a scribe of the words of the commands of YHWH, and of His statutes on Israel:

¹² “Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, a perfect scribe of the Law of the God of the heavens, and at such a time:

¹³ By me has been made a decree that everyone who is willing, in my kingdom, of the people of Israel and of its priests and Levites, to go to Jerusalem with you, go;

¹⁴ because that from the king and his seven counselors you are sent, to inquire concerning Judah and concerning Jerusalem, with the Law of God that [is] in your hand,

¹⁵ and to carry silver and gold that the king and his counselors willingly offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling place [is] in Jerusalem,

¹⁶ and all the silver and gold that you find in all the province of Babylon, with the free-will offerings of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly, for the house of their God that [is] in Jerusalem,

¹⁷ therefore you speedily buy with this money, bullocks, rams, lambs, and their presents, and their drink-offerings, and bring them near to the altar of the house of your God that [is] in Jerusalem,

¹⁸ and that which to you and to your brothers is good to do with the rest of the silver and gold,

according to the will of your God you do.

¹⁹ And the vessels that are given to you, for the service of the house of your God, make perfect before the God of Jerusalem;

²⁰ and the rest of the necessary things of the house of your God, that it falls to you to give, you give from the treasure-house of the king.

²¹ And by me—I Artaxerxes the king—is made a decree to all treasurers who [are] beyond the river, that all that Ezra the priest, scribe of the Law of the God of the heavens, asks of you, be done speedily:

²² To silver one hundred talents, and to wheat one hundred cors, and to wine one hundred baths, and to oil one hundred baths, and salt without reckoning;

²³ all that [is] by the decree of the God of the heavens, let be done diligently for the house of the God of the heavens; for why is there wrath against the kingdom of the king and his sons?

²⁴ And to you we are making known, that on any of the priests and Levites, singers, gatekeepers, Nethinim, and servants of the house of God, tribute and custom there is no authority to lift up.

²⁵ And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God, that [is] in your hand, appoint magistrates—even judges who may be judging—judging all the people who are beyond the river, to all knowing the Law of your God, and he who has not known, you cause to know;

²⁶ and any who does not do the Law of your God, and the law of the king, judgment is

done speedily on him, whether to death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of riches, and to bonds.”

²⁷ Blessed [is] YHWH, God of our fathers, who has given such a thing as this in the heart of the king, to beautify the house of YHWH that [is] in Jerusalem,

²⁸ and to me has stretched out kindness before the king and his counselors, and before all the mighty heads of the king: and I have strengthened myself as the hand of my God YHWH [is] on me, and I gather out of Israel heads to go up with me.

8

¹ And these [are] heads of their fathers, and the genealogy of those going up with me, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king, from Babylon.

² From the sons of Phinehas: Gershom; from the sons of Ithamar: Daniel; from the sons of David: Hattush;

³ from the sons of Shechaniah, from the sons of Pharosh: Zechariah, and with him, reckoning themselves by genealogy, of males one hundred and fifty.

⁴ From the sons of Pahath-Moab: Elihoenai son of Zerahiah, and with him two hundred who are males.

⁵ From the sons of Shechaniah: the son of Jahaziel, and with him three hundred who are males.

⁶ And from the sons of Adin: Ebed son of Jonathan, and with him fifty who are males.

⁷ And from the sons of Elam: Jeshaiiah son of Athaliah, and with him seventy who are males.

⁸ And from the sons of Shephatiah: Zebadiah son of Michael, and with him eighty who are males.

⁹ From the sons of Joab: Obadiah son of Jehiel, and with him two hundred and eighteen who are males.

¹⁰ And from the sons of Shelomith, the son of Josiphiah, and with him one hundred and sixty who are males.

¹¹ And from the sons of Bebai: Zechariah son of Bebai, and with him twenty-eight who are males.

¹² And from the sons of Azgad: Johanan son of Hakkatan, and with him one hundred and ten who are males.

¹³ And from the younger sons of Adonikam—and these [are] their names—Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah, and with them sixty who are males.

¹⁴ And from the sons of Bigvai, Uthai and Zabbud, and with them seventy who are males.

¹⁵ And I gather them to the river that is going to Ahava, and we encamp there three days; and I consider about the people, and about the priests, and of the sons of Levi I have found none there;

¹⁶ and I send for Eliezer, for Ariel, for Shemaiah, and for Elnathan, and for Jarib, and for Elnathan, and for Nathan, and for Zechariah, and for Meshullam, heads, and for Joiarib, and for Elnathan, men of understanding;

¹⁷ and I charge them for Iddo the head, in the place Casiphia, and put in their mouth words to speak to Iddo, [and] his brothers the Nethinim, in the place Casiphia, to bring to us servants for the house of our God.

¹⁸ And they bring to us, according to the good

hand of our God on us, a man of understanding, of the sons of Mahli, son of Levi, son of Israel, and Sherebiah, and his sons, and his brothers, eighteen;

¹⁹ and Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiiah, of the sons of Merari, his brothers, and their sons, twenty;

²⁰ and from the Nethinim, whom David and the heads gave for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim, all of them defined by name.

²¹ And I proclaim there a fast, by the river Ahava, to afflict ourselves before our God, to seek from Him a right way for us, and for our infants, and for all our substance,

²² for I was ashamed to ask from the king a force and horsemen to help us because of the enemy in the way, for we spoke to the king, saying, "The hand of our God [is] on all seeking Him for good, and His strength and His wrath [is] on all forsaking Him."

²³ And we fast, and seek from our God for this, and He accepts our plea.

²⁴ And I separate from the heads of the priests, twelve, even Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and with them of their brothers ten,

²⁵ and I weigh to them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, a raised-offering of the house of our God, that the king, and his counselors, and his heads, and all Israel—those present—lifted up;

²⁶ and I weigh to their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and one hundred talents of

vessels of silver, one hundred talents of gold,

²⁷ and twenty basins of gold, of one thousand drams, and two vessels of good shining bronze, desirable as gold.

²⁸ And I say to them, “You [are] holy to YHWH, and the vessels [are] holy, and the silver and the gold [are] a willing-offering to YHWH, God of your fathers;

²⁹ watch, and keep, until you weigh before the heads of the priests, and of the Levites, and the heads of the fathers of Israel, in Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of YHWH.”

³⁰ And the priests and the Levites took the weight of the silver, and of the gold, and of the vessels, to bring to Jerusalem to the house of our God.

³¹ And we journey from the river Ahava, on the twelfth of the first month, to go to Jerusalem, and the hand of our God has been on us, and He delivers us from the hand of the enemy and the one lying in wait by the way;

³² and we come to Jerusalem, and dwell there three days.

³³ And on the fourth day has been weighed the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, in the house of our God, to the hand of Meremoth son of Uriah the priest, and with him Eleazar son of Phinehas, and with them Jozabad son of Jeshua, and Noadiah son of Binnui, the Levites:

³⁴ by number, by weight of everyone, and all the weight is written at that time.

³⁵ Those coming in of the captives—sons of the expulsion—have brought burnt-offerings near to

the God of Israel: twelve bullocks for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, twelve young male goats for a sin-offering—the whole a burnt-offering to YHWH;

³⁶ and they give the laws of the king to the lieutenants of the king and the governors beyond the river, and they have lifted up the people and the house of God.

9

¹ And at the completion of these things, the heads have drawn near to me, saying, “The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not been separated from the peoples of the lands, as to their abominations, even the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, the Ammonite, the Moabite, the Egyptian, and the Amorite,

² for they have taken of their daughters to them, and to their sons, and the holy seed have mingled themselves among the peoples of the lands, and the hand of the heads and of the seconds have been first in this trespass.”

³ And at my hearing this word, I have torn my garment and my upper robe, and pluck out of the hair of my head, and of my beard, and sit astonished,

⁴ and to me are gathered everyone trembling at the words of the God of Israel, because of the trespass of the expulsion, and I am sitting astonished until the present of the evening.

⁵ And at the present of the evening I have risen from my affliction, and at my tearing my

garment and my upper robe, then I bow down on my knees, and spread out my hands to my God YHWH,

⁶ and say, “O my God, I have been ashamed, and have blushed to lift up, O my God, my face to You, for our iniquities have increased over the head, and our guilt has become great to the heavens.

⁷ From the days of our fathers we [are] in great guilt to this day, and in our iniquities we have been given—we, our kings, our priests—into the hand of the kings of the lands, with sword, with captivity, and with spoiling, and with shame of face, as [at] this day.

⁸ And now, as a small moment grace has been from our God YHWH, to leave an escape for us, and to give to us a nail in His holy place, by our God’s enlightening our eyes, and by giving us a little quickening in our servitude;

⁹ for we [are] servants, and in our servitude our God has not forsaken us, and stretches out to us kindness before the kings of Persia, to give to us a quickening to lift up the house of our God, and to cause its ruins to cease, and to give to us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

¹⁰ And now, what do we say, O our God, after this? For we have forsaken Your commands,

¹¹ that You have commanded by the hands of Your servants the prophets, saying, The land into which you are going to possess it, [is] a land of impurity, by the impurity of the people of the lands, by their abominations with which they have filled it—from mouth to mouth—by their

uncleanness;

¹² and now, your daughters you do not give to their sons, and their daughters you do not take to your sons, and you do not seek their peace, and their good—for all time, so that you are strong, and have eaten the good of the land, and given possession to your sons for all time.

¹³ And after all that has come on us for our evil works, and for our great guilt (for You, O our God, have kept back of the rod from our iniquities, and have given to us an escape like this),

¹⁴ do we turn back to break Your commands, and to join ourselves in marriage with the people of these abominations? Are You not angry against us—even to consumption—until there is no remnant and escaped part?

¹⁵ O YHWH, God of Israel, You [are] righteous, for we have been left an escape, as [it is] this day; behold, we [are] before You in our guilt, for there is none to stand before You concerning this.”

10

¹ And at Ezra’s praying, and at his making confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there have been gathered to him out of Israel a very great assembly—men and women and children—for the people have wept, multiplying weeping.

² And Shechaniah son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, answers and says to Ezra, “We have trespassed against our God, and we settle strange

women of the peoples of the land; and now there is hope for Israel concerning this,

³ and now, let us make a covenant with our God, to cause all the women to go out, and that which is born of them, by the counsel of the Lord, and of those trembling at the command of our God, and according to law it is done;

⁴ rise, for on you [is] the matter, and we [are] with you; be strong, and do.”

⁵ And Ezra rises, and causes the heads of the priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear to do according to this word—and they swear.

⁶ And Ezra rises from before the house of God, and goes to the chamber of Jehohanan son of Eliashib; indeed, he goes there, bread he has not eaten, and water he has not drunk, for he is mourning because of the trespass of the expulsion.

⁷ And they cause a voice to pass over into Judah and Jerusalem, to all sons of the expulsion, to be gathered to Jerusalem,

⁸ and everyone who does not come in by the third day, according to the counsel of the heads and the elderly, all his substance is devoted, and himself separated from the assembly of the expulsion.

⁹ And all the men of Judah and Benjamin are gathered to Jerusalem by the third day, it [is] the ninth month, on the twentieth of the month, and all the people sit in the broad place of the house of God, trembling on account of the matter and of the showers.

¹⁰ And Ezra the priest rises and says to them,

“You have trespassed, and you settle strange women, to add to the guilt of Israel;

¹¹ and now, make confession to YHWH, God of your fathers, and do His good pleasure, and be separated from the peoples of the land, and from the strange women.”

¹² And all the assembly answers and says [with] a great voice, “Right; according to your word—on us to do;

¹³ but the people [are] many, and [it is] the time of showers, and there is no power to stand outside, and the work [is] not for one day, nor for two, for we have multiplied to transgress in this thing.

¹⁴ Please let our heads of all the assembly stand; and all who [are] in our cities, who have settled strange wives, come in at [the] appointed times, and with them [the] elderly of city and city, and judges in it, until the turning back of the fury of the wrath of our God from us, for this thing.”

¹⁵ Only Jonathan son of Asahel, and Jahaziah son of Tikvah, stood against this, and Meshullam, and Shabbethai the Levite, helped them.

¹⁶ And the sons of the expulsion do so, and Ezra the priest, [and] men, heads of the fathers, for the house of their fathers, are separated, even all of them by name, and they sit on the first day of the tenth month, to examine the matter;

¹⁷ and they finish with all the men who have settled strange women to the first day of the first month.

¹⁸ And there are found of the sons of the

priests that have settled strange women: of the sons of Jeshua son of Jozadak, and his brothers, Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah;

¹⁹ and they give their hand to send out their wives, and being guilty, a ram of the flock for their guilt.

²⁰ And of the sons of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah;

²¹ and of the sons of Harim: Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uzziash;

²² and of the sons of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethaneel, Jozabad, and Elasaah.

²³ And of the Levites: Jozabad, and Shimei, and Kelaiah (he [is] Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer.

²⁴ And of the singers: Eliashib. And of the gatekeepers: Shallum, and Telem, and Uri.

²⁵ And of Israel: of the sons of Parosh: Ramiah, and Jeziah, and Malchijah, and Miamin, and Eleazar, and Malchijah, and Benaiah.

²⁶ And of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Elijah.

²⁷ And of the sons of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, and Jeremoth, and Zabad, and Aziza.

²⁸ And of the sons of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, Athlai.

²⁹ And of the sons of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch, and Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, and Ramoth.

³⁰ And of the sons of Pahath-Moab: Adna, and Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezaleel, and Binnui, and Manasseh.

³¹ And of the sons of Harim: Eliezer, Ishijah, Malchiah, Shemaiah, Shimeon,

³² Benjamin, Malluch, Shemariah.

³³ Of the sons of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattathah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, Shimei.

³⁴ Of the sons of Bani: Maadai, Amram, and Uel,

³⁵ Benaiah, Bedeiah, Cheluhu,

³⁶ Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,

³⁷ Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jaasau,

³⁸ and Bani, and Binnui, Shimei,

³⁹ and Shelemiah, and Nathan, and Adaiah,

⁴⁰ Machnadbai, Shashai, Sharai,

⁴¹ Azareel, and Shelemiah, Shemariah,

⁴² Shallum, Amariah, Joseph.

⁴³ Of the sons of Nebo: Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jadau, and Joel, Benaiah;

⁴⁴ all these have taken strange women, and there are of them women who adopt sons.

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