

The Book of  
Ezra

1 Cyrus' Proclamation concerning the Temple. 2:1 Returning Israelites. 3:2 Burnt-offerings. 3:8 Rebuilding the Temple.

1 Now in *the* first year of <sup>1</sup>Cyrus king of Persia, that *the* word of Jehovah by *the* mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, Jehovah stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying, 2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All *the* kingdoms of the earth hath Jehovah, the God of heaven, given me; and he hath charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah. 3 Whosoever there is among you of all his people, his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah, and build the house of Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, <sup>2</sup>(*he is* God,) which *is* in Jerusalem. 4 And whosoever is left, in any place where he sojourneth, let *the* men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, besides the freewill-offering for the house of God which *is* in Jerusalem.

5 Then rose up *the* heads of fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, even all whose spirit God had stirred to go up to build the house of Jehovah which *is* in Jerusalem. 6 And all they that were round about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, besides all that was willingly offered. 7 Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of *the* house of Jehovah, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put in *the* house of his gods; 8 even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by *the* hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah. 9 And this is *the* number of them: thirty platters of gold, a thousand platters of silver, twenty-nine knives, 10 thirty bowls of gold, silver bowls of a second sort four hundred ten, and other vessels a thousand. 11 All the vessels of gold and of silver *were* five thousand four hundred. All *these* did Sheshbazzar bring up, when they of the captivity were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem.

2 Now these are *the* children of the province, that went up out of the captivity of those that had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar *the* king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and that returned unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city; 2 who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah,

<sup>3</sup>Seraiah, <sup>4</sup>Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, <sup>5</sup>Mispar, Bigvai, <sup>6</sup>Rehum, Baanah.

*The* number of *the* men of *the* people of Israel: 3 *The* children of Parosh, two thousand one hundred seventy-two. 4 *The* children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy-two. 5 *The* children of Arah, seven hundred seventy-five. 6 *The* children of Pahath-moab, of *the* children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred twelve. 7 *The* children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty-four. 8 *The* children of Zattu, nine hundred forty-five. 9 *The* children of Zaccai, seven hundred sixty. 10 *The* children of <sup>7</sup>Bani, six hundred forty-two. 11 *The* children of Bebai, six hundred twenty-three. 12 *The* children of Azgad, a thousand two hundred twenty-two. 13 *The* children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty-six. 14 *The* children of Bigvai, two thousand fifty-six. 15 *The* children of Adin, four hundred fifty-four. 16 *The* children of Ater, of Hezekiah, ninety-eight. 17 *The* children of Bezai, three hundred twenty-three. 18 *The* children of <sup>8</sup>Jorah, a hundred twelve. 19 *The* children of Hashum, two hundred twenty-three. 20 *The* children of <sup>9</sup>Gibbar, ninety-five. 21 *The* children of Beth-lehem, a hundred twenty-three. 22 *The* men of Netophah, fifty-six. 23 *The* men of Anathoth, a hundred twenty-eight. 24 *The* children of <sup>10</sup>Azmaveth, forty-two. 25 *The* children of <sup>11</sup>Kiriath-arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty-three. 26 *The* children of Ramah and Beba, six hundred twenty-one. 27 *The* men of Michmas, a hundred twenty-two. 28 *The* men of Beth-el and Ai, two hundred twenty-three. 29 *The* children of Nebo, fifty-two. 30 *The* children of Magbish, a hundred fifty-six. 31 *The* children of *the* other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty-four. 32 *The* children of Harim, three hundred twenty. 33 *The* children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty-five. 34 *The* children of Jericho, three hundred forty-five. 35 *The* children of Senaah, three thousand six hundred thirty.

36 *The* priests: *the* children of Jedaiah, of *the* house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy three. 37 *The* children

<sup>3</sup> In Neh 7:7, Azariah,

<sup>4</sup> In Neh 7:7, Raamaiah,

<sup>5</sup> In Neh 7:7, Mispereth,

<sup>6</sup> In Neh 7:7, Nehum,

<sup>7</sup> In Neh 7:15, Binnui,

<sup>8</sup> In Neh 7:24, Hariph,

<sup>9</sup> In Neh 7:25, Gibeon,

<sup>10</sup> In Neh 7:28, Beth-azmaveth, or, house of Azmaveth

<sup>11</sup> In Neh 7:29, Kiriath-jearim,

<sup>1</sup> Hb. Koresh And so elsewhere.

<sup>2</sup> Or, he is the God who is in Jerusalem.

of Immer, a thousand fifty-two. 38 *The* children of Pashhur, a thousand two hundred forty-seven. 39 *The* children of Harim, a thousand seventeen.

40 *The* Levites: *the* children of Jeshua and Kadniel, of *the* children of <sup>12</sup>Hodaviah, seventy-four. 41 *The* singers: *the* children of Asaph, a hundred twenty-eight. 42 *The* children of the porters: *the* children of Shallum, *the* children of Ater, *the* children of Talmon, *the* children of Akkub, *the* children of Hatita, *the* children of Shobai, *in* all a hundred thirty-nine.

43 *The* <sup>13</sup>Nethinim: *the* children of Ziha, *the* children of Hasupha, *the* children of Tabbaoth, 44 *the* children of Keros, *the* children of <sup>14</sup>Siaha, *the* children of Padon, 45 *the* children of Lebanah, *the* children of Hagabah, *the* children of Akkub, 46 *the* children of Hagab, *the* children of <sup>15</sup>Shamlai, *the* children of Hanan, 47 *the* children of Giddel, *the* children of Gahar, *the* children of Reaiah, 48 *the* children of Rezin, *the* children of Nekoda, *the* children of Gazzam, 49 *the* children of Uzza, *the* children of Paseah, *the* children of Besai, 50 *the* children of Asnah, *the* children of Meunim, *the* children of <sup>16</sup>Nephisim, 51 *the* children of Bakbuk, *the* children of Hakupha, *the* children of Harhur, 52 *the* children of <sup>17</sup>Bazluth, *the* children of Mehida, *the* children of Harsha, 53 *the* children of Barkos, *the* children of Sisera, *the* children of Temah, 54 *the* children of Neziah, *the* children of Hatipha.

55 *The* children of Solomon's servants: *the* children of Sotai, *the* children of <sup>18</sup>Hassophereth, *the* children of <sup>19</sup>Perudah, 56 *the* children of Jaalah, *the* children of Darkon, *the* children of Giddel, 57 *the* children of Shephatiah, *the* children of Hattil, *the* children of Pochereth-hazzebaim, *the* children of <sup>20</sup>Ami. 58 All the Nethinim, and *the* children of Solomon's servants, *were* three hundred ninety-two.

59 And *these were* they that went up from Tel-meleh, Tel-harsha, Cherub, <sup>21</sup>Addan, and Immer; but they could not show their fathers' houses, and their seed, whether they *were* of Israel: 60 *the* children of Delaiah, *the* children of Tobiah, *the* children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty-two. 61 And of *the* children of the priests: *the* children of <sup>22</sup>Habaiah, *the* children

of Hakkoz, *the* children of Barzillai, who took a wife of *the* daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name. 62 *These* sought their register *among* those that *were* reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore <sup>23</sup>they were deemed polluted and put from the priesthood. 63 And the governor said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy *things*, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.

64 *The* whole assembly together *was* forty-two thousand three hundred sixty, 65 besides their men-servants and their maid-servants, of whom *there were* seven thousand three hundred thirty-seven: and they *had* two hundred singing men and singing women. 66 *Their* horses *were* seven hundred thirty-six; their mules, two hundred forty-five; 67 their camels, four hundred thirty-five; *their* asses, six thousand seven hundred twenty.

68 And *some* of the heads of fathers' houses, when they came to *the* house of Jehovah which *is* in Jerusalem, offered willingly for the house of God to set it up in its place: 69 they gave after their ability into *the* treasury of the work sixty-one thousand <sup>24</sup>darics of gold, and five thousand <sup>25</sup>pounds of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

70 So the priests, and the Levites, and *some* of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinim, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

**3** And when the seventh month was come, and *the* children of Israel *were* in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem. 2 Then stood up Jeshua *the* son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel *the* son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of *the* God of Israel, to offer burnt-offerings thereon, <sup>26</sup>as *it is* written in *the* law of Moses the man of God. 3 And they set the altar <sup>27</sup>upon its base; for fear *was* upon them because of *the* peoples of the countries: and they offered burnt-offerings thereon unto Jehovah, *even* burnt-offerings towards morning and evening. 4 And they kept the feast of booths, <sup>28</sup>as *it is* written, and offered *the* daily burnt-offerings by number, <sup>29</sup>according to *the* ordinance, as *the* duty of every day required; 5 and afterward *the* continual burnt-offering, and *the* offerings of the new moons, and of all *the* set feasts of Jehovah that were sanctified, and of every one that willingly offered a freewill-offering unto Jehovah.

<sup>12</sup> In ch. 3:9, Judah, In Neh 7:43, Hodevah,

<sup>13</sup> Hb. given ones: *That is*, hereditary temple servants: Also in vss. 58, 70.

<sup>14</sup> In Neh 7:47, Sia,

<sup>15</sup> In Neh 7:48, Salmai,

<sup>16</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> Aram., Vg. read Nephusim, In Neh 7:52, Nepushesim,

<sup>17</sup> In Neh 7:54, Bazlith,

<sup>18</sup> In Neh 7:57, Sophereth,

<sup>19</sup> In Neh 7:57, Perida,

<sup>20</sup> In Neh 7:59, Amon.

<sup>21</sup> In Neh 7:61, Addon,

<sup>22</sup> In Neh 7:63, Hobaiah,

<sup>23</sup> Hb. They were polluted from the priesthood.

<sup>24</sup> 1 daric = 8.3 gm; 61,000 darics = 0.506 metric ton

<sup>25</sup> Hb. maneh = 0.58 kg; 5,000 maneh = 2.9 metric tons

<sup>26</sup> Dt 12:5, 6.

<sup>27</sup> Or, in its place;

<sup>28</sup> Ex 23:16.

<sup>29</sup> Nu 29:12-38.

6 From *the* first day of the seventh month began they to offer burnt-offerings unto Jehovah: but *the* foundation of *the* temple of Jehovah was not *yet* laid. 7 They gave money also unto the <sup>30</sup>masons, and to the carpenters; and food, and drink, and oil, unto them of Sidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar-trees from Lebanon to *the* sea, unto Joppa, according to *the* grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia.

8 Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel *the* son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua *the* son of Jozadak, and *the* rest of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they *that* were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem, and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to <sup>31</sup>have *the* oversight of *the* work of *the* house of Jehovah. 9 Then stood Jeshua *with* his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, *the* sons of <sup>32</sup>Judah, <sup>33</sup>together, to have *the* oversight of the workmen in the house of God: *the* sons of Henadad, *with* their sons and their brethren the Levites. 10 And when the builders laid *the* foundation of the temple of Jehovah, <sup>34</sup>they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites *the* sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise Jehovah, after *the* order of David king of Israel. 11 And they sang one to another in praising and giving thanks unto Jehovah, *saying*, For *he* is good, for his lovingkindness *endureth* for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised Jehovah, because *the* foundation of *the* house of Jehovah was laid. 12 But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' *houses*, the old men that had seen <sup>35</sup>the first house, when *the* foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: 13 so that the people could not discern *the* noise of the shout of joy from *the* noise of *the* weeping of the people; for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

4 Now when *the* adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that *the* children of the captivity were building a temple unto Jehovah, *the* God of Israel; 2 then they drew near to Zerubbabel, and to the heads of fathers' *houses*, and said unto them, Let us build with you; for we seek your God, as ye *do*; <sup>36</sup>and we sacrifice unto him since *the* days of Esar-haddon king of Assyria,

<sup>30</sup> *Or*, hewers,

<sup>31</sup> *Or*, set forward *the* work

<sup>32</sup> *In* ch. 2:40, Hodaviah,

<sup>33</sup> *Hb.* as one,

<sup>34</sup> *So* Massoretic. *Some* Massoretic mss., Sept., Aram., Vg. *read* the priests stood in their apparel. [*Similarly* in Apocrypha, 1Esdras 5:57.]

<sup>35</sup> *Or*, the first house *standing* on its foundation, when this house was before their eyes,

<sup>36</sup> *Hb*<sup>txt</sup> *reads* yet we do not sacrifice since

who brought us up hither. 3 But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and *the* rest of the heads of fathers' *houses* of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us in building a house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us. 4 Then *the* people of the land weakened *the* hands of *the* people of Judah, and <sup>37</sup>troubled them in building, 5 and hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all *the* days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until *the* reign of Darius king of Persia. 6 And in *the* reign of <sup>38</sup>Ahasuerus, in *the* beginning of his reign, wrote they an accusation against *the* inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

7 And in *the* days of <sup>39</sup>Artaxerxes wrote Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and *the* rest of his companions, unto Artaxerxes king of Persia; and *the* writing of the letter was written in *the* <sup>40</sup>Syrian character, and set forth in *the* Syrian tongue. 8 <sup>41</sup>Rehum *the* chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king in this sort: 9 then *wrote* Rehum *the* chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and *the* rest of their companions, the Dinaites, and the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Shushanchites, the Dehaites, the Elamites, 10 and *the* rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnappar brought over, and set in *the* city of Samaria, and in *the* rest of *the* country beyond <sup>42</sup>the River, and so forth.

11 This is *the* copy of the letter that they sent unto Artaxerxes the king: Thy servants *the* men beyond the River, and so forth. 12 Be it known unto the king, that the Jews that came up from thee are come to us unto Jerusalem; they are building the rebellious and the bad city, and have finished the walls, and repaired the foundations. 13 Be it known now unto the king, that, if this city be builded, and the walls finished, they will not pay tribute, custom, or toll, and in *the* end it will be hurtful unto the kings. 14 Now because we eat *the* salt of the palace, and it is not meet for us to see the king's dishonor, therefore have we sent and certified the king; 15 that search may be made in *the* book of the records of thy fathers: so shalt thou find in the book of the records, and know that this city *is* a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same of old time; for which cause was this city laid waste. 16 We certify the king that, if this city be builded, and the walls finished, by this means thou shalt have no portion beyond the River.

<sup>37</sup> *Or*, terrified

<sup>38</sup> *Hb.* Ahashverosh, *Gk.* Xerxes,

<sup>39</sup> *Hb.* Artachshasth *And so everywhere else.*

<sup>40</sup> *Or*, Aramaic (*both times*).

<sup>41</sup> Ch. 4:8-6:18 *is* in Aramaic (*Syraic*).

<sup>42</sup> *That is*, the River Euphrates

17 *Then* sent the king an answer unto Rehum *the* chancellor, and to Shimshai the scribe, and to *the* rest of their companions that dwell in Samaria, and <sup>43</sup>*in the rest of the country* beyond the River: Peace, and so forth. 18 The letter which ye sent unto us hath been <sup>44</sup>plainly read before me. 19 And I decreed, and search hath been made, and it is found that this city of old time hath made insurrection against kings, and *that* rebellion and sedition have been made therein. 20 There have been mighty kings also over Jerusalem, who have ruled over all *the country* beyond the River; and tribute, custom, and toll, was paid unto them. 21 Make ye now a decree to cause these men to cease, and that this city be not builded, until the decree shall be made by me. 22 And take heed that ye be not slack herein: why should damage grow to the hurt of *the* kings?

23 Then when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power. 24 Then ceased the work of *the* house of God which *is* at Jerusalem; and it ceased until <sup>45</sup>*the* second year of *the* reign of Darius king of Persia.

5 Now the prophets, Haggai *the* prophet, and Zechariah *the* son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that *were* in Judah and Jerusalem; in *the* name of *the* God of Israel <sup>46</sup>*prophesied they* unto them. 2 Then rose up Zerubbabel *the* son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua *the* son of Jozadak, and began to build *the* house of God which *is* at Jerusalem; and with them *were* the prophets of God, helping them. 3 At the same time came to them Tattenai, *the* governor beyond the River, and Shethar-bozenai, and their companions, and said thus unto them, Who gave you a decree to build this house, and to finish this wall? 4 Then we told them after this manner, what the names of the men *were* that were making this building. 5 But *the* eye of their God was upon *the* elders of the Jews, and they did not make them cease, till the matter should come to Darius, and then <sup>47</sup>answer should be returned by letter concerning it.

6 *The* copy of the letter that Tattenai, *the* governor beyond the River, and Shethar-bozenai, and his companions the Apharsachites, who *were* beyond the River, sent unto Darius the king; 7 they sent the letter unto him, wherein was written thus: Unto Darius the king, all peace. 8 Be it known unto the king, that we went into the province of Judah, to *the* house of the

<sup>43</sup> *Or, unto the rest beyond the River:*

<sup>44</sup> *Or, translated before me.*

<sup>45</sup> *That is, BC 422 Mar 31 to 421 Apr 17, per Richard A. Parker and Waldo H. Dubberstein, Babylonian Chronology; Providence: Brown Univ. Press, 1956.*

<sup>46</sup> *Or, which was upon them.*

<sup>47</sup> *Or, they returned answer by letter*

great God, which is builded with great stones, and timber is laid in the walls; and this work goeth on with diligence and prospereth in their hands. 9 Then asked we those elders, *and* said unto them thus, Who gave you a decree to build this house, and to finish this wall? 10 We asked them their names also, to certify thee, that we might write *the* names of the men that *were* at *the* head of them. 11 And thus they returned us answer, saying, We are *the* servants of the God of heavens and earth, and are building the house that was builded these many years ago, which a great king of Israel builded and finished. 12 But <sup>48</sup>after that our fathers had provoked the God of heaven unto wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house, and carried the people away into Babylon. 13 But in *the* first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, Cyrus the king made a decree to build this house of God. 14 And the gold and silver vessels also of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that *was* in Jerusalem, and brought into the temple of Babylon, those did Cyrus the king take out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered unto *one* whose name *was* Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor; 15 and he said unto him, Take these vessels, go, put them in the temple that *is* in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be builded in its place. 16 Then came the same Sheshbazzar, *and* laid *the* foundations of the house of God which *is* in Jerusalem: and since that time even until now hath it been in building, and *yet* it is not completed. 17 Now therefore, if *it seem* good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure-house, which *is* there at Babylon, whether it be *so*, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of God at Jerusalem; and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter.

6 Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in *the* house of the <sup>49</sup>archives, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon. 2 And there was found at <sup>50</sup>Achmetha, in the palace that *is* in the province of Media, a roll, and therein *was* thus written for the record: 3 In *the* first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king made a decree: *Concerning* the house of God at Jerusalem, let the house be builded, the place where they offer sacrifices, and let *the* foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof sixty cubits, *and* the breadth thereof sixty cubits; 4 *with* three courses of great stones, and a course of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the king's house. 5 And also let the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which *is* at Jerusalem, and brought unto

<sup>48</sup> *Or, because that our fathers*

<sup>49</sup> *Aram. books,*

<sup>50</sup> *That is, Ecbatana, [modern Hamadan, Iran]*

Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which *is* at Jerusalem, *every one* to its place; and thou shalt put *them* in the house of God.

6 Now *therefore*, Tattenai, governor beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai, and <sup>51</sup>your companions the Apharsachites, who *are* beyond the River, be ye far from thence: 7 let *the* work of this house of God alone; let *the* governor of the Jews and *the* elders of the Jews build this house of God in its place. 8 Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to these elders of the Jews for *the* building of this house of God: that of the king's goods, *even* of *the* tribute beyond the River, expenses be given with all diligence unto these men, that they be not hindered. 9 And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for burnt-offerings to the God of heaven; *also* wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to *the* word of the priests that *are* at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail; 10 that they may offer sacrifices of sweet savor unto the God of heaven, and pray for *the* lives of the king, and of his sons. 11 Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let a beam be pulled out from his house, and let him be lifted up and fastened thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this: 12 and the God that hath caused his name to dwell there overthrow any kings and peoples that shall put forth their hand to alter *the same*, to destroy this house of God which *is* at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with all diligence.

13 Then Tattenai, *the* governor beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai, and their companions, <sup>52</sup>because that Darius the king had sent, did accordingly with all diligence. 14 And *the* elders of the Jews builded and prospered, through *the* prophesying of Haggai *the* prophet and Zechariah *the* son of Iddo. And they builded and finished *it*, according to *the* commandment of *the* God of Israel, and according to *the* decree of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. 15 And this house was finished <sup>53</sup>on *the* third day of *the* month Adar, which was in *the* sixth year of *the* reign of Darius the king.

16 And the children of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and *the* rest of *the* children of the captivity, kept *the* dedication of this house of God with joy. 17 And they offered at *the* dedication of this house of God a hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for the sin-offering for all Israel, twelve he-goats, according to *the* number of *the* tribes of Israel. 18 And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which *is* at Jerusalem; as it is written in *the* book of Moses.

<sup>51</sup> *Aram.* their

<sup>52</sup> *Or,* because of that *which* Darius the king had sent,

<sup>53</sup> *That is,* BC 417 March 8, *per* Parker & Dubberstein.

19 And *the* children of the captivity kept the passover upon *the* fourteenth *day* of the first month. 20 For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves <sup>54</sup>together; all of them *were* pure: and they killed the passover for all *the* children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. 21 And *the* children of Israel that were come again out of the captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from *the* filthiness of *the* nations of the land, to seek Jehovah, the God of Israel, did eat, 22 and kept *the* feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for Jehovah had made them joyful, and had turned *the* heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in *the* work of the house of God, *the* God of Israel.

7 Now after these things, in *the* reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra *the* son of Seraiah, *the* son of Azariah, *the* son of Hilkiah, 2 *the* son of Shallum, *the* son of Zadok, *the* son of Ahitub, 3 *the* son of Amariah, *the* son of Azariah, *the* son of Meraioth, 4 *the* son of Zerariah, *the* son of Uzzi, *the* son of Bukki, 5 *the* son of Abishua, *the* son of Phinehas, *the* son of Eleazar, *the* son of Aaron the chief priest; 6 this Ezra went up from Babylon: and he *was* a ready scribe in *the* law of Moses, which Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, had given; and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of Jehovah his God upon him. 7 And there went up *some* of *the* children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinim, unto Jerusalem, in *the* seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. 8 And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which *was* in the seventh year of the king. 9 For upon *the* first *day* of the first month <sup>55</sup>began he to go up from Babylon; and on *the* first *day* of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. 10 For Ezra had set his heart to seek *the* law of Jehovah, and to do *it*, and to teach in Israel statutes and ordinances.

11 Now this *is* *the* copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, *even* *the* scribe of *the* words of *the* commandments of Jehovah, and of his statutes to Israel: 12 <sup>56</sup>Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, *the* scribe of the law of the God of heavens, perfect and so forth. 13 I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and their priests and the Levites, in my realm, that are minded of their own free will to go to Jerusalem, go with thee. 14 Forasmuch as thou art sent <sup>57</sup>of the king and his seven counsellors, to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to *the* law of thy God which *is* in

<sup>54</sup> *Hb.* as one;

<sup>55</sup> *Hb.* that was *the* foundation of the going up

<sup>56</sup> Ch. 7:12-26 *is in Aramaic.*

<sup>57</sup> *Aram.* from before the king

thy hand, 15 and to carry *the* silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto *the* God of Israel, whose habitation *is* in Jerusalem, 16 and all *the* silver and gold that thou shalt find in all *the* province of Babylon, with *the* freewill-offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for *the* house of their God which *is* in Jerusalem; 17 therefore thou shalt with all diligence buy with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meal-offerings and their drink-offerings, and shalt offer them upon the altar of *the* house of your God which is in Jerusalem. 18 And whatsoever shall seem good to thee and to thy brethren to do with *the* rest of the silver and the gold, that do ye after *the* will of your God. 19 And the vessels that are given thee for *the* service of *the* house of thy God, deliver thou before *the* God of Jerusalem. 20 And whatsoever more shall be needful for *the* house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow *it* out of the king's treasure-house. 21 And I, *even* I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers that *are* beyond the River, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, *the* scribe of the law of the God of heavens, shall require of you, it be done with all diligence, 22 unto <sup>58</sup>a hundred talents of silver, and to a hundred <sup>59</sup>measures of wheat, and to <sup>60</sup>a hundred baths of wine, and to a hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing *how much*. 23 Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heavens, let it be done exactly for *the* house of the God of heavens; for why should there be wrath against *the* realm of the king and his sons? 24 Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, the singers, porters, Nethinim, or servants of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose tribute, custom, or toll, upon them. 25 And thou, Ezra, after *the* wisdom of thy God that *is* in thy hand, appoint magistrates and judges, who may judge all the people that *are* beyond the River, all such as know *the* laws of thy God; and teach ye him that knoweth *them* not. 26 And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed upon him with all diligence, whether *it be* unto death, or to <sup>61</sup>banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.

27 Blessed *be* Jehovah, *the* God of our fathers, who hath put *such a thing* as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of Jehovah which *is* in Jerusalem; 28 and hath extended lovingkindness unto me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened according to *the* hand of Jehovah my God upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me.

<sup>58</sup> *That is*, 100 talents = 3480 kg.

<sup>59</sup> *Aram. cors That is*, 100 cors = 22 m<sup>3</sup> = 625 bushels

<sup>60</sup> *That is*, 100 baths = 2,200 liters.

<sup>61</sup> *Aram. rooting out,*

8 Now these are *the* heads of their fathers' houses, and *this is the* genealogy of them that went up with me from Babylon, in *the* reign of Artaxerxes the king: 2 Of *the* sons of Phinehas, Gershom. Of *the* sons of Ithamar, Daniel. Of *the* sons of David, Hattush. 3 Of *the* sons of Shecaniah, of *the* sons of Parosh, Zechariah; and with him were reckoned by genealogy of *the* males a hundred fifty. 4 Of *the* sons of Pahathmoab, Eliehoenai *the* son of Zeremiah; and with him two hundred males. 5 Of *the* sons of Shecaniah, *the* son of Jahaziel; and with him three hundred males. 6 And of *the* sons of Adin, Ebed *the* son of Jonathan; and with him fifty males. 7 And of *the* sons of Elam, Jeshaiah *the* son of Athaliah; and with him seventy males. 8 And of *the* sons of Shephatiah, Zebadiah *the* son of Michael; and with him eighty males. 9 Of *the* sons of Joab, Obadiah *the* son of Jehiel; and with him two hundred eighteen males. 10 And of *the* sons of Shelomith, *the* son of Josiphiah; and with him a hundred sixty males. 11 And of *the* sons of Bebai, Zechariah *the* son of Bebai; and with him twenty-eight males. 12 And of *the* sons of Azgad, Johanan *the* son of Hakkatan; and with him a hundred ten males. 13 And of *the* sons of Adonikam, *that were the* last; and these *are* their names: Eliphelet, Jeuel, and Shemaiah; and with them sixty males. 14 And of *the* sons of Bigvai, Uthai and <sup>62</sup>Zabud; and with them seventy males.

15 And I gathered them together to the river that runneth to Ahava; and there we encamped three days: and I viewed the people, and the priests, and found there none of *the* sons of Levi. 16 Then sent I for Eliezer, for Ariel, for Shemaiah, and for Elnathan, and for Jarib, and for Elnathan, and for Nathan, and for Zechariah, and for Meshullam, chief men; also for Joiarib, and for Elnathan, <sup>63</sup>who were teachers. 17 And <sup>64</sup>I sent them forth unto Iddo the chief at the place Casiphia; and I told them what they should say unto <sup>65</sup>Iddo, *and* his brethren the Nethinim, at the place Casiphia, that they should bring unto us ministers for *the* house of our God. 18 And according to the good hand of our God upon us they brought us <sup>66</sup>a man of discretion, of *the* sons of Mahli, *the* son of Levi, *the* son of Israel; and Sherebiah, with his sons and his brethren, eighteen; 19 and Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiah of *the* sons of Merari, his brethren and their sons, twenty; 20 and of the Nethinim, whom David and the princes had given for *the* service of the Levites, two hundred twenty Nethinim: all of them were mentioned by name.

<sup>62</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> reads Zakkur; *or*, Zaccur; *as do* (Aram.), Vg.

<sup>63</sup> *Or*, who had understanding.

<sup>64</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> *Aram. read* I gave them commandment unto

<sup>65</sup> *The Hb. text as pointed reads* Iddo his brother

<sup>66</sup> *Or*, Ish-sechel,

21 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek of him a straight way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. 22 For I was ashamed to ask of the king *a band of soldiers and horsemen* to help us against *the enemy* in the way, because we had spoken unto the king, saying, *The hand of our God is upon all them that seek him, for good; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.* 23 So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was entreated of us.

24 Then I set apart twelve of *the chiefs* of <sup>67</sup>the priests, <sup>68</sup>even Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them, 25 and weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, *even the offering for the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his princes, and all Israel there present, had offered:* 26 I weighed into their hand <sup>69</sup>six hundred fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels <sup>70</sup>a hundred talents; of gold a hundred talents; 27 and twenty bowls of gold, of <sup>71</sup>a thousand darics; and two vessels of fine bright copper, precious as gold. 28 And I said unto them, Ye are holy unto Jehovah, and the vessels *are* holy; and the silver and the gold *are* a freewill-offering unto Jehovah, *the God of your fathers.* 29 Watch ye, and keep *them*, until ye weigh *them* before *the chiefs of the priests and the Levites, and the princes of the fathers' houses of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of Jehovah.* 30 So the priests and the Levites received *the weight of the silver and the gold, and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem unto the house of our God.*

31 Then we departed from *the river Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and the liar-in-wait by the way.* 32 And we came to Jerusalem, and abode there three days. 33 And on the fourth day the silver and the gold and the vessels were weighed in *the house of our God* <sup>72</sup>into *the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas; and with them was Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, the Levites;* 34 the whole by number *and* by weight: and all the weight was written at that time.

35 *The children of the captivity, that were come out of exile, offered burnt-offerings unto the God of Israel, twelve bullocks for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, twelve he-goats for a sin-offering: all this*

<sup>67</sup> In Neh 12:24, the Levites,

<sup>68</sup> Or, besides

<sup>69</sup> That is, 650 talents = 22,600 kg (silver).

<sup>70</sup> That is, 100 talents = 3,480 kg.

<sup>71</sup> That is, 1,000 darics = 8.3 kg (gold).

<sup>72</sup> Or, by

*was a burnt-offering* unto Jehovah. 36 And they delivered the king's commissions unto the king's satraps, and to *the* governors beyond the River: and they furthered the people and the house of God.

9 Now when these things were done, the princes drew near unto me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests and the Levites, have not separated themselves from *the peoples of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.* 2 For they have taken of their daughters for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with *the peoples of the lands: yes, the hand of the princes and* <sup>73</sup>rulers hath been <sup>74</sup>chief in this trespass. 3 And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my robe, and plucked off *the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down confounded.* 4 Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at *the words of the God of Israel, because of the trespass of them of the captivity; and I sat confounded until the evening oblation.*

5 And during the evening oblation I arose up from my <sup>75</sup>humiliation, even with my garment and my robe rent; and I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto Jehovah my God; 6 and I said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God; for our iniquities are increased over *our* head, and our guiltiness is grown up unto the heavens. 7 Since *the days of our fathers we have been* <sup>76</sup>exceeding guilty unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, *and* our priests, been delivered into *the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to plunder, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.* 8 And now for a little moment grace hath been *showed* from Jehovah our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage. 9 For we *are* bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended lovingkindness unto us in *the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the* <sup>77</sup>ruins thereof, and to give us a <sup>78</sup>wall in Judah and in Jerusalem. 10 And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments, 11 which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land through *the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, through*

<sup>73</sup> Or, the deputies

<sup>74</sup> Or, first

<sup>75</sup> Or, fasting,

<sup>76</sup> Hb. in great guiltiness unto this day;

<sup>77</sup> Or, waste places thereof,

<sup>78</sup> Or, fence

their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their filthiness: 12 now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their prosperity <sup>79</sup>for ever; that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave *it* for an inheritance to your children for ever. 13 And after all *that* is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great guilt, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities *deserve*, and hast given us such a remnant, 14 shall we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with *the* peoples that do these abominations? wouldst not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed *us*, so that *there should be* no remnant, nor any to escape? 15 O Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, thou *art* righteous; for we are left a remnant that is escaped, as *it is* this day: behold, we *are* before thee in our guiltiness; for none can stand before thee because of this.

10 Now while Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there was gathered together unto him out of Israel a very great assembly of men and women and children; for the people wept very sore. 2 And Shecaniah *the* son of Jehiel, *one of the* sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have married foreign women of *the* peoples of the land: yet now there is hope for Israel concerning this thing. 3 Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all *the* wives, and such as are born of them, according to *the* counsel of <sup>80</sup>my Jehovah, and of those *that* tremble at *the* commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law. 4 Arise; for the matter *belongeth* unto thee, and we *are* with thee: be of good courage, and do *it*.

5 Then arose Ezra, and made the chiefs of the priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they would do according to this word. So they sware. 6 Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into *the* chamber of Jehohanan *the* son of Eliashib: and *when* he came thither, he did eat no bread, nor drink water; for he mourned because of *the* trespass of them of the captivity. 7 And they made proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem unto all *the* children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together unto Jerusalem; 8 and that whosoever came not within three days, according to *the* counsel of the princes and the elders, all his substance should be <sup>81</sup>forfeited, and himself separated from *the* assembly of the captivity.

9 Then all *the* men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together unto Jerusalem within the three

<sup>79</sup> *Or*, for time unlimited, [*i.e.*, without fixed termination] (*both times*).

<sup>80</sup> Sopherim *changed to* my lord, *or*, my Lord,

<sup>81</sup> *Hb.* devoted,

days; *it was* the ninth month, on *the* twentieth *day* of the month: and all the people sat in *the* broad place before the house of God, trembling because of *this* matter, and for <sup>82</sup>the great rain. 10 And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have trespassed, and have married foreign women, to increase *the* guilt of Israel. 11 Now therefore <sup>83</sup>make confession unto Jehovah, *the* God of your fathers, and do his pleasure; and separate yourselves from *the* peoples of the land, and from the foreign women. 12 Then all the assembly answered and said with a loud voice, <sup>84</sup>As thou hast said concerning us, so must we do. 13 But the people *are* many, and *it is a* time of much rain, and we are not able to stand without: neither *is this a* work of one day or two; for we have greatly transgressed in this matter. 14 Let now our princes <sup>85</sup>be appointed for all the assembly, and let all them that are in our cities that have married foreign women come at appointed times, and with them *the* elders of every city, and *the* judges thereof, until *the* fierce wrath of our God be turned from us, <sup>86</sup>until this matter be despatched. 15 Only Jonathan *the* son of Asahel and Jahzeiah *the* son of Tikvah <sup>87</sup>stood up against this *matter*: and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite helped them.

16 And *the* children of the captivity did so. And Ezra the priest, *with* certain heads of fathers' *houses*, after their fathers' houses, and all of them by *their* names, were set apart; and they sat down in *the* first day of the tenth month to examine the matter. 17 And they made an end with all the men that had married foreign women by *the* first day of the first month.

18 And among *the* sons of the priests there were found that had married foreign women: *namely*, of *the* sons of Jeshua, *the* son of Jozadak, and his brethren, Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah. 19 And they gave their hand that they would put away their wives; and *being* guilty, *they offered* a ram of *the* flock for their guilt. 20 And of *the* sons of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah. 21 And of *the* sons of Harim: Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uzziyah. 22 And of *the* sons of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and Elasa.

23 And of the Levites: Jozabad, and Shimei, and Kelaiah (*the same is* 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 Malchijah, and Mijamin, and Eleazar, and

<sup>82</sup> *Hb.* the rains.

<sup>83</sup> *Or*, give thanks unto Jehovah,

<sup>84</sup> *Or*, As thou hast said, so it behooveth us to do.

<sup>85</sup> *Hb.* stand for all the assembly,

<sup>86</sup> *Or*, as touching this matter.

<sup>87</sup> *Or*, were appointed over this:



Malehijah, and Benaiah. 26 And of *the* sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Elijah. 27 And of *the* sons of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, and Jeremoth, and Zabad, and Aziza. 28 And of *the* sons of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, Athlai. 29 And of *the* sons of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch, and Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, <sup>88</sup>Jeremoth. 30 And of *the* sons of Pahath-moab: Adna, and Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, and Binnui, and Manasseh. 31 And *of the* sons of Harim: Eliezer, Isshijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon, 32 Benjamin, Malluch, Shemariah. 33 Of *the* sons of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, Shimei. 34 Of *the* sons of Bani: Maadai, Amram, and Uel, 35 Benaiah, Bedeiah, <sup>89</sup>Cheluhi, 36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib, 37 Mattaniah, Mattenai, and <sup>90</sup>Jaasu, 38 and Bani, and Binnui, Shimei, 39 and Shelemiah, and Nathan, and Adaiah, 40 Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai, 41 Azarel, and Shelemiah, Shemariah, 42 Shallum, Amariah, Joseph. 43 Of *the* sons of Nebo: Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, <sup>91</sup>Iddo, and Joel, Benaiah. 44 All these had taken foreign wives; and <sup>92</sup>*some* of them had wives by whom they had children.

*End of the Book of Ezra*

<sup>88</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> reads and Ramoth. *as do* Sept., Vg.,

*but not* Aram. [ורמת *or*, ירמת]

<sup>89</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> reads Cheluhu, *as does* Vg.

<sup>90</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> reads Jaasai, *as does* Vg.

<sup>91</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> reads Jaddai,

<sup>92</sup> *Or, some of the wives had borne children. as* Vg., *but not* Aram. Sept. reads begotten sons of them.

*The only Dead Sea Scroll covering Ezra-Nehemiah is 4QEzra, containing portions of only 14 verses in Ezra chs. 4-6. Abegg, Flint and Ulrich report only four variants from Massoretic text, and none is significant.*