

EZRA

¹ In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremy should be fulfilled, the Lord raised the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia; and he published a voice in all his realm, yea, by writing, *he sent out his letters*, and said,

² Cyrus, the king of Persia, saith these things, The Lord God of heaven hath given to me all the realms of [*the*] earth, and he hath commanded to me, that I should build to him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

³ Who is among you of all his people? his God be with him; and go he up into Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build he the house of the Lord God of Israel; he is God, which is in Jerusalem.

⁴ And all other men, that dwell wherever in all places, help him; the men of their place *help* in silver, and gold, and chattel, and sheep, besides that that they offer willfully to the temple of God, which is in Jerusalem.

⁵ And *then[the]* princes of the fathers of Judah and of Benjamin rose up, and the priests, and the deacons [*or Levites*], and each man whose spirit God raised, for to go up to build the temple of the Lord, that was in Jerusalem.

⁶ And all men that were in compass *about* helped the hands of them, with vessels of silver, and of gold, with their substance, with

appurtenance of household, and with work beasts, besides, *or over*, these things which they offered by *their* free will.

⁷ And king Cyrus brought forth the vessels of the temple of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem, and had set [*or put*] them in the temple of his god.

⁸ And Cyrus, the king of Persia, brought forth those *vessels* by the hand of Mithredath, the son of Gazabar; and numbered those [*or them*] to Shesh-bazzar, the prince of Judah.

⁹ And this is the number of the *vessels*; golden vials, thirty; silveren vials, a thousand; great knives, nine and twenty;

¹⁰ golden basins, thirty; silveren basins, two thousand four hundred and ten; and other vessels, a thousand;

¹¹ all the vessels of gold and of silver *were* five thousand and four hundred. *And* Sheshbazzar took all *these* vessels, with them that went up from the trans-migration of Babylon, into Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 2

¹ And these be the sons of the province, which went up from the captivity, which Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had translated *or brought over* into Babylon; and they turned again into Jerusalem and into Judah, each man into his city,

² that came with Zerubbabel; *that is*, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan,

Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. *This is the number of [the] men of the sons of Israel;*

³ the sons of Parosh, two thousand an hundred and two and seventy;

⁴ the sons of Shephatiah, three hundred and two and seventy;

⁵ the sons of Arah, seven hundred and five and seventy;

⁶ the sons of Pahath and of Moab, sons of Jeshua and of Joab, two thousand nine hundred and twelve;

⁷ the sons of Elam, a thousand two hundred and four and fifty;

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

⁹ the sons of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty;

¹⁰ the sons of Bani, six hundred and two and forty;

¹¹ the sons of Bebai, six hundred and three and twenty;

¹² the sons of Azgad, a thousand two hundred and two and twenty;

¹³ the sons of Adonikam, six hundred and six and sixty;

¹⁴ the sons of Bigvai, two thousand two hundred and six and fifty; [*the sons of Bigvai, two thousand and six and fifty;*]

¹⁵ the sons of Adin, four hundred and four and fifty;

¹⁶ the sons of Ater, that were of Hezekiah, ninety and eight;

¹⁷ the sons of Bezai, three hundred and three and twenty;

- 18 the sons of Jorah, an hundred and twelve;
19 the sons of Hashum, two hundred and three and twenty;
20 the sons of Gibbar *were* ninety and five;
21 the sons of Bethlehem, an hundred and eight [*or three*] and twenty;
22 the men of Netophah, six and fifty;
23 the men of Anathoth, an hundred and eight and twenty;
24 the sons of Azmaveth, two and forty;
25 the sons of Kiriathjearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and three and forty;
26 the sons of Ramah and of Gaba, six hundred and one and twenty;
27 men of Michmas, an hundred and two and twenty;
28 men of Bethel and of Ai, two hundred and three and twenty;
29 the sons of Nebo, two and fifty;
30 the sons of Magbish, an hundred and six and fifty;
31 the sons of the tother Elam, a thousand two hundred and four and fifty;
32 the sons of Harim, three hundred and twenty;
33 the sons of Lod, Hadid, and of Ono, seven hundred and five and twenty;
34 the sons of Jericho, three hundred and five and forty;
35 the sons of Senaah, three thousand six hundred and thirty;
36 priests; the sons of Jedaiah, in the house of Jeshua, nine hundred and three and seventy;

³⁷ the sons of Immer, a thousand and two and fifty;

³⁸ the sons of Pashur, a thousand two hundred and seven and forty;

³⁹ the sons of Harim, a thousand and seventeen;

⁴⁰ deacons [*or Levites*]; the sons of Jeshua and of Kadmiel, the sons of Hodaviah, four and seventy;

⁴¹ singers; the sons of Asaph, an hundred and eight and twenty;

⁴² the sons of [*the*] porters; the sons of Shallum, sons of Ater, sons of Talmon, sons of Akkub, sons of Hatita, sons of Shobai, all *these were* an hundred and eight and thirty;

⁴³ Nethinims, *these bare wood and water to the house of God's religion*; 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 Shalmal, 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 Mehunim, the sons of Nephusim,

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 Thamah,

⁵⁴ the sons of Neziah, the sons of Hatipha;

⁵⁵ the sons of the servants of Solo-mon; the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, 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, that were of Zebaim, the sons of Ami;

⁵⁸ all the Nethinims, and the sons of the servants of Solomon, *were* three hundred ninety and twain.

⁵⁹ And they that went up from Telmelah, Telharsa, Cherub, and Addan, and Immer, and might not show the house of their fathers, and their seed, *or progeny*, whether they were of Israel, *were these*;

⁶⁰ the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, six hundred and two and fifty;

⁶¹ and of the sons of priests, the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, and the sons of Barzillai, the which took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai *the* Gileadite, and was called by the name of them;

⁶² these sought the scripture of their genealogy, and found *it* not, and they were *therefore* cast out of priesthood.

⁶³ And *the* Tirshatha said to them, that they should not eat of the holy of holy things, till a wise priest and a perfect *man* rose up.

⁶⁴ All the multitude *being* as one man, *were* two and forty thousand three hundred and sixty,

⁶⁵ besides the servants of them and the handmaids, which were seven thousand three hundred and seven and thirty; and among them *were* singers and singeresses, two hundred.

⁶⁶ The horses of them *were* six hundred and six and thirty; the mules of them, four hundred and five and forty;

⁶⁷ the camels of them, four hundred and five and thirty; the asses of them, six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

⁶⁸ And of the princes of [*the*] fathers, when they entered into the temple of the Lord, *that is, the place where the temple was*, which is in Jerusalem, they offered of *their* free will into the house of God, to build it in his place;

⁶⁹ they gave by their mights the costs of the work, one and forty thousand pieces of gold; and five thousand bezants of silver; and priests' clothes an hundred.

⁷⁰ Therefore priests, and deacons [*or Levites*] of the people, and singers, and porters, and Nethinims dwelled in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

CHAPTER 3

¹ And when the seventh month was come, and the sons of Israel were in their cities. And the people was gathered as one man into Jerusalem.

² And Joshua, the son of Jozadak, rose up, and his brethren, priests, and Zerubbabel, the son of Salathiel, and his brethren, and they builded

the altar of God of Israel for to offer thereupon burnt sacrifices, as it is written in the law of Moses, the man of God.

³ And they setted the altar upon his foundations, while the peoples of lands by compass made them afeared; and they offered upon that altar burnt sacrifices to the Lord in the morrow-tide and eventide.

⁴ And they made the solemnity of tabernacles, as it is written, and *they offered* burnt sacrifices each day by order, by the work of the day commanded in his day.

⁵ And after this *they offered* the continual burnt sacrifice, both in calends and in all solemnities of the Lord, that were hallowed, and in all, in which gift was offered to the Lord by free will.

⁶ In the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt sacrifice to the Lord; certainly the temple of God was not founded yet.

⁷ But they gave money to the hewers of stone, and to the layers of stone, and they *gave* meat, and drink, and oil, to men of Sidon, and to men of Tyre, that they should bring cedar trees from the Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, by that that Cyrus, king of Persia, had commanded to them.

⁸ And in the second year of their coming to the temple of God in Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerub-babel, the son of Salathiel, and Joshua, the son of Jozadak, and others of their brethren, priests and deacons [*or Levites*], and all that came from the captivity into Jerusalem,

began *the work of God's temple*; and they ordained deacons, from twenty years and above, for to hasten the work of the Lord;

⁹ and Joshua stood, and his sons, and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, and the sons of Judah *together*, as one man, to be busy over them that made the work in the temple of God; *and* the sons of Henadad, their sons, and their brethren, deacons [*or Levites*].

¹⁰ Therefore when the temple of the Lord was founded of stone-layers, priests stood in their ornaments with trumps, and deacons [*or Levites*], the sons of Asaph, *stood singing* in cymbals, for to praise God, by the hand, *or ordinance*, of David, king of Israel.

¹¹ And they sang together in hymns and acknowledging to the Lord, For he is good, for his mercy is without end upon Israel. And all the people cried with [*a*] great cry, in praising the Lord, for the temple of the Lord was founded.

¹² Also full many of the priests, and of the deacons [*or Levites*], and the princes of fathers, and the elder men, that had seen the former temple, when it was founded, and *saw* this temple before their eyes, wept with great voice, and many men crying in great gladness raised up the voice;

¹³ and no man might know the voice of cry of the men being glad, and the voice of weeping of the people; for the people cried together with [*a*] great cry, and the voice *of them* was heard afar.

CHAPTER 4

¹ And the enemies of Judah and of Benjamin heard, that the sons of captivity builded a temple to the Lord God of Israel;

² and they came to Zerubbabel, and to the princes of fathers, and said to them, Build we with you, for so as ye *do*, we seek your God; lo! we have offered sacrifices from the days of Esar-haddon, king of Assur, that brought us hither *into this land*.

³ And Zerubbabel, and Joshua, and the other princes of the fathers of Israel, said to them, It is not to us and to you, that we build an house to our God; but we us-selves alone shall build *an house* to the Lord our God, as Cyrus, the king of Persia, commanded us.

⁴ And it was done, that the people of the land hindered the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building.

⁵ And they hired counsellors against the Jews, that they should destroy the counsel, *or purpose*, of the Jews, in all the days of Cyrus, king of Persia, and unto the realm of Darius, king of Persia.

⁶ And in the realm of Ahasuerus, *he is called Artaxerxes*, in the beginning of his realm, they writed accusing against the dwellers of Judah and of Jerusalem;

⁷ and in the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam wrote, and Mithredath, and Tabeel, and others, that were in the counsel of them, to Artaxerxes, king of Persia. And the epistle of accusing was

written in the language of Syria, and it was read in the word of Syria.

⁸ Rehum, B'el T'em, and Shimshai, the scribe, wrote such an epistle from Jerusalem to king Artaxerxes, [*on this manner*];

⁹ Rehum, B'el T'em, and Shimshai, the scribe, and [*the*] other counsellors of them, Dinaites, Apharsathchites, and Tarpelites, Apharistes, Archevites, men of Babylon, Susanchites, Dehavites, men of Elam,

¹⁰ and others of heathen men, which the great and glorious Asnapper translated *or brought over*, and made them to dwell in the cities of Samaria, and in other countries beyond the flood, in peace.

¹¹ This is the exemplar of the epistle, that they sent to the king. To Artaxerxes, king, thy servants, men beyond the flood, say health *to thee*.

¹² Be it known to the king, that the Jews, which went up from thee, be come to us in Jerusalem, a rebel and full evil city, which they build, and they make the ground walls thereof, and they array the walls above.

¹³ Now therefore be it known to the king, that if that city be builded, and the walls thereof be restored, they shall not give tribute, and toll, and annual rents, and this trespass, *or harm*, shall come to the king.

¹⁴ Therefore we be mindful of the salt, *that is, of meats made savory with salt*, that we ate in *thy* palace, and for we held it unleaveful to see

the harms of the king, therefore we have sent and told to the king;

¹⁵ that thou account *and seek* in the books of [*the*] stories of thy fathers, and thou shalt find written in chronicles, and thou shalt know, that that city *Jerusalem* is a rebel city, and that it annoyeth kings and provinces, and that battles be raised therein of eld [*or old*] days; wherefore also that city was destroyed.

¹⁶ We tell to the king, that if that city be builded, and the walls thereof be restored, thou shalt not have possession beyond the flood.

¹⁷ The king sent word to Rehum, B'el T'em, and to Shimshai, the scribe, and to others that were in the counsel of them, to the dwellers of Samaria, and to others beyond the flood, and said, Health and peace.

¹⁸ The accusing, which ye sent to us, was read openly before me;

¹⁹ and it was commanded of me, and they reckoned, and they found, that that city rebelleth of eld [*or old*] days against kings, and dissensions and battles be raised therein;

²⁰ for why there were in Jerusalem full strong kings, which also were lords of all the country that is beyond the flood; also *those kings* took tribute, and toll, and rents.

²¹ Now therefore hear ye the sentence, that ye forbid those men *to build*, and that that city be not builded, till if peradventure it be commanded of me.

²² See ye, that this *behest* be not fulfilled negligently, and evil increase little and little against kings.

²³ Therefore the exemplar of the commandment of king Artaxerxes was read before Rehum, B'el T'em, and Shimshai, the scribe, and their counsellors; and they went in haste into Jerusalem to the Jews, and they forbade them *to build*, with arm and might.

²⁴ Then the work of God's house in Jerusalem was left [*off*], and it was not made till to the second year of *the realm of* Darius, king of Persia.

CHAPTER 5

¹ Forsooth Haggai, the prophet, and Zechariah, the prophet, the son of Iddo, prophesied, prophesying in the name of God of Israel, to the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem.

² Then Zerubbabel, the son of Sala-thiel, and Joshua, the son of Jozadak, rose up, and began to build the temple of God in Jerusalem; and with them *rose up* the prophets of God, helping them.

³ And in that time Tatnai, that was duke beyond the flood, and Shethar-boznai, and the counsellors of them, came to them; and said thus to them, Who gave counsel to you to build this house, and to restore these walls?

⁴ To the which thing we answered to them, *and told them*, which were the names of men, authors of that building.

⁵ Forsooth the eye of [*the*] God of them was made on the elder men of Jews, and they might not forbid, *or hinder*, the Jews *to build*; and it pleased that the thing should be told to Darius, and that then they should make satisfaction against that accusing.

⁶ *This is* the exemplar of the epistle, which Tatnai, duke of the country beyond the flood, and Shetharboznai, and his counsellors, Apharsachites, which were beyond the flood, sent to king Darius.

⁷ The word which they sent to him was written thus; All peace be to king Darius.

⁸ Be it known to the king, that we went to the province of Judea, to the house of [*the*] great God, which is builded with stone unpolished, and wood be set in the walls *thereof*, and that work is builded diligently, and increaseth in the hands of them.

⁹ Therefore we asked those *eld [or old]* men, and thus we said to them, Who gave to you power to build this house, and to restore these walls?

¹⁰ But also we asked of them their names, that we should tell to thee; and we have written the names of those men, which they be, that be princes among them.

¹¹ Soothly they answered by such word, and said, We be the servants of God of heaven and of earth; and we build the temple that was builded before these many years, and which temple the great king of Israel had builded, and made.

12 But after that our fathers had stirred [*the*] God of heaven and of earth to wrathfulness, he betook them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, Chaldean, king of Babylon; and he destroyed this house, and translated *or brought over* the people thereof into Babylon.

13 And in the first year of Cyrus, king of Babylon, *this* Cyrus, king of Babylon, putted forth a commandment, that the house of God should be builded.

14 For why king Cyrus brought forth from the temple of Babylon also the golden and silveren vessels of God's temple, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple, that was in Jerusalem, and had borne those [*or them*] away into the temple of Babylon, and those vessels were given to Shesh-bazzar, by name, whom he made also prince.

15 And Cyrus said to him, Take these vessels, and go, and set [*or put*] them in the temple, that is in Jerusalem; and be the house of God builded in the place *where it was*.

16 Therefore then that Sheshbazzar came, and setted [*or set*] the founda-ments of God's temple in Jerusalem; and from that time till to now it is builded, and it is not yet fulfilled.

17 Now therefore, if it seemeth good to the king, reckon he in the biblet *or library* of the king, which is in Babylon, whether it be commanded of king Cyrus, that God's house should be builded in Jerusalem; and send he to us the will of the king on this thing.

CHAPTER 6

¹ Then king Darius commanded, and they reckoned, *or sought*, in the biblet of books, which *books* were kept in Babylon.

² And one book was found in Ecbatana, which is a castle in the province of Media, and such a sentence of the king was written therein.

³ In the first year of king Cyrus, Cyrus the king deemed, *or ordained*, that the house of God, which is in Jerusalem, should be builded in the place where they offered sacrifices, and that they set *a* fundament supporting the height of sixty cubits, and the length of sixty cubits,

⁴ *and set they* three orders of stones unpolished, and so the orders of new wood. And costs *thereto* should be given of the king's house.

⁵ But also the golden and silveren vessels of God's temple, which Nebu-chadnezzar took from the temple of Jerusalem, and brought them to Babylon, be they yielded, and borne again into the temple of Jerusalem, and into their place, which *vessels* also be set [*or put*] in the temple of God.

⁶ Now therefore Tatnai, duke of the country that is beyond the flood, and Shetharboznai, and your counsellors, Apharsachites, which be beyond the flood, depart ye far from them;

⁷ and suffer ye, that that temple of God be made of the duke of Jews, and of the elder men of them; and that they build that house of God in his place.

⁸ But also it is commanded of me, that that behooveth to be made of those priests of Jews, that the house of God be builded; that is, that costs be given busily to those men of the ark of the king, that is, of the tributes, that be given of the country beyond the flood, lest the work be hindered.

⁹ That if it be needed, *give they* both calves, and lambs, and kids into burnt sacrifice to [*the*] God of heaven; wheat, salt, and wine, and oil, by the custom of priests that be in Jerusalem, be given to them by each day, that no complaint be in anything.

¹⁰ And offer they offerings to [*the*] God of heaven; and pray they for the life of the king, and of his sons.

¹¹ Therefore this sentence is set of me, that if any man change this behest, a wood be taken of his house, and be it raised up, and be he hanged there-on; soothly his house be forfeited.

¹² And God, that maketh his name to dwell there, destroy all the realms and people, that hold forth their hand to impugn and destroy that house of God, which is in Jerusalem. I Darius have deemed the sentence, which I will be fulfilled diligently.

¹³ Therefore Tatnai, duke of the coun-try beyond the flood, and Shetharboz-nai, and his counsellors, did execution, *either fulfilled*, so diligently, by that that king Darius had commanded.

¹⁴ Soothly the elder men of Jews builded, and had prosperity, by the prophecy of Haggai, the prophet, and of Zechariah, the son of Iddo; and

they builded, and made, for [*the*] God of Israel commanded, and for Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia, commanded;

15 and they performed *or built* this house of God till to the third day of the month Adar, which is the sixth year of the realm of king Darius.

16 And the sons of Israel, the priests and deacons [*or Levites*], and the others of the sons of transmigration, *that is, of them that came from the transmigration*, made the hallowing of God's house in joy;

17 and offered, in the hallowing of God's house, an hundred calves, two hundred wethers, four hundred lambs, twelve bucks of goats for the sin of all Israel, by the number of the lineages of Israel.

18 And they ordained priests in their orders, and deacons [*or Levites*] in their whiles, upon the works of God in Jerusalem, as it is written in the book of Moses.

19 And the sons of transmigration made pask, in the fourteenth day of the first month.

20 For the priests and deacons [*or Levites*] as one man were cleansed, all they were clean to offer pask to all the sons of transmigration, and to their brethren priests, and to themselves.

21 And the sons of Israel ate, that turned again from the transmigration, and each man *ate*, that had separated himself from all the defouling of heathen men of the land, for to seek the Lord God of Israel.

²² And they made the solemnity of their loaves seven days in gladness; for the Lord had made them glad, and had turned the heart of the king of Assur to them, that he would help their hands in the work of the house of the Lord God of Israel.

CHAPTER 7

¹ And after these words, Ezra, 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 Zerariah, son of Uzzi, son of Bukki,

⁵ son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, priest at the beginning, this *Ezra* was in the realm of Artaxerxes, king of Persia;

⁶ that Ezra went up from Babylon, and he was a swift writer in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel gave; and the king gave to him all his asking, by the good hand of his Lord God on him.

⁷ And in the seventh year of Artaxerxes king, there went up into Jerusalem men of the sons of Israel, and of the sons of priests, and of the sons of deacons [*or Levites*], and of singers, and of porters, and of Nethinims.

⁸ And they came into Jerusalem in the fifth month; that is the seventh *year* of the king.

⁹ And in the first day of the first month Ezra began to go up from Babylon, and in the first day of the fifth month he came into Jerusalem, by the good hand, *or help*, of the God of him.

10 And Ezra made ready his heart to inquire [*or ensearch*] the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel the behest and doom of the Lord.

11 Soothly this is the exemplar of the epistle of the commandment, which the king Artaxerxes gave to Ezra, priest, writer learned in the words and commandments of the Lord, and in his ceremonies in Israel.

12 Artaxerxes, king of kings, *desireth* health to Ezra, the priest, the most wise writer of the law of God of heaven.

13 It is deemed of me, that whom-ever it pleaseth in my realm of the people of Israel, and of his priests, and deacons [*or Levites*], to go into Jerusalem, go he with thee.

14 For thou art sent from the presence of the king, and of his seven counsellors, that thou visit Judea and Jerusalem in the law of thy God, which is in thy hand;

15 and that thou bear silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors, have offered by free will to [*the*] God of Israel, whose tabernacle is in Jerusalem.

16 And take thou freely all the silver and gold, whatever thou findest in all the province of Babylon, and that that the people will offer, and of priests that offered by free will to the house of their God, which is in Jerusalem;

17 and buy thou busily of this money calves, rams, lambs, and other offerings, and [*the*] moist [*or liquor*] sacrifices of those [*or them*]; and offer thou those [*or them*] upon the altar of

the temple of your God, which temple is in Jerusalem.

¹⁸ But *over this* also if anything pleaseth to thee, and to thy brethren, to do of the silver and gold that leaveth, do ye *it* by the will of your God;

¹⁹ also betake thou in the sight of God in Jerusalem the vessels, that be given into the service of the house of thy God.

²⁰ But also thou shalt give of the treasure of the king, and of the common ark, *either purse*, and of men other things, that be needful in the house of thy God, as much ever as is needful, that thou spend.

²¹ I, Artaxerxes, king, have ordained, and deemed, to all the keepers of the common ark, *or hutch*, that be beyond the flood, that whatever thing Ezra, the priest, writer of the law of God of heaven, asketh of you, ye give *it* without tarrying,

²² unto an hundred talents of silver, and to an hundred cors of wheat, and unto an hundred baths of wine, and unto an hundred baths of oil, and salt without measure.

²³ All thing that pertaineth to the custom, *either religion*, of God of heaven, be given diligently in the house of God of heaven, lest peradventure he be wroth against the realm of the king, and of his sons.

²⁴ Also we make known to you of all the priests, and deacons [*or Levites*], singers, and porters, and Nethinims, and ministers of the house of this God, that ye have not power to put

on them toll, and tribute, and other costs for keeping of the land.

²⁵ But thou, Ezra, by the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, ordain judges and governors, that they deem [*all*] the people, that is beyond the flood, that is, to them that know the law of thy God, and the law of the king; but also teach ye freely unknowing men.

²⁶ And each man, that doeth not diligently the law of thy God, and the law of the king, this doom shall be of him, either into death, either into exiling, either into losing of his chattel, either certainly into prison.

²⁷ And Ezra, the writer, said, Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, that gave this thing in the heart of the king, that he should glorify the house of the Lord, which is in Jerusalem,

²⁸ and that bowed his mercy into me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the mighty princes of the king. And I was comforted by the hand of the Lord my God, that was in me, and I gathered together princes of the sons of Israel, the which went up with me *to Jerusalem*.

CHAPTER 8

¹ Therefore these be the princes of meines, and this is the genealogy of them, that *were* in the realm of Artaxerxes, the king, *and* went up with me from Babylon.

² Of the sons of Phinehas, Gershom; of the sons of Ithamar, Daniel; of the sons of David, Hattush, (the son of Shechaniah);

³ of the sons of Shechaniah and of the sons of Pharosh, Zechariah, and with him were numbered an hundred and fifty men; (of the sons of Pharosh, Zech-ariah, and with him were listed a hundred and fifty men;)

⁴ of the sons of Pahath, Moab, and Elihoenai, the son of Zerariah, and with him two hundred men;

⁵ of the sons of *Zattu*, Shechaniah, the son of Jahaziel, and with him three hundred men;

⁶ of the sons of Adin, Ebed, the son of Jonathan, and with him fifty men;

⁷ of the sons of Elam, Jeshaiiah, the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy men;

⁸ of the sons of Shephatiah, Zeba-diah, the son of Michael, and with him fourscore men;

⁹ of the sons of Joab, Obadiah, the son of Jehiel, and with him two hundred and eighteen men;

¹⁰ of the sons of *Bani*, Shelomith, the son of Josiphiah, and with him an hundred and sixty men;

¹¹ of the sons of Bebai, Zechariah, the son of Bebai, and with him twenty and eight men;

¹² of the sons of Azgad, Johanan, the son of Hakkatan, and with him an hundred and ten men;

¹³ of the sons of Adonikam, that were the last, and these *be* the names of them, Eliphelet, and Jeiel, and Shemaiah, and with them sixty men;

¹⁴ of the sons of Bigvai, Uthai, and Zabbud, and with them seventy men.

¹⁵ And I gathered *all* these *men* at the flood, that runneth down to Ahava; and we dwelled

there three days. And I sought among the people, and in the priests, of the sons of Levi, and I found not there.

¹⁶ Therefore I sent Eliezer, and Ariel, and Shemaiah, and Elnathan, and Jarib, and another Elnathan, and Nathan, and Zechariah, and Meshullam, princes; and Joiarib, and Elnathan, wise men;

¹⁷ and I sent them to Iddo, that is the chief in the place of Casiphia, and I put in the mouth of them the words, which they should speak to Iddo, and to his brethren, Nethinims, in the place of Casiphia, for to bring to us the ministers of the house of our God.

¹⁸ And by the good hand of our God upon us, they brought a full wise man of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel; and *they brought* Sherebiah, and his sons, twenty, and his brethren, *were* eighteen;

¹⁹ and Hashabiah, and Jeshaiiah *came* with him of the sons of Merari, *they brought* his brethren, and his sons, twenty;

²⁰ and of [*the*] Nethinims, which David and the princes had given to the services of deacons [*or Levites*], *they brought* two hundred and twenty Nethinims; all these were called by their names.

²¹ And I preached there fasting beside the flood of Ahava, that we should be tormented before the Lord our God, and that we should ask of him the right way to us, and to our sons, and to all our substance.

²² For I shamed to ask of the king help, and horsemen, which should defend us from our

enemies in the way, for we had said to the king, The hand of our God is upon all men that seek him in goodness; and his lordship, and his strength, and his strong vengeance, be on all men that forsake him.

²³ And we fasted, and prayed our God for this thing, and it befel to us wellsomely.

²⁴ And I separated twelve of the princes of priests, Sherebiah, and Hash-abiah, and ten of their brethren with them;

²⁵ and I betook under certain weight and number to them the silver and gold, and the hallowed vessels of the house of our God, which the king had offered, and his counsellors, and his princes, and all the men that were found of Israel.

²⁶ And I betook under certain weight and number into the hands of them six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and an hundred silveren vessels; an hundred talents of gold,

²⁷ and twenty golden cups, *or basins*, which had *in weight* a thousand pieces of gold; and two fair vessels of best brass, shining as gold.

²⁸ And I said to them, Ye *be* the holy men of the Lord; and *therefore* wake ye, and keepeth the holy vessels, and the silver and gold, that is offered by free will to the Lord God of our fathers,

²⁹ till ye yield under certain weight and number before the princes of priests, and of deacons [*or Levites*], and before dukes of meines of Israel in Jerusalem, into the chamber of God's house.

³⁰ And the priests and deacons [*or Levites*] took the weight of silver, and of gold, and of vessels, for to bear *them* into Jerusalem, into the house of our God.

³¹ Therefore we moved forth from the flood of Ahava, in the twelfth day of the first month, for to go into Jerusalem; and the hand of our God was upon us, and delivered us from the hand of [*the*] enemy, and of the ambusher in the way.

³² And we came to Jerusalem, and we dwelled there three days.

³³ Forsooth in the fourth day the silver was yielded [*up*] under certain weight and number, and the gold, and the vessels, in the house of our God, by the number and weight of all things, by the hand of Meremoth, the son of Uriah, priest; and with him *was* Eleazar, the son of Phinehas, and with them *were* Jozabad, the son of Joshua, and Noadiah, the son of Binnui, deacons [*or Levites*];

³⁴ and all the weight was described in that time.

³⁵ But also the sons of transmigration, that came from captivity, offered burnt sacrifices to the Lord God of Israel, twelve calves for all the people of Israel, ninety and six rams, seven and seventy lambs, twelve bucks of goats for sin; all *these were offered* into burnt sacrifice to the Lord.

³⁶ Forsooth they gave the command-ments of the king to the princes, that were in the sight of the king, and to the dukes beyond the flood; and they raised up the people, and the house of God.

CHAPTER 9

¹ And after that these things were fulfilled, the princes nighed to me, *Ezra*, and said, The people of Israel, and the priests, and deacons [*or Levites*], be not separated from the peoples of lands, and from [*the*] abominations of them, that is, of Canaanites, of Hittites, and of Perizzites, and of Jebusites, and of Ammonites, and of Moabites, and of Egyptians, and of Amorites.

² For they have taken of their daughters wives to themselves, and to their sons, and they have meddled [*or mingled*] holy seed with the peoples of lands; also the hand of princes and of magistrates was the first in this trespassing.

³ And when I had heard this word, I rent my mantle and my coat, and I pulled away the hairs of mine head and of my beard, and I sat mourning.

⁴ Forsooth all that dreaded the word of God of Israel came together to me, for the trespassing of them that were come from [*the*] captivity; and I sat sorry till to the sacrifice of eventide.

⁵ And in the sacrifice of eventide I rose up from mine affliction, and after that I had rent my mantle and my coat, I bowed my knees, and I spread abroad mine hands to the Lord my God,

⁶ and I said, My God, I am confounded and ashamed to raise up my face to thee, for our wickednesses be multiplied on mine head, and our trespasses have increased unto heaven,

7 from the days of our fathers *hitherto*; and also we ourselves have sinned grievously unto this day, and for our wickednesses we, and our kings, and our priests be betaken into the hands of kings of *heathen* lands, both into sword, and into captivity, into raven, and into shame of cheer, as also in this day.

8 And now as at a little *time* and at a moment our prayer is made with the Lord our God, that [*the*] *relics, or remnants*, should be left to us, and that a little *stake, that is, some setting, and stableness*, should be given in his holy place, and that our God should lighten our eyes, and give to us a little life in our servage.

9 For we be servants; and our God forsook us not in our servage or thralldom; and he bowed down mercy upon us before the kings of Persia, that he should give life to us, and enhance the house of our God, and that he should build the wildernesses thereof, *or the desolate things thereof*, and give to us hope, *or mercy*, in Judah and in Jerusalem.

10 And now, Lord our God, what shall we say after these things? For we have forsaken thy commandments,

11 which thou commandedest in the hand of thy servants prophets, and saidest, The land, to which ye shall enter, to hold it in possession, is an unclean land, by the uncleanness of peoples, and of other lands, in the abominations of them, that filled it with their defouling, from the mouth till to the mouth.

¹² Now therefore, *ye Jews*, give ye not your daughters to their sons, nor take ye their daughters to your sons; nor seek ye the peace of them, nor their prosperity unto without end; that ye be comforted, and eat the good things, that be of the earth, and that ye have your sons your heirs, unto without end.

¹³ And after all things, *or dis-eases*, that came upon us in our worst works, and in our great trespass, thou, our God, hast delivered us from our wickedness, and hast given health to us, as it is today,

¹⁴ that we should not be turned *away from thee*, and make void thy commandments, and that we should not join matrimonies with the peoples of these abominations. Whether thou art wroth to us till to the ending, that thou shouldest not leave to us remnants, *that is, a few men*, and health?

¹⁵ Lord God of Israel, thou art just; for we be left, that should be saved, as in this day, lo! we be before thee in our sin; for men may not stand before thee on this thing.

CHAPTER 10

¹ Therefore while Ezra prayed so, and besought God, and wept, and lay before the temple of God, a full great company of Israel, of men, and of women, and of children, was gathered together to him; and the people wept with much weeping.

² And Shechaniah, the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, answered, and said to Ezra, We

have trespassed against our God, and have wedded wives, alien women, of the peoples of the land. And now, for penance is in Israel on this thing,

³ make we bond of peace with the Lord our God, and cast we away all *our alien* wives, and them that be born of those wives, by the will of the Lord; and of them that dread the commandment of our God, be it done by the law.

⁴ Rise thou up, it pertaineth to thee to deem, and we shall be with thee; be thou comforted, and do *thus*.

⁵ Then Ezra rose up, and charged greatly the princes of priests, and deacons [*or Levites*], and all Israel, to do after this word; and they swore *thereto*.

⁶ And Ezra rose up before the house of God, and he went to the bed-*[place]* of Johanan, the son of Eliashib, and he entered *[in]* thither; he ate not bread, nor drank water; for he bewailed the trespassing of them, that were come from the captivity.

⁷ And a voice of them was sent into Judah and Jerusalem, to all the sons of captivity, that they should be gathered together in Jerusalem;

⁸ and *[that]* each man that cometh not *thither* in three days, by the counsel of the princes and of *[the]* elder men, all his chattel shall be taken away from him, and he shall be cast away from the company of transmigration.

⁹ Therefore all the men of Judah and of Benjamin came together into Jerusalem in three days; that is the ninth month, in the twentieth

day of the month; and all the people sat in the street of God's house, and trembled for sin, and for rain.

¹⁰ And Ezra, the priest, rose up, and said to them, Ye have trespassed, and ye have wedded wives, alien women, that ye should lay to, *or increase*, upon the trespass of Israel.

¹¹ Now *therefore* give ye acknowledging to the Lord God of our fathers, and do ye his pleasure, and be ye separated from the peoples of the land, and from *your* alien wives.

¹² And all the multitude answered, and said with [*a*] great voice, By thy word to us, so be it done.

¹³ Nevertheless for the people is much, and the time of rain is, and we suffer not to stand withoutforth, and it is not [*the*] work of one day, neither of twain [*or two*]; for we have sinned greatly in this word;

¹⁴ princes be ordained in all the multitude, and all men in our cities, that have wedded alien wives, come in times ordained, and with them *come* the elder men, by city and city, and the judges of the people, till the wrath of our God be turned away from us upon this sin.

¹⁵ Therefore Jonathan, the son of Asahel, and Jahaziah, the son of Tikvah, stood upon this thing; and Meshullam, and Shabbethai, deacons [*or Levites*], helped them.

¹⁶ And the sons of transmigration did so. And Ezra, the priest, and the men, *that were* princes of meines, went into the houses of their fathers, and all men by their names; and they sat in the

first day of the tenth month, for to inquire the thing.

¹⁷ And all men were ended, *that is, the causes of all men were determined*, that had wedded alien wives, till to the first day of the first month.

¹⁸ And there were found of the sons of priests, that had wedded alien wives; of the sons of Joshua, the son of Jozadak, and his brethren, Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah.

¹⁹ And they gave their hands, *that is, confirmed with a solemn oath*, that they should cast out their wives, and that they should offer for their trespass a ram of *[the]* sheep.

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 Uziah.

²² And of the sons of Pashur; Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethaneel, and Jozabad, and Elasa.

²³ And of the sons of deacons *[or Levites]*; Jozabad, and Shimei, and Kelaiah; he is *called* Kelita; Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer.

²⁴ And of *[the]* singers, Eliashib; and of *[the]* porters, Shallum, and Telem, and Uri.

²⁵ And of Israel, of the sons of Parosh; Ramiah, and Izziah, and Malchiah, and Miamin, and Eleazar, and Malchijah, and Benaiah.

²⁶ And of the sons of Elam; Mat-taniah, and Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Eliah.

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

28 And of the sons of Bebai; Jeho-hanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai.

29 And of the sons of Bani; Meshul-lam, and Malluch, and Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, and Ramoth.

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

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

32 Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah.

33 And of the sons of Hashum; Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei.

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

35 Benaiah, and Bedeiah, and Chelluh,

36 Vaniah, Meremoth, and Eliashib,

37 Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jaasau,

38 and Bani, and Binnui, and Shimei,

39 and Shelemiah, and Nathan, and Adaiah,

40 Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai,

41 Azareel, and Shelemiah, Shemariah,

42 Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph.

43 Of the sons of Nebo; Jeiel, Matti-thiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jadau, Joel, and Benaiah.

44 All these had taken alien, *or heathen*, wives, and of them were women, that had bore [*or borne*] children.

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Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling, was made in response to requests from readers who wanted my Wycliffe's Old and New Testaments and Apocrypha in one volume. Printing limitations dictated the number of pages available to me and the letter size. In my previous books, Wycliffe's Bible, Wycliffe's Old Testament, Vols. 1 amp 2, Wycliffe's New Testament, and Wycliffe's Apocrypha, I have tens of thousands of rewritten verses, presented in parentheses "()", to provide help in comprehending the 14th century Middle English vocabulary and grammar. In this present volume, with space at a premium, those "helps" had to be eliminated, to make room for the text of the Apocrypha.

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