

*Cyrus returns the Jews and orders building*

*the Temple, returns the vessels; Zerubbabel*

### CHAPTER 1

1 And in the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, that the word of Jehovah by the mouth of Jeremiah might be finished, Jehovah woke up the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia, and he caused a proclamation to cross over all his kingdom, and also wrote, saying,

2 Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia, Jehovah God of the heavens has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has visited upon me to build him a house at Jerusalem which *is* in Judah.

3 Who *is there* 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 God of Israel which *is* in Jerusalem - he *is* the God.

4 And everyone who remains in any place where he lodges, let the men of his place raise up to him silver, and gold, and property, and animals, with the freewill offering for the house of God that *is* in Jerusalem.

5 And the heads of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin rose up, and the priests and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God woke up, to go up to build the house of Jehovah which *is* in Jerusalem.

6 And all they who were around them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with property, and with animals, and with precious gems, separate from all that was willingly offered.

7 And Cyrus, the king, brought out the vessels of the house of Jehovah, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought out of Jerusalem, and had given them in the house of his gods;

8 And Cyrus, king of Persia, brought them out by the hand of Mithredath, the treasurer, and tallied them up to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

9 And this is the number of them: thirty basins of gold, a thousand basins of silver, twenty-nine sacrificial knives,

10 Thirty basins of gold, four hundred and ten silver basins of a second sort and a thousand other *vessels*.

11 All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand, four hundred. Sheshbazzar brought all these up with the exiles who were brought up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

### CHAPTER 2

1 And these *are* the children of the province who went up out of the captivity of those in exile whom Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had transported to Babylon as stripped captives, and returned to Jerusalem and Judah, every man to his city,

2 Who came with Zerubbabel<sup>2</sup>: Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

<sup>2</sup> 2:2 Zerubbabel, Born in Babylon.

**EZRA 2***The families who returned from Babylon with Zerubbabel*

3 The children of Parosh: two thousand, a hundred and seventy-two.

4 The children of Shephatiah: three hundred and seventy-two.

5 The children of Arah: seven hundred and seventy-five.

6 The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab: two thousand, eight hundred and twelve.

7 The children of Elam: a thousand, two hundred and fifty-four.

8 The children of Zattu: nine hundred and forty-five.

9 The children of Zaccai: seven hundred and sixty.

10 The children of Bani: six hundred and forty-two.

11 The children of Bebai: six hundred and twenty-three.

12 The children of Azgad: a thousand, two hundred and twenty-two.

13 The children of Adonikam: six hundred and sixty-six.

14 The children of Bigvai: two thousand and fifty-six.

15 The children of Adin: four hundred and fifty-four.

16 The children of Ater of Hezekiah: ninety-eight.

17 The children of Bezai: three hundred and twenty-three.

18 The children of Jorah: a hundred and twelve.

19 The children of Hashum: two hundred and twenty-three.

20 The children of Gibbar: ninety-five.

21 The children of Bethlehem: a hundred and twenty-three.

22 The men of Netophah: fifty-six.

23 The men of Anathoth: a hundred and twenty-eight.

24 The children of Azmaveth: forty-two.

25 The children of Kirjatharim, Chephirah, and Beeroth: seven hundred and forty-three.

26 The children of Ramah and Geba: six hundred and twenty-one.

27 The men of Michmas, a hundred and twenty-two.

28 The men of Bethel, and Ai: two hundred and twenty-three.

29 The children of Nebo: fifty-two.

30 The children of Magbish, a hundred and fifty-six.

31 The children of *the* other Elam: a thousand, two hundred and fifty-four.

32 The children of Harim: three hundred and twenty.

33 The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono: seven hundred and twenty-five.

34 The children of Jericho, three hundred and forty-five.

35 The children of Senaah: three thousand, six hundred and thirty.

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

37 The children of Immer: a thousand and fifty-two.

38 The children of Pashur: a thousand, two hundred and forty-seven.

39 The children of Harim: a thousand and seventeen.

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

41 The singers: the children of Asaph: a hundred and 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 and thirty-nine.

43 The servants given to the temple: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth,

44 The children of Keros, the children of 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 Shalmi, 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 Mehunim, the children of Nephusim,

51 The children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,

52 The children of Bazluth, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,

53 The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Thamah,

54 The children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha.

55 The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Peruda,

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 of Zebaim, the children of Ami.

58 All the servants given to the temple, and the children of Solomon's servants: three hundred and ninety-two.

59 And these went up from Telmelah: Telharsa, Cherub, Addan, and Immer, and they were not able to cause their father's house to stand out boldly, and their seed, whether they *were* of Israel.

60 The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda: six hundred and fifty-two.

61 And of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai, the Gileadite, and was called after their name;

62 These sought register of their genealogy, and they were not found; and they were as polluted out from the priesthood.

63 And the governor<sup>63</sup> said to them that they should not eat of the most holy *things* until there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim. Note Exo 28:30

**EZRA 3** *The congregation: 42,360, servants 7,337, and animals; they gave money, the altar set up*

64 The whole congregation as one *was* forty-two thousand, three hundred and sixty,

65 Separate from their servants and their maids; these *were* seven thousand, three hundred and thirty-seven, and among them two hundred singing men and singing women.

66 Their horses, seven hundred and thirty-six; their mules, two hundred and forty-five;

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

68 And some of the heads of the fathers, when they came to the house of Jehovah which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God to stand it up in its place;

69 They gave according to their power to the treasury of the work sixty-one thousand drachmas of gold, and five thousand measures of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

70 And the priests and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the servants given to the temple, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

### CHAPTER 3

1 And the seventh new moon was touched, and the children of Israel were in the cities, and the people gathered themselves to-

<sup>63</sup> 2:63 **governor**, *tirshatha*, a Persian word meaning governor, or provincial ruler. Here in Ezra 2:63 it is the title given to Sheshbazzar (the same is Zerubbabel). See Neh 7:65,70;8:9;10:1.

gether as one man to Jerusalem.

2 And Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, rose up, and his brothers, the priests, and Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, and his brothers, and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer up burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the law of Moses, the man of God.

3 And they set up the altar upon its pedestals, because dread of the people of those lands *was* upon them; and they offered up burnt offerings on it to Jehovah, burnt offerings dawn and dusk.

4 And they did the feast of tabernacles as it is written, and the burnt offerings day by day by number, according to the judged decree, by the word day by day;

5 And afterward the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the appointed feasts of Jehovah that were sanctified, and of everyone who willingly offered a freewill offering to Jehovah.

6 From day one of the seventh new moon they began to offer up burnt offerings to Jehovah, and the temple of Jehovah was not *yet* founded.

7 And they gave silver to the cutters and to the fabricators, and food, and drink, and oil, to them of Zidon and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees out of Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the permit of Cyrus, king of Persia.

8 And in the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second new moon, Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, began, and Jeshua, the

son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brothers, the priests and the Levites, and all who had come out of the captivity to Jerusalem, and they stood the Levites from a son of twenty years and upward to give light as superintendents over the work of the house of Jehovah.

9 And Jeshua stood his sons and his brothers, Kadmiel, and his sons, the sons of Judah, as one to superintend over the doers of the work in the house of God; the sons of Henadad, their sons and their brothers, the Levites.

10 And the builders laid the foundation of the temple of Jehovah, and they stood the priests in their garments with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to boast in Jehovah, after the hand of David, king of Israel.

11 And they answered in boasting in and raising their hands to Jehovah, because he *is* good, because his mercy *is* forever upon Israel; and all the people shouted a great shout, boasting in Jehovah, over the laying of the foundation of the house of Jehovah.

12 And many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers, who were old men, who had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice, and many raised a loud acclamation of joy;

13 And the people could not recognize the voice of the shout of joy from the voice of the weeping of the people, because the people shouted a great shout, and the voice was attentively heard afar off.

#### CHAPTER 4

1 And the oppressors of Judah and Benjamin attentively heard that the children of the captivity built the temple to Jehovah God of Israel,

2 And they drew near to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the fathers, and said to them, Let us build with you, because, like you, we tread seeking your God, and we have sacrificed to him since the days of Esarhaddon, king of Assur, who brought us up here.

3 And Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of the fathers of Israel, said to them, *It is* nothing to you, and we build a house to our God, because we together will build to Jehovah God of Israel what King Cyrus, the king of Persia, has commanded us.

4 And it was, the people of the land caused the hands of the people of Judah to slack off, and caused them to tremble in building,

5 And hired counselors against them to break up their counsel all the days of Cyrus, king of Persia, and until the reign of Darius,<sup>5</sup> king of Persia.

6 And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the opening of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

7 And in the days of Artaxerxes,<sup>7a</sup> Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of their col-

<sup>5</sup> **4:5 Darius** like Xerxes was a title of various Persian kings.

<sup>7a</sup> **4:7 Artaxerxes**, a title rather than a name, given to many of the kings of Persia.

**EZRA 4** *The non Jews write to the king of Persia warning against their building the Temple*

leagues, wrote to Artaxerxes, king of Persia; and the writing of the letter was written in Aramean,<sup>7b</sup> and translated from Aramean.

8 Rehum, the lord of investigation, and Shimshai, the scribe, wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes, the king, thus,

9 Then Rehum, the lord of investigation, and Shimshai, the scribe, and the rest of their colleagues: the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Susanchites, the Dehavites, and the Elamites,

10 And the rest of the communities whom the great and famous Asnappar stripped as captives, and set them down in the cities of Samaria, and the rest in the region across the river, and so forth.

11 This *is* the transcript of the letter that they sent to him, to Artaxerxes, the king; Your servants, the men in the region across the river, and so forth.

12 Be it known to the king, that the Jews who came up from you to us have arrived at Jerusalem, and are building the rebellious and the wicked city, and have completed its walls and joined the foundations.

13 And now, be it known to the king, that if this city is built and the walls completed they will not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and you shall suffer loss of the revenue of the kings.

14 Now because the salt of the king's palace *is* our salt, and it was not appropriate for us to gaze upon the king's being stripped, therefore we have sent and made *it* known to the king,

15 So that he may plow through the book of the records of your fathers, and you shall disclose in the book of the records, and know that this city is a rebellious city and hurtful to kings and provinces, and that they have made rebellion in the midst of days afar off; this city was destroyed over this.

16 We cause the king to know by seeing that, if this city is built, and its walls completed, on account of this there will be to you no portion in the region across the river.

17 The king sent an answer to Rehum, the lord of investigation, and to Shimshai, the scribe, and to the rest of their colleagues who dwell in Samaria, and to the rest in the region across the river, Peace, and so forth.

18 The letter which you sent to us has been specifically called out before me.

19 And I put the mandate, and they plowed through *the records*, and it is found that this city of days afar off has lifted itself against kings, and that rebellion and strife have been made there.

20 And powerful kings have existed over Jerusalem, and had power over all the region across the river; and tribute, excise, and toll was paid to them.

21 Now put a mandate to cause these men to cease, and this city shall not be built until a man-

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<sup>7b</sup> 4:7 Aramean, Syrian.

*The king's officers stop the work; Haggai and Zechariah lead the people; they write to Darius* **EZRA 5**  
date shall be put from me.

22 Be aware of being at fault to do this; why should damage increase to the loss of the kings?

23 Now, from that transcript, the letter of king Artaxerxes was called out before Rehum, and Shimshai, the scribe, and their colleagues; they departed in a hurry to Jerusalem to the Jews, and made them cease by armed force and resources.

24 Then the work of the house of God which *is* at Jerusalem ceased. And it was stopped until the second year of the reign of Darius, king of Persia.

#### CHAPTER 5

1 And the prophets, Haggai, the prophet, and Zechariah, the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who *were* in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel over them.

2 Then Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, rose up, and Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and freed themselves to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem; and the prophets of God were with them helping them.

3 At the same appointed time, Tatnai, governor of the region across the river arrived to them, and Shethar Boznai, and their colleagues, and said thus to them, Who has put you a mandate to build this house and to complete this wall?

4 Then we said to them thus, What are the names of the men who build this building?

5 And the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, and they could not cause them to cease until the mandate was brought to Darius, and then they returned answer by letter concerning this.

6 The transcript of the letter that Tatnai, governor of the region across the river, and Shethar Boznai, and his colleagues, the Apharsachites, who were in the region across the river, sent to Darius the king;

7 They sent a letter to him, in which this was written; To Darius, the king, all peace.

8 Be it known to the king by seeing, that we departed into the province of Judea to the house of the great God, and this is built with great stones, and timber is put in the walls, and this work is done with diligence, and pushes forward in their hands.

9 Then we asked those elders, saying thus to them, Who put you a mandate to build this house, and to complete these walls?

10 And also we asked of them their names to let you know that we might write the names of the men who *were* their heads.

11 And thus they returned to us an answer, saying, *We are* they, the servants of the God of the heavens and earth, and build the house that was built these many years ago, which a great king of Israel built, and completed.

12 Therefore, out of our fathers' provoking the God of the heavens to wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, the

**EZRA 6** *The king finds the original mandate of Cyrus to build the Temple; let the work continue*

king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house, and transported the people as stripped captives to Babylon.

13 Yet in the first year of Cyrus, the king of Babylon, King Cyrus put a mandate to build this house of God.

14 And also the vessels of gold and silver of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar brought out of the temple that *was* in Jerusalem, and brought them into the temple of Babylon, those Cyrus, the king, brought out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered to him whose name *was* Sheshbazzar, whom he had put governor;

15 And said to him, Lift these vessels, go, go down with them into the temple that *is* in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be built upon its place.

16 Then this Sheshbazzar arrived, and put the foundation of the house of God which *is* in Jerusalem, and since that time until now it has been in building, and it is not completed.

17 And now, if *it is* good to the king, let them plow through the king's treasure house, which *is* there at Babylon, if it is that a mandate was put by Cyrus, the king, to build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send his pleasure over this.

**CHAPTER 6**

1 Then Darius, the king, put a mandate, and they plowed through the house of records, that where the treasures were depos-

ited in Babylon,

2 And there was disclosed at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a first roll, and there it was a record thus written:

3 In the first year of Cyrus, the king, Cyrus, the king, put a mandate: The house of God at Jerusalem. Let the house be built, the place where they sacrificed sacrifices, and let its foundations be strongly laid; its height sixty cubits, and its width sixty cubits;

4 With three layers of great stones, and a row of new timber; and let the expenses be given out of the king's house;

5 And also let the vessels of gold and silver of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar brought forth out of the temple which *is* at Jerusalem, and brought to Babylon, be restored, and brought to the temple which *is* at Jerusalem, to its place, and descend them into the house of God.

6 Now, Tatnai, governor of the region across the river, Shethar Boznai, and your colleagues, the Apharsachites who *are* in the region across the river, you be far from there;

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 upon its place.

8 Hence I put a mandate what you shall do with the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God: that you let expenses be diligently given to these men out of the king's treasures, out of the



*The king mandates that they furnish the Jews what they need to build; they do the Passover* **EZRA 6**  
tribute from the region across the river that they be not stopped.

9 And that which they need, both sons of bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of the heavens, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the edict of the priests which *are* at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day, that without fail,

10 That they are bringing near what pleases the God of the heavens, and are bowing in prayer for the life of the king and of his sons.

11 And from me is put a mandate, that any man who shall alter this judicial sentence, let timber be torn down from his house, and him impaled, hanged on it; and let his house be made an outhouse for this.

12 And the God who has caused his name to dwell there overthrow all kings and people who shall send out their hand to alter and to destroy this house of God which *is* at Jerusalem. I, Darius, have put a mandate; let it be done diligently.

13 Then Tatnai, governor of the region across the river, Shethar Boznai and their colleagues, on account of that which Darius, the king, had sent, did thus diligently.

14 And the elders of the Jews built, and they pushed forward through the prophesying of Haggai, the prophet, and Zechariah, the son of Iddo. And they built, and completed it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and on account of the mandate of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes, king of Persia.

15 And this house was brought out on day three of the month Adar, which *was 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 consecration of this house of God with joy,

17 And brought near at the consecration of this house of God a hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

18 And they raised the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their sections, for the service of God, which *is* at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses.

19 And the children of the captivity did the Passover upon the fourteenth of the first new moon;

20 Because the priests and the Levites were purified as one, all of them were pure, and slaughtered the Passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brothers, the priests, and for themselves.

21 And the children of Israel who had returned out of captivity and all who separated themselves to them from the filthiness of the peoples of the land to tread seeking Jehovah God of Israel, ate,

22 And did the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy, because Jehovah had made them joyful, and turned around the heart of the king of Assyria to them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

**CHAPTER 7**

1 And after these words, 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 head priest:

6 He, Ezra, went up from Babylon, and he *was* a skilled scribe flowing like liquid in the law of Moses, what Jehovah God of Israel had given, and the king gave him all his request, according to the hand of Jehovah, his God, upon him.

7 And there went up of the children of Israel, and of the priests and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the servants given to the temple, to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes, the king.

8 And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth new moon, which *was* the seventh year of the king,

9 Because on the first of the first new moon he began to go up from Babylon, and on the first of the fifth new moon he came to Jerusalem, the good hand of his God upon him,

10 Because Ezra had set up his heart to tread seeking the law of Jehovah, and to do and to teach enactments and judgments in Israel.

11 And this *is* the transcript of the letter that the King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra, the priest, the scribe, a scribe of the words of the commandments of Jehovah and of his enactments to Israel.

12 Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra, the priest, a scribe of the royal decree<sup>12</sup> of the God of the heavens, complete *peace*, and so forth.

13 From me is put a mandate, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites in my realm, who of their own free will go to Jerusalem, go with you.

14 Since you have been sent from before the king and his seven counselors to plow through concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the royal decree of your God which is in your hand,

15 And to bring the silver and gold which the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose habitation *is* in Jerusalem,

16 And all the silver, and gold that you can 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 That you may buy diligently with this silver, bullocks, rams, lambs, with their food offerings, and their drink offerings, and bring them near upon the altar of the house of your God which *is* in Jerusalem.

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<sup>12</sup> **7:12 royal decree**, *dath*, a word used by Artaxerxes that he was accustomed to using in referring to royal decrees. He uses *dath* to refer to the law of God given to Moses.

*Ezra comes from Babylon with a royal decree from Artaxerxes for funds to build the Temple* **EZRA 8**

18 And whatever is good to you and to your brothers to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the desire of your God.

19 And you complete the vessels that are given to you for the service of the house of your God before the God of Jerusalem.

20 And the remainder necessary for the house of your God, which shall fall to you to give, give out of the king's treasure house.

21 And from me, Artaxerxes, the king, has put a mandate to all the treasurers who *are* in the region across the river, that all that Ezra, the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of the heavens, shall require of you, let it be done diligently,

22 To a hundred talents of silver, and to a hundred measures of wheat, and to a hundred baths of wine, and to a hundred baths of oil, and salt, that without prescribing.

23 All that apportioned by mandate by the God of the heavens, let it be done uprightly for the house of the God of the heavens, for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

24 And we make known to you, that to any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, servants given to the temple or who serve this house of God, it shall not be permitted to place tribute, excise, or toll upon them.

25 And you, Ezra, by the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint judges and attorneys<sup>5</sup> who will be undeviating

judges of all the people who are in the region across the river, all who know the royal decrees of your God, and you cause them who do not know to know.

26 And all who are not doing the royal decree of your God, and the royal decree of the king, let judgment be done diligently upon him, whether death, or banishment, or to a fine of property or bonds.

27 Blessed *is* Jehovah God of our fathers, who has given this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of Jehovah which *is* in Jerusalem,

28 And has stretched out mercy to me before the face of the king, and his counselors, and all of the king's mighty chief rulers. And I was strengthened, the hand of Jehovah, my God, upon me, and I gathered together heads out of Israel to go up with me.

## CHAPTER 8

1 And these *are* the heads of their fathers, and the genealogy of them who 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 Shechaniah, of the sons of Pharosh: Zechariah; and with him enrolled by genealogy of the males, a hundred and fifty.

<sup>5</sup> 7:25 attorneys, *dayan*, an advocate who does not deviate from a straight, *diyyn*, or righteous course. The words undeviating judges is the Hebrew word *diyyn* which means one who follows a straight or righteous course.

**EZRA 8** *The genealogy of those who came with Ezra from Babylon; they fast and seek God*

4 Of the sons of Pahath Moab: Elihoenai, the son of Zerariah, and with him two hundred males.

5 Of the sons of Shechaniah: 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: Jeshaiiah, 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 and eighteen males.

10 And of the sons of Shelomith: the son of Josiphiah, and with him a hundred and 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 and ten males.

13 And of the last sons of Adonikam, and these *are* names: Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah, and with them sixty males.

14 Of the sons also of Bigvai: Uthai, and Zabbud, and with them seventy males.

15 And I gathered them together to the river that goes to Ahava, and we pitched our tents there three days; and I discerned the people and the priests, and found there none of the sons of Levi.

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

17 And I commanded them to Iddo, the head at the place Casiphia, and I put in their mouth their words to Iddo, his brothers, the servants given to the temple, at the place Casiphia, that they should bring to us ministers for the house of our God.

18 And by the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a man of intelligent success, of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel; and Sherebiah, with his sons, and his brothers, eighteen;

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

20 And of the servants given to the temple, whom David and the chief rulers had given for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty servants given to the temple; all of them were punctured out by name.

21 And I called out a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might look upon ourselves with harshness before the face of our God, to seek from him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our property,

22 Because I paled in shame to require of the king resources and horsemen<sup>22</sup> to surround us with help against those hating us in the

<sup>22</sup> 8:22 horsemen, *parash*, horses, not single nor for mounting, but for chariots.

*Ezra and those with him fast and seek God; gold, silver, and brass vessels carried with them* **EZRA 9**

way, because we had said to the king, saying, The hand of our God *is* upon all for good who seek him; and his strength and his nostrils *are* against all who forsake him.

23 And we fasted and sought our God for this, and he received our incense of prayer.

24 And I separated twelve of the chief rulers of the priests, Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brothers with them,

25 And weighed to them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, the offering for the house of our God, which the king, and his counselors, and his chief rulers, and all Israel present, had raised;

26 And I weighed into their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and a hundred talents of silver vessels; a hundred talents of gold;

27 And twenty basins of gold, of a thousand darics,<sup>27</sup> and two vessels of good golden brass, beautiful as gold.

28 And I said to them, You *are* holy to Jehovah, and the vessels are holy; and the silver, and the gold *are* a freewill offering to Jehovah God of your fathers.

29 Be sleepless, and hedge *them* about until you weigh them before the chief rulers of the priests and the Levites and chief rulers of the fathers of Israel at Jerusalem in the rooms of the house of Jehovah.

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

<sup>27</sup> 8:27 darics, a Persian coin of money.

31 And we pulled up from the river of Ahava on the twelfth of the first new moon to walk to Jerusalem, and the hand of our God was upon us, and he snatched us from the palm of those hating us and those who lurked by the way.

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

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

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

35 Those who came out of the captivity of the children of the exile brought near burnt offerings to the God of Israel: twelve bullocks for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, twelve he goats, a sin offering; all *were* a burnt offering to Jehovah.

36 And they gave the king's royal decree to the king's governor-generals and to the provincial governors in the region across the river, and they raised up the people, and the house of God.

## CHAPTER 9

1 And when these *things* were finished, the chief rulers drew near to me, saying, The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, from their abominations, of the

**EZRA 9***Ezra prays and confesses the sins of the people marrying idolators*

Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites,

2 Because they have lifted up their daughters for themselves, and for their sons, and have given the holy seed as security with the people of the lands; and the hand of the chief rulers and provincial governors have been first in this treachery.

3 And when I attentively heard this word I tore my garment and my cloak, and pulled out the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down stunned.

4 Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel over the treachery of the exiles were assembled to me, and I sat stunned until the food offering at dusk.

5 And at the food offering at dusk I rose up from my looking upon myself with harshness, and having torn my garment and my cloak, I bent down upon my knees, and spread out my palms to Jehovah my God,

6 And said, God, I pale in shame, and am reproached to raise up my face to you, my God, because our iniquities are increased over *our* head, and our guilt has become great to the heavens.

7 Since the days of our fathers we have been in great guiltiness to this day, and we, our kings, and our priests, have been given into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to spoil, and to shame of face, for our iniquities as this day.

8 And now for a little wink of time, there has been grace 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 light our eyes, and give us a little preservation of life in our bondage,

9 Because *we* were servants, and in our bondage our God has not forsaken us, but has spread out mercy to us before the face of the kings of Persia, to give us a preservation of life, to raise up the house of our God, and to cause it to stand up from its desolations, and to give us a walled enclosure in Judah and in Jerusalem.

10 And now, our God, what shall we say after this? Because we have forsaken your commandments,

11 What you commanded by the hand of your servants, the prophets, saying, The land to which you go to possess, it *is* a filthy land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations which have filled it from end to end with their uncleanness.

12 And now do not give your daughters to their sons, and do not take up their daughters to your sons, and do not tread seeking their peace or their good forever, so that you may be strong and eat the good of the land, and possess it for your children forever.

13 And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great guiltiness, that you, our God, have held us back from beneath our iniquities, and have given us this deliverance;

14 Should we turn back to break your commandments, and contract marriages with the people of these abominations? Would you not be enraged with us until you had ended *us with* no remnant escaping?

15 Jehovah, God of Israel, you *are* righteous, because we are left, escaped, as this day; behold, we *are* before your face in our guiltiness, because we cannot stand before your face over this.

### **CHAPTER 10**

1 And when Ezra had judged in prayer, and when he had raised his hands, weeping, and falling before the face of the house of God, there assembled to him out of Israel a very great congregation of men, and women, and children, because the people wept, making great weeping.

2 And Shechaniah, the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, answered, and said to Ezra, We have acted treacherously against our God, and have sat down with strange wives of the people of the land; and now there is hope in Israel over this.

3 And now let us cut a covenant with our God to cause all the wives to go out and those born of them, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who fear the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the law.

4 Rise up, because this word *is* to you, and we *are* with you; be strong, and do.

5 And Ezra rose up, and made the chief rulers of the priests, the Levites, and all Israel to swear to do according to this word. And they swore.

6 And Ezra rose up from before the face of the house of God, and walked into the room of Johanan, the son of Eliashib; and when he walked there, he did not eat food, and he did not drink water, because he mourned over the treachery of those transported away as stripped captives.

7 And they caused a loud call to cross over through Judah and Jerusalem to all the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together to Jerusalem;

8 And that all who would not come within three days, according to the counsel of the chief rulers and the elders, that all his property should be devoted, and he separated from the congregation of those transported away as stripped captives.

9 And all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together to Jerusalem within three days. It was the ninth new moon, on the twentieth of the new moon, and all the people sat down in the street of the house of God, shuddering over the word and the rain.

10 And Ezra, the priest, rose up, and said to them, You have acted treacherously, and have sat down with strange wives to add guiltiness to Israel.

11 And now raise your hands to Jehovah God of your fathers, and do his pleasure, and separate yourselves from the people of the

**EZRA 10** *Because of the rain those separating from strange wives come by appointment; those listed land and from the strange wives.*

12 And all the congregation answered, and said with a loud voice, As you have spoken, so we do.

13 Yet the people *are* many, and it is a time of rain; and we do not have power to stand outside, and the work *is* not one day, and not two, because we are many who have broken away in this word.

14 Let now our chief rulers of all the congregation stand, and let all them who have sat down with strange wives in our cities come at appointed times, and the elders with them, city by city, and their judges, until the burning nostrils of our God for this word turn back from us.

15 Only Jonathan, the son of Asahel, and Jahaziah, the son of Tikvah, stood over this, and Meshullam, and Shabbethai, the Levite, surrounded them with help.

16 And the children of the captivity did so, and Ezra, the priest, men, chief rulers of the fathers, of the house of their fathers, and all of them by their names, were separated, and sat down in the first day of the tenth new moon to tread seeking the word.

17 And they finished with all the men who had sat down with strange wives by day one of the first new moon.

18 And there were found of the sons of the priests who had sat down with strange wives: of the sons of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and his brothers; Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah.

19 And they gave their hands that they would cause their wives to go away, and they offered a sin offering of a ram of the flock for their guiltiness.

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, Jozabad, and Elasah.

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

24 And of the singers: Eliashib: and of the porters: 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, 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 Of the sons also of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai.

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

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

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



32 Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah.

33 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, Bedeiah, Chelluh,

36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,

37 Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jaasau,

38 And Bani, and Binnui, 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, and Joel, Benaiah.

44 All these had taken up strange wives, and there were of them wives by whom they put forth<sup>44</sup> children.

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<sup>44</sup> **10:44 put forth**, *suwm*. *Suwm* is simply the word put. Here it means there were marriages in which the wives had given birth (put) children; therefore the going out of those wives was more painful and complicated; but this was the only way to save the Jewish people and the purity of the faith in Jehovah God, so that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Lord, could be born as God planned, and as He had so jealously guarded

**EZRA**

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