

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 (*or so that the word of the Lord through Jeremiah would be fulfilled*), the Lord raised (*up*) the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia; and he published a voice in all his realm, yea, by writing, he sent out his letters, (*to be read aloud*), and said,

² (*I*), 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, (*or and he hath commanded me, to build a House for him 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 (*again*) the house of the Lord God of Israel; he is God, which is in Jerusalem. (*Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him; and go he up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and help he to rebuild the House of the Lord God of Israel; he is the God, who is worshipped in Jerusalem or whose city is 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. (*And*

let all the other people, wherever they may live in every place, help him; let people from every place help him with silver, and gold, and chattel or and cattle, and sheep, besides what they offer by free will for the Temple of God, which was, and shall be again, in Jerusalem.)

⁵ And then[*the*] princes of the fathers of Judah and of Benjamin rose up, and the priests, and the deacons, and each man whose spirit God raised, for to go up to build (*again*) the temple of the Lord, that was in Jerusalem. (*And then the leaders of the families of the tribes of Judah and of Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, and each man whose spirit God had raised up, rose up to go up to rebuild the Temple of the Lord, that was in Jerusalem.*)

⁶ And all men that were in compass about helped the hands of them (*or And all the people who were round about helped them*), with vessels of silver, and of gold, with their substance, with purtenance of household, and with work beasts, besides, or over, these things which they offered by their(*own*) free will.

⁷ And king Cyrus brought forth the vessels of the temple of the Lord (*or And King Cyrus brought forth the vessels from the Temple of the Lord*), which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem, and had set 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 Gizbar; and numbered those

to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah. (*And Cyrus, the king of Persia, put Mithredath, the treasurer, in charge of these vessels; and Mithredath listed them for Sheshbazzar, the governor of Judah.*)

⁹ And this is the number of the vessels; golden vials, thirty; silveren vials, a thousand; great knives, nine and twenty; (*And this is the number of the vessels; thirty gold basins, one thousand silver basins; twenty-nine other kinds of vessels;*)

¹⁰ (*small*) golden basins, thirty; (*small*) silveren basins, two thousand four hundred and ten; and other vessels, a thousand; (*thirty gold bowls; four hundred and ten silver bowls; and a thousand other vessels;*)

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 transmigration of Babylon, into Jerusalem. (*in all, there were five thousand four hundred gold and silver vessels. And Sheshbazzar took all of these vessels with him, when he, and others of the captivity, left Babylon, and went to 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 into Babylon; and they turned again into Jerusalem and into Judah, each man into his city, (*And these be the sons of the province, who came back from the captivity, whom*

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had carried off to Babylon; and they returned to Jerusalem and to Judah, each man to his own city,)

² that came with Zerubbabel; that is, Jeshua, (or Joshua), Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mizpar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. This is the number of [the] men of the sons of Israel; (yea, the leaders who came back with Zerubbabel; that is, Jeshua, or Joshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mizpar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. And this is the list of the number of the men of the Israelites who returned;)

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, (of the) sons of Jeshua and of Joab, two thousand nine hundred and twelve; (the sons of Pahathmoab, of the sons of Jeshua and of Joab, two thousand eight 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 (*or of the family 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 and twenty; [*the sons of Bethlehem, an hundred and 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 (*the*) men of Michmas, an hundred and two and twenty;

28 (*the*) 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 *(the)* priests; the sons of Jedaiah, in the house of Jeshua, *(or Joshua)*, 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 the Levites)*; the sons of Jeshua and of Kadmiel, *(of)* the sons of Hodaviah, four and seventy;

41 *(the)* 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; *(the sons of the gatekeepers; the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, and the sons of*

Shobai, all these were a hundred and thirty-nine;)

⁴³ Nethinims, these bare wood and water to the house of God's religion, (*or the Temple workers, who carried the wood and the water for the House of God*); 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 Solomon; 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. (*all the Temple workers, and the sons of Solomon's servants, were three hundred and ninety-two.*)

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; (*And those who came back from the towns of Telmelah, Telharsa, Cherub, and Addan, and Immer, and could not prove their father's house, (or family), and whether they were descendants of Israelites, (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 (*the*) 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. (*these sought proof for their genealogy, and could not find it, and so they were cast out of the 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. (*And the governor said to them, that they should*

not eat the holy of holy things, until a priest rose up who could consult the Urim and the Thummim.)

⁶⁴ All the multitude being as one man, were two and forty thousand three hundred and sixty, *(All the multitude being like one person, were forty-two 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. *(besides their servants and servantesses, who were seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and among them were two hundred singers and singeresses.)*

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, *(or formerly had been)*, which is in Jerusalem, they offered of their free will into the house of God, to build it *(again)* in his place; *(And the leaders of the families of the tribes, when they went to the place in Jerusalem where the Temple of the Lord had been, offered their free will offerings to help rebuild the House of God, in its former place;)*

69 they gave by their might *(for)* the costs of the work, one and forty thousand pieces of gold; and five thousand bezants of silver; and priests? clothes an hundred. *(they gave out of their wealth for the costs, or the expenses, of the work, sixty-one thousand pieces of gold, and five thousand bezants of silver, and a hundred priests? garments.)*

70 Therefore *(the)* priests, and deacons of the people, and singers, and porters, and Nethinims dwelled in their cities, and all Israel in their cities. *(And so the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people lived in Jerusalem, and the singers, and the gatekeepers, and the Temple workers, lived in their cities, and all the other Israelites lived 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. *(And when the seventh month had come, with all the Israelites in their cities, then the people gathered together as one person in Jerusalem.)*

2 And Joshua, the son of Jozadak, rose up, and his brethren, *(the)* 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. *(And Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, rose up, and his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel, the son of Salathiel, and his kinsmen, and they rebuilt*

the altar of the God of Israel to offer burnt sacrifices upon, 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 (*the*) lands by compass made them afeared; and they offered upon that altar burnt sacrifices to the Lord in the morrowtide and eventide. (*And they put the altar on its foundation, or on its base, for the peoples of the lands all about had made them afraid; and they offered on that altar burnt sacrifices to the Lord in the morning and in the evening.*)

⁴ And they made the solemnity of tabernacles, as it is written, and they offered burnt sacrifice(s) each day by order, by the work of the day commanded in his day. (*And they kept the Feast of Tabernacles, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt sacrifices in order, as the custom of each day required.*)

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 (*a*) gift was offered to the Lord by free will. (*And in addition to this, they offered the continual burnt sacrifices that were ordained, and the sacrifices, or the offerings, on calends, that is, on the first day of the month, and at all the Feasts to honour the Lord, as well as all the freewill offerings, or gifts, that were given to the Lord.*)

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

yet. *(On the first day of the seventh month they began to offer the burnt sacrifices to the Lord, even though the foundation of the Temple of God had not yet been laid.)*

⁷ But they gave money to the hewers of stone(s), and to the layers of stone(s), 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. *(And they gave money to the stone-cutters, and to the stone-layers, and they gave food, and drink, and oil, to men of Sidon, and to men of Tyre, to bring cedar wood from Lebanon over the sea to Joppa, as Cyrus, the king of Persia, had commanded them.)*

⁸ And in the second year of their coming to the temple of God in Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel, the son of Salathiel, and Joshua, the son of Jozadak, and others of their brethren, priests and deacons, 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; *(And so in the second year of their coming back to (rebuild) the Temple of God in Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel, the son of Salathiel, and Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and others of their kinsmen, the priests and the Levites, and all who came back from the captivity to Jerusalem, began (work on God's Temple); and they ordained the Levites, from twenty years*

of age and older, to oversee, (or to supervise), 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, *(with)* their sons, and their brethren, *(the)* deacons. *(and Jeshua, and his sons, and his kinsmen, and Kadmiel, and his sons, the sons of Judah or the sons of Hodaviah, all stood together as one person, to oversee those who did the work in the Temple of God; and they were helped by the sons of Henadad, with their sons, and their kinsmen, the Levites.)*

¹⁰ Therefore when the temple of the Lord was founded of stone-layers, *(the)* priests stood in their ornaments with trumps, and *(the)* deacons, the sons of Asaph, stood singing in cymbals, for to praise God, by the hand, or ordinance, of David, king of Israel. *(And so when the stone-layers laid the foundation of the Temple of the Lord, the priests, wearing their adornments, stood blowing trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, stood singing with cymbals, to praise God, in the manner ordained by David, the king of Israel.)*

¹¹ And they sang together in hymns and acknowledging to the Lord, *(singing)*, 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. *(And they sang together with hymns and thanksgiving to the Lord, singing,*

For he is good, and his mercy is upon Israel forevermore. And all the people cried out with a great shout, praising the Lord, for the foundation of the Temple of the Lord had been laid.)

¹² Also full many of the priests, and of the deacons, and the princes of *(the)* fathers, and the elder men, that had seen the former temple, when it was founded, and *(now)* saw this temple before their eyes, wept with great voice, and many men crying in great gladness raised up the voice; *(And a great many of the priests, and the Levites, and the leaders of the families of the tribes, and the elders, who had seen the first Temple, and now saw the foundation for this Temple laid before their eyes, wept with a great wailing, and many others raised up their voices, and shouted with great gladness;)*

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. *(and no one could distinguish between the sound of the people being glad, and the sound of the people weeping; for the people cried out with such a great shout, or with such noise, and their sound was heard afar off.)*

CHAPTER 4

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

² and they came to Zerubbabel, and to the princes of *(the)* fathers, and said to them, Build we with you, for so as ye do, we seek your God, *(or and they came to Zerubbabel, and to the leaders of the families, and said to them, Let us build with you, for we seek your God, as ye do)*; lo! we have offered sacrifices *(to him)* from the days of Esarhaddon, 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. *(And Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the other leaders of the families of the tribes of Israel, said to them, It is of no concern to thee, that we build a House for our God; yea, we shall build by ourselves the House for 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. *(And then it was done, that the people of the land hindered the hands of the people of Judah, and made them afraid to continue 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. *(And they bribed court officials to work against the Jews, in all the days of*

Cyrus, the king of Persia, and into the reign of Darius, the king of Persia.)

⁶ And in the realm of Ahasuerus, he is *(also)* called Artaxerxes, in the beginning of his realm, they wrote accusing against the dwellers of Judah and of Jerusalem; *(And then in the kingdom of Ahasuerus, who is also called Artaxerxes, at the beginning of his reign, they wrote accusations against the inhabitants 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, *(or Aramaic)*, and it was read in the word of Syria. *(yea, in the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam, and Mithredath, and Tabeel, and their counsellors, or their officials, wrote to Artaxerxes, the king of Persia. And their letter of accusation was written in the Aramaic language, and it was read aloud in Aramaic.)*

⁸ Rehum, B'el T'em, and Shimshai, the scribe, wrote such an epistle from Jerusalem to king Artaxerxes, *[on this manner]; (And Rehum, the chancellor, and Shimshai, the provincial secretary, also wrote a letter from Jerusalem to King Artaxerxes, in this manner;)*

⁹ Rehum, B'el T'em, and Shimshai, the scribe, and *[the]* other counsellors of them, *(or From Rehum, the chancellor, and Shimshai, the provincial secretary, and their counsellors, or their officials), (the) Dinaites, Apharsathchites, and Tarpelites, Apharistes,*

Archevites, men of Babylon, Susanchites, Dehavites, (*and*) men of Elam,

¹⁰ and others of heathen men, which the great and glorious Asnapper translated, and made them to dwell in the cities of Samaria, and in other countries beyond the flood, in peace. (*and others of the heathen, whom the great and glorious Asnapper carried off captive, and made them live in the cities of Samaria, and in other places in the province west of the Euphrates River, peace to you.*)

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. (*This is the text of the letter that they sent to the king. To King Artaxeres, from thy servants, we men here in the province west of the Euphrates River, who desire good health and prosperity for 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 (*again*), and they make the ground walls thereof, and they array the walls above. (*Be it known to the king, that the Jews, who left thee, have come to us here in Jerusalem, yea, a rebellious and very evil city, which they now rebuild, and they have laid the foundations, and now raise up the walls on top of them.*)

¹³ Now therefore be it known to the king, that if that city be builded (*again*), 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. (*And*

so now let it be known to the king, that if that city is rebuilt, and its walls be restored, then they will not pay tribute, or taxes, or tolls, or annual rents, and that this 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 (*or and for we found it unacceptable to see the king harmed in any way*), therefore we have sent and told (*this*) to the king;

¹⁵ that thou account (*for*) and seek in the books of [*the*] stories of thy fathers, and thou shalt find (*it*) written in (*the*) chronicles, and (*then*) thou shalt know, that that city Jerusalem is a rebel city, and that it harmeth kings and provinces, and that battles be raised therein of eld days; wherefore also that city was destroyed. (*and that if thou search in the books of the stories of thy fathers, thou shalt find it written in The Chronicles, and then thou shalt know, that this city Jerusalem hath long been a rebellious city, and that it harmeth kings and provinces, and that battles be raised up there from days of old, or the olden days; and for that reason the city was destroyed.*)

¹⁶ We tell to the king, that if that city be builded (*again*), and the walls thereof be restored, thou shalt not have possession beyond the flood. (*We say to the king, that if that city is rebuilt, and its walls be restored, then thou shalt not have power, or authority, in the province west of the Euphrates River.*)

17 The king sent word to Rehum, Bvel 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. *(And the king sent word by a letter, saying, To Rehum, the chancellor, and to Shimshai, the provincial secretary, and to their counsellors, or to their officials, who be inhabitants of Samaria, and to the others who live throughout the province west of the Euphrates River, health and peace to all of you.)*

18 The accusing *(or The accusation)*, 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 old days against kings, and dissensions and battles be raised therein; *(and I commanded that they search in The Chronicles, and indeed they found, that that city in days of old rebelled against kings, and dissensions and battles were raised up there;)*

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. *(for there were very strong kings in Jerusalem, who were also lords of all the province that is west of the Euphrates River; and those kings took tribute, or taxes, and tolls, and rents.)*

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

my decree, which is, that ye forbid those men to continue to build, and that that city not be rebuilt, unless, and until, I command it to be done.)

²² See ye, that this behest be not fulfilled negligently, and evil increase little and little against *(the)* kings. *(See ye, that this command be not carelessly fulfilled, for then evil would increase little by little against the king.)*

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. *(And so when the text of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, the chancellor, and Shimshai, the provincial secretary, and their counsellors, or their officials, they went in haste to the Jews in Jerusalem, and with might and arms, or weapons, they forbade them to continue building.)*

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. *(And so the work on the House of God in Jerusalem was stopped, and it was not started again until the second year of the reign of Darius, the king of Persia.)*

CHAPTER 5

¹ Forsooth Haggai, the prophet, and Zechariah, the prophet, the son of Iddo, prophesied, prophesying in the name of *(the)*

God of Israel, to the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem.

² Then Zerubbabel, the son of Salathiel, and Joshua, the son of Jozadak, rose up, and began to build (*again*) the temple of God in Jerusalem; and with them rose up the prophets of God, helping them. (*And then Zerubbabel, the son of Salathiel, and Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, rose up, and began to rebuild the Temple of God in Jerusalem; and the prophets of God rose up with them, to help them.*)

³ And in that time Tatnai, that was duke beyond the flood, and Shetharboznai, and the counsellors of them, came to them; and said thus to them, Who gave counsel to you to build this house (*again*), and to restore these walls? (*And at that time, Tatnai, who was the governor of the province west of the Euphrates River, and Shetharboznai, and their counsellors, or their officials, came to them; and said to them thus, Who gave counsel to you to rebuild this House, and to restore these walls?*)

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

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

eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, and so they did not forbid, or hinder, the Jews from continuing to build; and it pleased them to report all of this to Darius, but to take no action until he replied to them.)

⁶ This is the exemplar of the epistle, which Tatnai, duke of the country beyond the flood, and Shetharboznai, and his counsellors, (*the*) Apharsachites, which were beyond the flood, sent to king Darius. (*This is the text of the letter, which Tatnai, the governor of the province west of the Euphrates River, and Shetharboznai, and his counsellors, or his officials, the Apharsachites, who also lived there in the province west of the Euphrates River, 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 (*being*) builded (*again*) with stone(s) unpolished, and wood (*that*) be set in the walls thereof, and that (*the*) work is builded diligently, and increaseth in the hands of them. (*Be it known to the king, that we went to the province of Judah, to the House of the great God, which is being rebuilt with unpolished stones, and timber that be set in its walls, and that the work is being diligently done, and progresseth under their hands.*)

⁹ Therefore we asked those eld(er) men, and thus we said to them, Who gave to you power to build (*again*) this house, and to restore these walls? (*And so we asked those elders,*

and we said to them thus, Who gave you the authority to rebuild 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. *(And we also asked them their names, so that we could tell them to thee; and we have listed the names of those men, who they be, who be the leaders of this work.)*

¹¹ Soothly they answered by such *(a)* word, and said, We be the servants of *(the)* God of heaven and of earth; and we build *(again)* the temple that was builded before these many years, and which temple the great king of Israel had builded, and made, *(or and we rebuild the Temple that was built here many years ago, which Temple the great king of Israel had built and finished).*

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

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 away into the temple of Babylon, and those vessels were given to Sheshbazzar, by name, whom he made also prince *(of Judah)*. *(And King Cyrus brought forth from the temple in Babylon the gold and the silver vessels of the Temple of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the Temple that was in Jerusalem, and had carried them away to that temple in Babylon, and those vessels were given to Sheshbazzar, by name, whom Cyrus had appointed to be the governor of Judah.)*

¹⁵ And Cyrus said to him, Take these vessels, and go, and set them in the temple, that is in Jerusalem; and be the house of God builded *(again)* in the place where it was. *(And Cyrus said to him, Take these vessels, and go, and put them in the Temple, that is in Jerusalem; and let the House of God be rebuilt in the place where it once was.)*

¹⁶ Therefore then that Sheshbazzar came, and setted the foundations of God's temple in Jerusalem; and from that time till to now it is builded, and it is not yet fulfilled. *(And so then that Sheshbazzar came, and laid the foundation of the Temple of God in Jerusalem; and from that time until now it is being rebuilt, but it is not yet finished.)*

¹⁷ Now therefore, if it seemeth good to the king, reckon he in the biblet of the king, which is in Babylon, whether it be commanded of king Cyrus, that God's house should be

builed (*again*) in Jerusalem; and send he to us the will of the king on this thing. (*And so now, if it seemeth good to the king, let a search be made in the library, or in the archives, of the king, which is there in Babylon, to determine whether it was commanded by King Cyrus, that the House of God should be rebuilt in Jerusalem, or not; and then send he to us the desire of the king on this matter.*)

CHAPTER 6

¹ Then king Darius commanded, and they reckoned, or sought, in the biblet of books, which books were kept in Babylon. (*Then King Darius commanded, and they searched through the books in the library, or in the archives, 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. (*But one book was found in the city of Achmetha, in the province of Media, in the castle there, and this statement about the king was written in it;*)

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 builed (*again*) in the place where they offer(ed) sacrifices, and that they set (*a*) fundament supporting the height of sixty cubits, and the length of sixty cubits, (*In the first year of King Cyrus, King Cyrus ordained that the House of God, which was in Jerusalem, should be rebuilt in the place where they had offered sacrifices,*

and that they lay a foundation to support a height of sixty cubits, and a 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. *(and build they the walls out of three rows, or three layers, of unpolished stones, and one row, or one layer, of new timber. And let its costs, or its expenses, be paid out of the king's treasury.)*

⁵ But also the golden and silveren vessels of God's temple, which Nebuchadnezzar 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 in the temple of God. *(And also let the gold and the silver vessels from the Temple of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the Temple in Jerusalem, and brought to Babylon, be given back, and returned to the Temple in Jerusalem, to be put again in their proper place in the Temple of God.)*

⁶ Now therefore Tatnai, duke of the country that is beyond the flood, and Shetharboznai, and your counsellors, *(the) Apharsachites, which be beyond the flood, depart ye far (away) from them; (And so now Tatnai, the governor of the province that is west of the Euphrates River, and Shetharboznai, and your counsellors, or your officials, the Apharsachites, who also live there in the province west*

of the Euphrates River, should go far away from these people, that is, they should leave them alone;)

⁷ and suffer ye, that that temple of God be made of the duke of *(the)* Jews, and of the elder men of them; and that they build *(again)* that house of God in his place. *(and allow ye, that the Temple of God be rebuilt by the leader of the Jews, and their elders; yea, that they rebuild the House of God there in its place.)*

⁸ But also it is commanded of me, that that behooveth to be made of those priests of *(the)* Jews, that the house of God be builded *(again)*; that is, that costs be given busily to those men *(out)* of the ark, *(or the coffer)*, of the king, that is, of the tributes, that be given of the country beyond the flood, lest the work be hindered. *(And it is also commanded by me, what behooveth to be done for those elders of the Jews, so that the House of God can be rebuilt; that is, that their costs, (or their expenses), be given to them out of the king's treasury, that is, from the taxes paid in the province west of the Euphrates River, so that the work shall not be hindered, (or interrupted).)*

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

yea, calves, and lambs, and goat kids for the burnt sacrifices to the God of heaven; and also wheat, and salt, and wine, and oil, yea, whatever is needed for each day, so that no complaint be made about anything.)

¹⁰ And *(then)* offer they offerings to *[the]* God of heaven; and *(also)* 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 *(piece of)* wood be taken of his house, and be it raised up, and be he hanged thereon; soothly his house be forfeited. *(And so this decree is given by me, that if anyone change this command, a piece of timber be taken from his house, and it be raised up, and let him be hanged upon it; and then 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 *(to)* be fulfilled diligently, *(or I, Darius, have given this decree, which I command to be diligently fulfilled)*.

¹³ Therefore Tatnai, duke of the country beyond the flood, and Shetharboznai, and his counsellors, did execution, either fulfilled, so diligently, by that that king Darius had commanded. *(And so Tatnai, the governor of the province west of the Euphrates River, and Shetharboznai, and his counsellors, or his officials, diligently fulfilled what King Darius had commanded.)*

14 Soothly the elder men of *(the)* Jews builded *(the Temple)*, and had prosperity, by the prophecy of Haggai, the prophet, and *(the prophecy)* of Zechariah, the son of Iddo; and they builded *(it)*, and made *(it)*, for *[the]* God of Israel commanded *(it)*, and for Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia, *(also)* commanded *(it)*;

15 and they performed this house of God till to the third day of the month Adar, which is *(in)* the sixth year of the realm of king Darius. *(and they finished this House of God on the third day of the month of Adar, or March, which was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.)*

16 And the sons of Israel, the priests and *(the)* deacons, and the others of the sons of *(the)* transmigration, that is, of them that came from the transmigration, made the hallowing of God's house in joy; *(And the Israelites, yea, the priests, and the Levites, and the others of the sons of the captivity, dedicated the House of God with great joy;)*

17 and offered, in the hallowing of God's house, an hundred calves, two hundred wethers, four hundred lambs, *(and)* twelve bucks of goats for the sin of all Israel, by the number of the lineages of Israel. *(and offered, for the dedication of the House of God, a hundred calves, two hundred rams, and four hundred lambs, and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve goat bucks, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.)*

18 And they ordained *(the)* priests in their orders, and deacons in their whiles *(or and the*

Levites in their divisions), upon the works of God in Jerusalem, as it is written in the book of Moses.

19 And the sons of *(the)* transmigration made pask, in the fourteenth day of the first month. *(And the sons of the captivity kept, or observed, the Passover on the fourteen day of the first month.)*

20 For the priests and deacons as one man were cleansed, all they were *(made)* clean to offer pask to all the sons of *(the)* transmigration, and to their brethren *(the)* priests, and to themselves. *(For all the priests and the Levites cleansed themselves, yea, they were all purified, and then they killed the Passover lamb for all the sons of the captivity, and for their fellow priests, and for 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. *(And then the Israelites, who had returned from the captivity, and also each man who had separated himself from all the defiling of the heathen of the land, to seek the Lord God of Israel, ate the Passover.)*

22 And they made the solemnity of therf loaves seven days in gladness *(or And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great joy)*; for the Lord had made them glad, and had turned the heart of the king of Assur to them, *(so)* 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 Zeremiah, son of Uzzi, son of Bukki,

⁵ son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, priest at the beginning (*or the chief priest, or the High Priest*), this Ezra was (*serving God*) 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, (*or this Ezra left Babylon, and he was a writer, or a teacher, learned 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 (*the*) king, there went up into Jerusalem men of the sons of Israel, and of the sons of priests, and of the sons of deacons, and of singers, and of porters, and of Nethinims. (*And in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes, some men of the Israelites, and of the sons of the priests, and of the sons of the Levites, and some of the singers, and the gatekeepers, and the Temple workers, went up with Ezra to Jerusalem.*)

⁸ And they came into Jerusalem in the fifth month; that is (*in*) the seventh year of the king('s)(*reign*).

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. *(Yea, on the first day of the first month Ezra left Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came into Jerusalem, by the good hand, or the help, of his God.)*

¹⁰ And Ezra *(had)* made ready his heart to inquire *(into)* the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel the behest and doom of the Lord. *(And Ezra had devoted his heart to inquire into the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach its rules and regulations in Israel or and to teach its rules and regulations to the Israelites.)*

¹¹ Soothly this is the exemplar of the epistle of the commandment, which the king Artaxerxes gave to Ezra, *(the)* priest, *(a)* writer learned in the words and commandments of the Lord, and in his ceremonies in Israel. *(And this is the text of the letter of the decree, which King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra, the priest, a writer learned in the Law of the Lord, and a teacher of its rules and regulations, to the people of Israel.)*

¹² *(I)*, Artaxerxes, king of kings, desireth health to Ezra, the priest *(or desireth good favour for Ezra, the priest)*, the most wise writer of the law of *(the)* God of heaven.

¹³ It is deemed of me, that whomever it pleaseth in my realm of the people of Israel, and of his priests, and deacons, to go into Jerusalem, go he with thee. *(It is decreed*

by me, that whomever in my kingdom of the people of Israel, or of its priests, or of its Levites, desireth to go up to Jerusalem, go he with thee or may go 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; *(For thou art sent from the presence of the king, and of his seven counsellors, or his officials, so that thou visit the people of Judah and Jerusalem, to see how well they obey the Law of thy God, which is entrusted to thee;)*

¹⁵ and that thou bear *(the)* silver and *(the)* gold, which the king and his counsellors, *(or his officials)*, 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; *(And take thou all the silver and the gold, whatever thou findest in all the province of Babylon, and what the people, and the priests, offer by free will for 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 sacrifices of those, *(or and with this money prudently buy thou calves, and rams, and lambs, and the proper grain and wine offerings);* and offer thou those 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; *(And over this, whatever thing pleaseth thee, and thy fellows, to do with the silver and the gold that be left, do ye it according to the will of your God;)*

19 also betake thou in the sight of *(the)* God in Jerusalem the vessels, that be given into the service of the house of thy God. *(and regarding those vessels, that were given to thee for the service of the House of thy God, deliver thou them to thy God in Jerusalem.)*

20 But also thou shalt give *(out)* of the treasure *(house)* of the king, and of the common ark, either purse, *(or coffer)*, and of men other things, that be needful in the house of thy God, as much *(as)* ever as *(it)* is needful, that thou spend. *(And for any other thing that be needed in the House of thy God, as much as it is needed that thou spend, thou shalt take it from the king's treasury.)*

21 I, Artaxerxes, king, have ordained, and deemed, to all the keepers of the common ark, or hutch, *(or purse, or coffer)*, that be beyond the flood, that whatever thing Ezra, the priest, *(the)* writer of the law of *(the)* God of heaven, asketh of you, ye give it without tarrying, *(And I, King Artaxerxes, command to all the treasurers who be in the province west of the Euphrates River, that whatever Ezra,*

the priest, the teacher of the Law of the God of heaven, asketh of you, give ye it to him without any hesitation,)

²² unto an hundred talents of silver, and (un)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 (*the*) God of heaven, be given diligently in the house of (*the*) God of heaven, lest peradventure he be wroth against the realm of the king, and of his sons. (*Yea, let all the things that be demanded by the God of heaven, be diligently given for the House of the God of heaven, lest peradventure he be angry against the kingdom of the king, and of his sons.*)

²⁴ Also we make known to you of all the priests, and deacons, 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. (*And we also make known to you, that ye have no power, or authority, to put tolls, or tribute, or any other kind of taxes, for the upkeep of the land, on any of the priests, or the Levites, or the singers, or the gatekeepers, or the Temple workers, or the ministers in the House of God.*)

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. *(And thou, Ezra, by the wisdom of thy God, which thou hast been given, ordain judges and governors to judge all the people who be in the province west of the Euphrates River, that is, those who know the Law of thy God, and the law of the king; and also freely teach ye 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. *(And any person, who obeyeth not the Law of thy God, and the law of the king, this sentence shall be for him, either death, or exile, or the loss of his chattel, or of his possessions, or imprisonment.)*

²⁷ And Ezra, the writer, said, Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, that gave this thing in the heart of the king *(or who put this counsel in the king's heart)*, 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 *(the)* princes *(out)* of the sons of Israel, the which *(then)* went up with me to Jerusalem. *(and who turned his mercy to me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the high officials of the king. And I was strengthened by the hand of the Lord my God, that was upon me, and I gathered together the leaders out of*

the Israelites, who then went up with me to Jerusalem.)

CHAPTER 8

¹ Therefore these be the princes of families (*or And so these be the leaders of the families*), 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, Zechariah, 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; (*of the sons of Pahathmoab, 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, Jeshaiah, the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy men;

⁸ of the sons of Shephatiah, Zebadiah, 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 (*or who were the last ones to return*), and these be the names of them, Eliphelet, and Jeiel, and Shemaiah, and with them sixty men;

¹⁴ (*and*) 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 (*any of them*) there. (*And I gathered all these men at the river, that runneth down to Ahava; and we stayed there three days. And I sought among the people, and among the priests, for the Levites, but I did not find any of them there.*)

¹⁶ Therefore I sent (*for*) Eliezer, and Ariel, and Shemaiah, and Elnathan, and Jarib, and another Elnathan, and Nathan, and Zechariah, and Meshullam, princes (*or the leaders*); and Joiarib, and Elnathan, (*the*) wise men;

¹⁷ and I sent them to Iddo, that is the chief (*man*) 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, (*the*) Nethinims, in the place of Casiphia, for to

bring to us the ministers of the house of our God. *(and I sent them to Iddo, that is the chief man, or the leader, at the place of Casiphia, and I put the words in their mouths, which they should say to Iddo, and to his kinsmen, the Temple workers, at that place of Casiphia, yea, that they should bring us ministers for the House of our God.)*

18 And by the good hand of our God upon us, they brought *(to us)* 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; *(And by the good hand of our God upon us, they brought us Sherebiah, a very wise man of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel; and along with him, they brought his sons and his kinsmen, in all, eighteen men;)*

19 and Hashabiah, and Jeshaiiah came with him of the sons of Merari, *(and)* they brought his brethren, and his sons, twenty; *(and Hashabiah, and along with him came Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merari, and his kinsmen, and their sons, in all, twenty men;)*

20 and of *[the]* Nethinims, which David and the princes had given to the services of *(the)* deacons, they brought two hundred and twenty Nethinims; all these were called by their names. *(and of the Temple workers, whom David and his officials had appointed for service to the Levites, they brought two hundred and twenty Temple workers; 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. (*And I preached, or proclaimed, that we should fast there beside the Ahava River, and that we should be tormented before the Lord our God, and that we should ask him for a safe journey for us, and for our sons, and for all our possessions.*)

22 For I shamed to ask of the king help, and horsemen, which should defend us from our enemies in the way, (*or For I was ashamed to ask the king for any help, or for horsemen, who could defend us on the way from our enemies*), 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 (*so*) we fasted, and prayed (*to*) our God for this thing, and it befelled to us wellsomely.

24 And I separated twelve of the princes of (*the*) priests, Sherebiah, and Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them; (*And I separated out, or chose, twelve of the leaders of the priests, Sherebiah, and Hashabiah, and ten of their kinsmen 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 counselors, and his princes, and all the men that were

found of Israel. (*and I delivered into their hands, under certain weight and number, the silver and the gold, and the holy vessels of the House of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, or his officials, and his leaders, and all the Israelites who were found, had offered.*)

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, (*And so I delivered into their hands, under certain weight and number, six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and a hundred silver vessels; and a 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. (*and twenty gold bowls, which were worth or which weighed a thousand pieces of gold; and two beautiful vessels of the best bronze, shining as gold.*)

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

²⁹ till ye yield (*them*) under certain weight and number before the princes of priests, and of deacons, and before (*the*) dukes of (*the*) families of Israel in Jerusalem, into the chamber of God's house. (*until ye give them under certain weight and number to the leaders of*

the priests, and the Levites, and the leaders of the families of the tribes of Israel in Jerusalem, in the rooms of the House of God.)

³⁰ And the priests and deacons took the weight of silver, and of gold, and of vessels, for to bear them into Jerusalem, into the house of our God. *(And so the priests and the Levites took charge of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, in order to carry them to Jerusalem, to 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. *(And so we moved forth from the Ahava River, on the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem; and the hand of our God was upon us, and delivered us from the hands of the enemy, and of the ambusher on the way.)*

³² And we came to Jerusalem, and we dwelled there three days *(or and we stayed 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, (*the*) 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; *(And on the fourth day, the silver, and the gold, and the vessels were*

weighed in the House of our God, and given into the hands, or the care, of Meremoth the priest, the son of Uriah; and with him was Eleazar, the son of Phinehas, and with them were the Levites, Jozabad, the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah, the son of Binnui;)

³⁴ and all the weight was described in that time. *(and the number and the weight of all the things were listed at that time.)*

³⁵ But also the sons of *(the)* transmigration, that came from *(the)* 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 *(the)* goats for sin; all these were offered into burnt sacrifice to the Lord. *(And the sons of them who had been carried off, and had now come back from the captivity, offered burnt sacrifices to the Lord God of Israel, yea, twelve calves for all the people of Israel, ninety-six rams, and seventy-seven lambs, and also twelve goat bucks for a sin offering; all these were offered as a burnt sacrifice to the Lord.)*

³⁶ Forsooth they gave the commandments 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. *(Then they gave the king's orders to the leaders who served the king there, and to the governors of the province on the west side of the Euphrates River; and then they supported the people, and the House of God.)*

CHAPTER 9

¹ And after that these things were fulfilled, the princes nighed to me, that is, to Ezra, and said, The people of Israel, and the priests, and deacons, be not separated from the peoples of *(the)* 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. *(And after that these things were finished, the leaders came to me, Ezra, and said, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not set themselves apart from the peoples of these lands, that is, from the Canaanites, and Hittites, and Perizzites, and Jebusites, and Ammonites, and Moabites, and Egyptians, and Amorites, and from all their abominations.)*

² For they have taken of their daughters wives to themselves, and to their sons, and they have meddled holy seed with the peoples of *(these)* lands; also the hand of *(the)* princes and of *(the)* magistrates was the first in this trespassing. *(For they have taken their daughters as wives for themselves, and for their sons as well, and they have mixed, or mingled, holy seed with the peoples of these lands; yea, the hands of the leaders and of the magistrates were the first in this trespass.)*

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. *(And when I had heard this, I tore my cloak and my coat, and I pulled away the*

hairs of my head and of my beard, and I sat down mourning.)

⁴ Forsooth all that dreaded the word of *(the)* 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. *(And all who feared the word or who revered the word of the God of Israel came together to me, because of the trespassing of those who were come from the captivity; and I sat in despair until the evening sacrifice.)*

⁵ And in the sacrifice of eventide I rose up from mine affliction, and after that I had rent my mantle and my coat, *(or And at the evening sacrifice I rose up from my affliction, and after that I had torn my cloak and my coat),* I bowed my knees, and I spreaded 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, *(and I said, My God, I am shamed and ashamed to raise up my face to thee, for our wickednesses be multiplied upon our heads, and our trespasses have increased unto the heavens,)*

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.

(from the days of our forefathers unto now; for we ourselves have grievously sinned, and because of our wickednesses we, and our kings, and our priests, have been delivered into the hands of the kings of heathen lands, yea, unto the sword, and into captivity, and unto robbing, or pillage, and unto the shame of our face, as it is this very 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. *(But now, for a little moment, the Lord our God hath been gracious to us, and a remnant hath escaped, and he hath given us a little stake, that is, some place of settling, and of stability, in this his Holy Place, and our God hath enlightened our eyes, and he hath given us a little life in the midst of our servitude, or our slavery.)*

⁹ For we be servants; and our God forsook us not in our servage/in our thralldom; and he bowed down mercy upon us before the king(s) of Persia, that he should give life to us, and (*so we could*) enhance the house of our God, and that he should build (*again*) the wildernesses thereof, or the desolate things thereof, and give to us hope, or mercy, in Judah and in Jerusalem. *(For we be slaves; but our God hath not left us in our servitude, or our slavery; but he bowed down mercy upon us from the*

kings of Persia, to give life to us, so that we could rebuild the House of our God, and repair its ruins, and so give us a wall of defence, or a safe place, here 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 (*the*) 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 (*have*) filled it with their defouling, from the mouth till to the mouth. (*which thou commandedest by thy servants the prophets, and saidest, The land, to which ye shall enter to have for a possession, is an unclean land, because of the uncleanness and the abominations of the people there, from other lands, who have filled it with their defiling, from one end to the other.*)

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 (*as*) your heirs, unto without end, (*or so that ye be strengthened, and eat the good things of the land, and that ye leave it for an inheritance to your sons forevermore*).

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, *(And though much suffering came upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, thou, our God, hast not punished us as we deserved, but thou hast rescued us, or hast saved us, from our wickedness, and hast given us the deliverance, which we have 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 shouldst not leave to us remnants, that is, a few men, and health? *(so now should we turn (away from thee), and make void thy commandments, and join matrimonies with the peoples of these abominations? No! For wouldest thou not then be angry with us unto the end, so that thou wouldest leave no remnant, (that is, even a few people), who would survive?)*

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. *(Lord God of Israel, thou art righteous; we who be left, be but a remnant, that thou hast let survive, unto this day; behold! we be before thee in our sin; but because of it we cannot stand before thee.)*

CHAPTER 10

¹ Therefore while Ezra prayed so, and be-

sought God, and wept, and lay (*down*) before the temple of God, a full great company of Israel (*or a very large crowd of Israelites*), 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, (*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, foreign women, of the peoples of the land. And now, for there is penance in Israel for this thing.*)

³ make we (*a*) 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. (*let us make a covenant with the Lord our God to cast away, that is, to send away, all our foreign wives, and those who were born of those wives, according to thy counsel, mylord, and the counsel of those who fear the command of our God or who revere the command of our God; yea, let it be done according to the Law.*)

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

thee to judge this, and we shall be with thee; be thou strengthened, and do thus.)

⁵ Then Ezra rose up, and charged greatly the princes of *(the)* priests, and deacons, and all Israel, to do after this word; and they swore thereto. *(Then Ezra rose up, and greatly charged the leaders of the priests, and the Levites, and all the Israelites, to do this thing; and they swore that they would do it.)*

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 *(or And so the word was sent throughout Judah and Jerusalem)*, to all the sons of *(the)* captivity, that they should be gathered together in Jerusalem;

⁸ and [*that*] each man that cometh not thither *(with)* 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 *(the)* transmigration *(or and he shall be cast out, or sent away, from those who have returned from the captivity)*.

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 *(the)* sin, and for *(the)* rain. *(And so all the*

men of Judah and of Benjamin came together in Jerusalem within the three days; that was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month; and all the people sat in the square of God's House, that is, in the Temple Square, and trembled because of the sin, and because of the 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. *(And Ezra, the priest, rose up, and said to them, Ye have trespassed, and ye have wedded wives, foreign women, and so ye have increased Israel's trespass, or sin.)*

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. *(And so now make ye a confession to the Lord God of our fathers, and do ye his pleasure, or his will, and be ye separated from the peoples of the land, and from all your foreign wives.)*

¹² And all the multitude answered, and said with [*a*] great (or a loud) 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; for we have sinned greatly in this word; *(But for the people be many, and it is the time of much rain, and we be not able to stand here outside, and this is*

not the work of one day, nor of two; for we have greatly sinned in this thing;)

14 *(let) princes be ordained in all the multitude, and (let) 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. (let the leaders come to all the multitude, and let all the men in our cities, who have wedded foreign wives, come in the time ordained, and the elders come with them, by city and city, and the judges of the people, until the anger of our God be turned away from us for this sin.)*

15 Therefore Jonathan, the son of Asahel, and Jahaziah, the son of Tikvah, stood upon this thing; and Meshullam, and Shabbethai, deacons, helped them. *(And so only Jonathan, the son of Asahel, and Jahaziah, the son of Tikvah, stood against this; and Meshullam, and Shabbethai, a Levite, supported them.)*

16 And the sons of *(the)* transmigration did so. And Ezra, the priest, and the men, that were princes of families, 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 *(of)* the thing. *(And so the sons of the captivity did this. And Ezra, the priest, selected the men, from those who were the leaders of the families of their tribes, all of them by their names; and they began on the first day of the tenth month, to inquire into the matter.)*

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. (*And they finished their inquiry, concerning all the men who had wedded foreign wives, by the first day of the first month of the new year.*)

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. (*And there were found of the sons of the priests, who had wedded foreign wives; of the sons of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and his kinsmen, 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. (*And they gave their hands, that is, they confirmed with a solemn pledge, that they would cast out, or send away, their wives, and that they would offer a ram of the sheep for their trespass.*)

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 And of the sons of the 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. (*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 Malchiah, and Miamin, and Eleazar, and Malchijah, and Benaiah.

²⁶ And of the sons of Elam; Mattaniah, 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; Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai.

²⁹ And of the sons of Bani; Meshullam, 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. (*And of the sons of Pahathmoab; Adna, and Chelal, Benaiah, and Maaseiah, Mattaniah, and 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, Mattathah, 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, Mattithiah,
Zabad, Zebina, Jadau, Joel, and Benaiah.
44 All these had taken alien, or heathen,
wives, and of them were women, that had bore
children. *(All these had taken foreign wives,
and some of these women had brought forth
children.)*

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