

3RD EZRA

¹ And Josiah made *(the)* pask *(or the Passover)* in Jerusalem to the Lord, and he offered *(the)* pask the fourteenth day of the month of the first month,

² ordaining *(the)* priests by *their* whiles of days, clothed in stoles, *or long clothes*, in the temple of the Lord.

³ And he said to the deacons [*or to the Levites*], the holy servants of Israel, that they should hallow themselves to the Lord, in *(the)* setting of the holy ark of the Lord in the house, that king Solomon, the son of David, builded;

⁴ It shall not be to you *no more* to take it upon *(your)* shoulders; and now serveth to our Lord, and do ye *(the)* care of that folk of Israel, of the part after towns, and their lineages,

⁵ after *(or according to)* the writing of David, king of Israel, and after the great worshipful doing of Solomon, his son, in all the temple, and after your little fathers part of *(the)* princehood of them, that stand in the sight of the brethren of the sons of Israel.

⁶ Offer ye *(the)* pask, and maketh ready the sacrifices to your brethren; and do ye after the behest of the Lord, that is given to Moses.

⁷ And Josiah gave to the folk that was found *there*, sheep, of lambs, and of kids, and of she-goats, thirty thousand; calves, three thousand.

⁸ These *gifts* be given (*out*) of the king's own things, after the behest of *the Lord* to the people, and to (*the*) priests, into (*the*) pask; sheep in number two thousand, and calves an hundred.

⁹ And Jeconiah, and Samaeas, and Nathanael, *his* brother, and Sabias, and Ochiel, and Joram, *gave* into (*the*) pask, five thousand sheep, and five hundred calves.

¹⁰ And when these things were nobly done, the priests and deacons [*or Levites*] stood, having therf loaves by lineages.

¹¹ And after the parts of the prince-hood of (*the*) fathers, they offered to the Lord in the sight of the people, after those things that be written in the book of Moses.

¹² And they roasted the pask with fire, as it behooved; and they soddened hosts in seething vessels and in pots, with well-willing.

¹³ And they brought *it* to all that there were of the folk; and after these things they made ready to (*or for*) themselves and to (*or for the*) priests.

¹⁴ Forsooth the priests offered inner fatness [*or tallow*], unto the hour was ended; and (*the*) deacons prepared to (*or for*) themselves [*or and (the) Levites made ready to themselves*], and to (*or for*) their brethren, and to (*or*) the sons of Aaron.

¹⁵ And men sacrificing [*or the sacri-ficers*] offered *their* daughters, after the order and the behests (*or commands*) of David; and Asaph, and Zechariah, and Eddinous, that was of the king;

¹⁶ and the porters by all the gates *offered*, so that none passed his *gate*. Forsooth their brethren prepared to (*or made ready for*) them.

17 And so those things, that pertained to the sacrifice of the Lord, be ended. In that day they did (*the*) pask,

18 and offered hosts upon the sacrifice of the Lord, after the behest (*or the command*) of king Josiah.

19 And the sons of Israel, that were found *present*, did in that time (*the*) pask, and the feast day of therf loaves by seven days.

20 And there was not solemnized such a pask in Israel, from the times of Samuel, the prophet.

21 And all the kings of Israel hallowed not such a pask, as did Josiah, and the priests, and deacons [*or Levites*], and (*the*) Jews, and all Israel, that were found in the commemoration, *or mind-making*, (*or memory-making*), at Jerusalem.

22 In the eighteenth year, Josiah reigning, *this* pask was hallowed.

23 And the works of Josiah be made right in the sight of the Lord, in (*or with a*) full dreading heart;

24 and those things forsooth that *were* about him be written, in the rather times of them that sinned, and the which were unreligious against the Lord, before, *or more than*, all heathen folk, and the which sinners sought not the words of the Lord upon Israel.

25 And after all this deed (*or all these deeds*) of Josiah, Pharaoh, king of Egypt, went up, coming to cast away in Carchemish upon Euphrates; and Josiah went into (*the*) meeting to (*or of*) him.

26 And the king of Egypt sent to Josiah, saying, What is to me and to thee, king of Judea?

27 I am not sent of (*or from*) the Lord (*against thee*), upon Euphrates forsooth is my battle; hastily *therefore* go down.

28 And Josiah was not turned again (*or did not turn back*) upon the chariot, but he endeavoured himself to over-come Pharaoh [*or but (he) enforced to overcome him*], not taking heed to the word of the prophet (*Jeremiah*), from the mouth of the Lord;

29 but he set to him battle in the field of Megiddo; and (*the*) princes came down to (*fight*) king Josiah.

30 And *then* the king said to his children, *or (to his) servants*, Moveth me away from the battle; forsooth I am greatly made sick (*or very weak*). And anon (*or at once*) his children (*or his servants*) moved him away from the battle array.

31 And he went up upon his secondary chariot; and coming to Jerusalem, he died, and was buried in *his* father's sepulchre.

32 And in all Judah (*or in all Jewry*) they bewailed Josiah, and they that before-set with wives, wailed him unto this day; and this is granted to be done evermore in all the kindred of Israel.

33 These things forsooth be written in the book of (*the*) stories of (*the*) kings of Judah, and the glory of Josiah, and his understanding in the law of God, by all (*the*) deeds of the doing of him; for evenly those were done of (*or by*) him, and the which be not written in the book of (*the*) kings of Israel and of Judah.

34 And they that were of the kindred took Jehoahaz, the son of Josiah, and set him (*as*) king for Josiah, his father, when he was of three and thirty years (*old*).

35 And he reigned upon Israel three months; and *then* the king of Egypt put him away, (*so*) that he reigned not in Jerusalem.

36 And he polled (*or taxed*) the folk of (*or for*) an hundred talents of silver, and of (*or for*) a talent of gold.

37 And the king of Egypt set Jehoiakim, his brother, king of Judea and of Jerusalem;

38 and he bound the master judges of Jehoiakim, and taking Zarius, his brother, he brought him again to (*or out of*) Egypt.

39 Jehoiakim was of five and twenty years, when he reigned in the land of Judah and of Jerusalem; and he did evil things in the sight of the Lord.

40 After this forsooth Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, went up, and binding Joakim in a strong bond, brought him into Babylon;

41 and Nebuchadnezzar took and brought the holy vessels of God, and (*made*) sacred (*or consecrated*) those in his temple in Babylon.

42 Forsooth of his uncleanness and unreligiosity it is written in the book of the times of (*the*) kings.

43 And Joakim, his son, reigned for him; when forsooth he was ordained *king*, he was of eight(*een*) years (*old*).

44 Forsooth he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem; and did evil in (*the*) sight of the Lord.

45 And after a year Nebuchadnezzar sent (*for*), and brought him over into Babylon, together with the sacred vessels of the Lord.

46 And he set Zedekiah king of Judah and of Jerusalem, when he was of one and twenty years (*old*). Forsooth he reigned eleven years;

47 and he did evil in (*the*) sight of the Lord, and was not adread of the words that be said of Jeremy (*or by Jeremiah*), the prophet, from the mouth of the Lord.

48 And he adjured, *or charged by oath*, of (*or by*) king Nebuchadnezzar, forsworn went away, and his noll made hard, he over-passed the lawful things of the Lord God of Israel.

49 And the dukes of the Lord's people bare them(*selves*) wickedly many things, and they did unpiously over all the wickednesses of (*the*) Gentiles; and they defouled (*or defiled*) the temple of the Lord, that was holy in Jerusalem.

50 And (*the*) God of their fathers sent by his angel to again-call them, for the which thing he spared to them, and to their tabernacles [*or their tabernacle*].

51 They forsooth scorned in their corners, and that day that the Lord spake, they were bobbing his prophets.

52 The which *Lord* is stirred to wrath upon his folk, for their irreligiosity. *And* the kings of (*the*) Chaldeans commanded, and went up,

⁵³ (*and*) they slew the young men of them with (*the*) sword, about the holy temple of them; and they spared not to young man, nor to maiden, nor to old man, and to full waxen man (*or to fully grown man*); but also all they be taken into the hands of them;

⁵⁴ and they took all the sacred vessels of the Lord, and the king's coffers, and brought those into Babylon.

⁵⁵ And they burned up the house of the Lord, and destroyed the walls of Jerusalem, and they burned (*up*) his (*or its*) towers with fire.

⁵⁶ And they wasted all the worship-ful things, and brought *them* to nought; and they brought *the people* left of (*or by*) the sword into Babylon.

⁵⁷ And they were his thralls, unto the time that (*the*) Persians reigned, in the fulfilling of the word of the Lord, in the mouth of Jeremy;

⁵⁸ till that the land would do benignly their sabbaths, he sabbatized all the time of their forsaking, in the applying of seventy years.

CHAPTER 2

¹ Reigning Cyrus, king of Persia, in the fulfilling of the word of the Lord, in the mouth of Jeremy (*or Jeremiah*),

² the Lord raised up the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia; and he preached in(*to*) all his realm (*al*)together by scripture (*or by writing*),

³ saying, These things saith Cyrus, king of Persia, The Lord of Israel, the high Lord, hath ordained me king to the world of earths (*or over the whole earth*);

⁴ and he signified to me to build to (*or for*) him an house in Jerusalem, that is in Judah.

⁵ If there is any man of your kindred, his Lord go up with him into Jerusalem.

⁶ Therefore how many ever dwell in places about, help they them that dwell in that place, in gold and silver,

⁷ in gifts, with horse(s), and beasts, and with other things, the which after vows be laid up into the house of the Lord, that is in Jerusalem.

⁸ And the standing princes of (*the*) lineages of (*the*) towns of Judah, of the lineage of Benjamin, and priests and deacons [*or Levites*], whom the Lord stirred to wend [*or to go*] up, and to build up the house of the Lord, that is in Jerusalem;

⁹ and they, that were in the environ, *or in (the) compass*, of them, should help in (*or with*) all silver and gold of it, and in (*or with*) beasts, and in (*or with*) many vows; *and many others*, of whom the wit is stirred, *help they also*.

¹⁰ And king Cyrus brought forth the sacred vessels of the Lord, the which Nebuchadnezzar translated (*or brought over*) from Jerusalem, and (*had made*) sacred (*or consecrated*) them in his (*temple of*) maumet(s).

¹¹ And Cyrus, king of Persia, bringing them forth, took *those* to Mithradates, that was upon (*or over*) the treasures of him.

¹² Forsooth by him they be taken to Sanabassar, governor of Judea.

¹³ Of these things forsooth this is the number; silvern hallowed vessels of liquors (*or for liquids*), two thousand and four hundred; thirty

silvern drink-ing vessels; thirty golden vials (*or phials*); and two thousand and four hundred silvern *vials (or phials)*; and a thousand other vessels.

14 Forsooth all the golden and silvern vessels *were* four thousand and four hundred and eight and sixty.

15 And they be delivered out to Sanabassar, together with them, that were come into Jerusalem of the captivity, *or thralldom*, of Babylon.

16 Forsooth in the time of Artaxerxes, king of Persia, there wrote to him, of these that dwelled in Judea and in Jerusalem, Belemus, and Mithradates, and Tabellius, and Rathymus, Beelteth-mus, and Semellius, the scribe, and others dwelling in Samaria, and in other places, *they wrote this* subject letter to king Artaxerxes.

17 Lord, thy children (*or thy servants*) Rathymus, and Semellius, the scribe, and other dooms-men of thy court, of things that fall in Celosyria and Phenice (*or in Greater Syria and Phoenicia*).

18 And now be it known to the lord the king, that (*the*) Jews, the which went up from you to us, coming into Jerusalem, a city of fleers-away [*or a city again-flown to*], and a full evil city, they build up the ovens of it, and they (*re*)set the walls, and rear (*or raise up*) the temple.

19 That if this city and walls were made up (*again*), [*or were full ended*], they shall not suffer to yield tributes, but also they shall against-stand to kings.

²⁰ And for cause that that thing is done about the temple, to have *it* rightly we have deemed to not despise that same thing,

²¹ but to make known to the lord [*the*] king, that if it shall be seen *pleasing* to the king, be it sought in the books of thy fathers;

²² and thou shalt find in (*the*) remembrances written of them, and thou shalt know, that that city was again-flown (*or rebellious*), and kings and cities smiting together,

²³ and (*the*) Jews fleeing again (*or rebelling*), and making battles in it always; for the which cause this city was forsaken [*or is desert(ed)*].

²⁴ Now therefore we make known to the lord [*the*] king, that if this city were built up, and the walls of it were areared, there shall be no coming down to thee into Celosyria and Phenice.

²⁵ Then the king wrote again to Rathymus, that wrote *those* things that befell, and to Beeltethmus, and to Semellius, the scribe, and to others ordained *sovereigns* and dwelling in Syria, and in Phenice (*or in Phoenicia*), [*or to others ordained, and dwellers in Syria, and Phenice*], he wrote to *them* these things that be set under.

²⁶ I have read the letter, that thou sentest to me. Therefore I commanded *it* to be sought; and it was found, that that city was always withstanding to kings,

²⁷ and (*the*) men again-fugitive, and making battles in it; and most strong kings have been lordshipping in Jerusalem, and asking tributes of Celosyria and Phenice (*or Phoenicia*).

28 Now therefore I (*have*) command-*(ed)* to prevent those men to build up the city, and to look [*or to purvey*], that anything be not made hereafter; but that they pass not into full much [*or go they not forth into more*],

29 since they be of malice, so that grievances be not brought there to kings.

30 Then after these things were rehearsed (*or read*), that were written of (*or from*) Artaxerxes, the king, Rath-ymus, and Semellius, the scribe, and they that were with them ordained, enjoining, hieingly (*or hastily*) came into Jerusalem, with horsemen, and people, and with company; and they began to prevent (*or to hinder*) the builders. And they voided (*or ceased*)*then* from the building of the temple [*in Jerusalem*], unto the second year of the realm of Darius, king of Persia.

CHAPTER 3

1 King Darius made a great supper to (*or for*) all his servants, and to all the master judges of Media and Persia,

2 and to all that weared (*or wore*) purple, and to governors, and to counsellors, and to prefects under him, from India unto Ethiopia, to an hundred and seven and twenty provinces.

3 And when they had eaten and drunken, and were fulfilled, they (*re*)turned again (*home*). Then king Darius went up in his little bed-place, and slept, and (*then*) was (*a*)waked.

4 Then those three young men, keepers of the body (*or his body-guards*), the which kept the

body of the king [*or that kept the body of the king*], said one to another,

⁵ Say we each of us a word, that before pass (*or surpass*) *in knowing*; and whose ever word seem wiser *than* of another [*or the tother*], king Darius shall give to him great gifts,

⁶ and to be covered with purple, and to drink in gold, and to sleep upon gold; *and he shall give him* a golden chariot, with the bridle, and a mitre of bis (*or fine linen*), and a bie (*or a band*) about the neck;

⁷ and he shall sit in the second place from Darius, for his wisdom; and he shall be called Darius' cousin.

⁸ Then each *of them three* writing his word, sealed (*it*), and put *those* under the pillow of king Darius;

⁹ and said, When the king hath risen, they will take [*or they shall give*] to him their things written, and whatever thing the king shall deem of (*these*) three, and the master judges of Persia, forsooth the word of him is wiser *than of the others*, to him shall be given the victory, as it is written.

¹⁰ One wrote, Wine is strong.

¹¹ Another wrote, The king is stronger.

¹² The third wrote, Women be strongest; truth overcometh forsooth over all things.

¹³ And when the king had risen up, they took their things written [*or they took their written things*], and gave *those* to him, and he read (*them*).

14 And he sent (*forth*) and called all the master judges of Persia, and of *the land(of)* Media, and the clothed men in purple, and the rulers of (*the*) provinces, and (*the*) prefects;

15 and they set in council, and the writings were read before them.

16 And the king said, Calleth the young men, and they shall show their words. And they were called, and they came in.

17 And Darius said to them, Show ye to us of these things that be written. And the first, that had said of the strength of wine, he began,

18 and said to them, Men! full sur-passing(*ly*) strong is wine; to all men that drink it, it beareth down the mind;

19 also it maketh the mind vain, both of (*the*) king and of the fatherless child; also of servant and of free men, of poor and of rich;

20 and it turneth all the mind into secureness, and [*in*] to gladness; and it remembereth not any sorrow and debt;

21 and it maketh all the entrails honest (*or rich*); and it remembereth not king, nor master judge; and all things it maketh speak by talent(s);

22 and when they have drunken, they remember not friendship nor brotherhood, and not long after they take (*out*) swords;

23 and when they have been drenched of (*or drowned in*) wine, and rise, they have no mind (*or memory of*) what things they did.

24 O men! whether wine is not surpassingly strong, that thus constrain-eth men to do? And this thing said, he held his peace.

CHAPTER 4

¹ And the *next* follower began to say, that said of the strength of a king,

² O men! whether men be not sur-passingly strong, the which hold land and sea, and all things that be in them?

³ The king forsooth surpasseth above all things, and he hath lordship of them, and they do all thing(s), what-ever he will say to them.

⁴ And if he send them to fighters, they go, and destroy hills, and walls, and towers;

⁵ they be slain and slay, and they pass not the word of the king; for if they overcome, they bring to the king all things, whatever things they have spoiled evermore, and all other things.

⁶ And how many ever (*or however many*) bear not knighthood, nor fight, but ear (*or plow*) the land, again when they shall reap, they bring tributes to the king.

⁷ And he *is*(*but*) one (*man*) alone; and if he bid to slay, they slay; and if he bid them to forgive, they forgive;

⁸ and if he say *them* to smite [*or and if he say to smite*], they smite; if he say to outlaw, they outlaw; if he bid *them* to build, they build;

⁹ if he bid to throw down, they throw adown; if he bid to plant, they plant;

¹⁰ and all (*the*) folk and virtues (*or hosts*) obeish (*or obey*) to him; and over *all* these things he shall sit, and drink, and sleep.

¹¹ These forsooth keep him about [*or in environ keep him*], and may not go each one (*or be not*

able to go each one), and do their own works, but in *his* word men obeish (*or obey*) to him.

12 What manner wise surpasseth not the king before *others*, that thus is loosed? And he held his peace.

13 The third, that had said of women, and of truth; this is *said*(*or he was called*) Zerubbabel; he began to speak,

14 O men! the king is not great, neither many *other* men, nor wine surpasseth before; who is it then that hath lordship of them?

15 Whether not women, that have (*be*)gotten kings, and all the people, the which *kings* have lordship both of (*the*) sea and of (*the*) land, and of women they be born?

16 And they brought forth them that planted vines, of the which wine is made.

17 And they make the stoles, *or long clothes*, of all men, and they do glory to men, and men may not or be not able to be severed from women.

18 If they gather together gold and silver, and all fair thing, and see a woman in good(*ly*) array, and in good fairness,

19 they, forsaking all these things, take heed to her, and the mouth opened, they behold *her*, and they draw more to her than to gold and [*or*] silver, or any precious thing.

20 A man shall forsake his father, that nourished him, and his own land, and to a woman he joineth him(*self*) together,

21 and with a woman he liveth his life, and neither remembereth father, nor mother, nor the land of his birth.

22 And therefore it behooveth us to know, that women have lordship of us. Whether ye sorrow not?

23 And *also* a man taketh his sword, and goeth in the way to do thefts, and manslaughters, and to sail over the sea, and *over* floods (*or on rivers*);

24 and he seeth a lion, and he goeth in darknesses; and when he hath done *his* theft, and guiles, and ravens, he bringeth it to his lief (*or to his love*).

25 And again a man loveth his wife more than father or mother;

26 and many men be made mad for their wives, and *many* be made thralls for them;

27 and many perished, and were strangled, and many have sinned for women, [*or and sinned, for women*].

28 And now (*be*)lieveth me; forsooth a king is great, and his power [*or for great is the king in his power*], for all regions, *or kingdoms about*, be afear'd to touch him.

29 I saw neverthelater (*or neverthe-less*) Apame, the daughter of Bartacus, the wonderful man [*or the daughter of (the) wonderful man Bartacus*], the secondary wife (*or concubine*) of the king, sitting beside the king at the right side;

30 and taking away the diadem (*or the crown*) from his head, and putting it on herself, and with the palm of her left hand she smote the king.

31 And over these things, the mouth opened, he beheld her, and if she laugh to (*or at*) him, he laughed, and if she were wroth to him, he

glosseth (*or he flattereth*), *or pleaseth*, unto the time that he be reconciled [*in*] to grace.

³² O men! why be not women strongest? Great is the earth, and heaven is high, that do these things.

³³ Then the king and the purpled men beheld either into (*the*) other; and he began to speak of truth.

³⁴ O men! whether women be not strong? Great is the earth, and heaven is high, and the course of the sun is swift; it is turned in the compass of heaven, and again it runneth again into the same place in a day.

³⁵ Whether he is not a great doer, that maketh these things? and truth great, and stronger before all things?

³⁶ All (*the*) earth calleth inwardly (*the*) truth, also it blesseth heaven, and all works be moved and dread it; and there is no wicked thing with it.

³⁷ (*A*) Wicked king, *and* wicked women, and all the sons [*or all the works*] of men *be* wicked, and there is not truth in them, and in their wickedness they shall perish;

³⁸ and truth dwelleth, and waxeth into without end, and it liveth, and wieldeth, into worlds of worlds.

³⁹ It is not with truth to out-take (*or to accept*) persons, and differences; but it doeth those things that be rightful [*or rightwise*], to all unrightwise and evil men; and all men be made benign in his works.

⁴⁰ And there is not wickedness in his doom, but *there is* strength, and realm, and power, and

majesty of all endurings above time. Blessed be the God of truth!

⁴¹ And *then* he left (*off*) in speaking. And all the peoples cried, and said, Great is truth, and it (*sur*)passeth before *all others*.

⁴² Then the king said to him, Ask, if thou wilt, anything moreover, than there be written, and I shall give (*it*) to thee, after that thou art found (*the*) wiser; and next to me thou shalt sit, and thou shalt be called my cousin.

⁴³ Then said he to the king, Be thou mindful of the vow, that thou vowed-est, to build up Jerusalem, in the day in which thou took the realm;

⁴⁴ and to send again (*or away*) all the vessels, that be taken from Jerusalem, the which Cyrus parted (*or set apart*), when he slew Babylon, and would send again those things thither.

⁴⁵ And thou wouldest build up the temple, that Idumeans burned (*up*), for Judea is put out of their terms, *or marches*, of (*or by*) the Chaldeans.

⁴⁶ And now, lord, this it is that I ask, and that I bid; this is the majesty that I ask of thee, that thou do the vow that thou vowedest to the King of heaven, of (*or with*) thy mouth.

⁴⁷ Then Darius, the king, rising kissed him, and wrote epistles to all the dispensators, and prefects, and to men clothed in purple, that they should lead him forth, and them that were with him, all wending [*or going*] up to build Jerusalem.

⁴⁸ And to all the prefects that were in (*Celo*)Syria and Phenice (*or in Greater Syria and*

Phoenicia), and (*in*) Lebanon, he wrote epistles, that they should draw (*up*) cedar trees from the *hill* Lebanon into Jerusalem, (*and*) that they build up the city with them.

⁴⁹ And he wrote to all the Jews, that went up from the realm in(*to*) Judea, for freedom, that any man of power, or master judge, and prefect, should not come over to the gates of them,

⁵⁰ and each region, that they had hold (*of*), to be free from them; and that Idumeans leave up [*or left*] the castles of Jews, that they withheld (*and that the Edomites should let go of the towns of the Jews, that they held*),

⁵¹ and to give year by year twenty talents, into (*the*) making of the temple, unto the time that it be full(y) builded;

⁵² and each day to offer hosts upon the place of sacred things (*or the altar*), as they be commanded; to offer, by all years, (*an*)other ten talents;

⁵³ and to all men, that go forth from Babylon, to make the city, as freedom were, both to them, and to the sons of them, and to [*all*] the priests that go before.

⁵⁴ Forsooth also he wrote the quantity; and he commanded the sacred stole(s), *or vestment (s)*, to be given, in which they should serve;

⁵⁵ and he wrote (*the*) wages to be given to the deacons [*or Levites*], unto the day that the house should be fully ended, and Jerusalem made out;

⁵⁶ and he wrote to all men keeping the city, to give to the builders lots and wages.

⁵⁷ And he left (*for*) them (*or he let go to them*) all the vessels, that Cyrus had parted (*or had set apart*) from Babylon; and all things, whatever Cyrus said, he commanded *it* to be done, and to be sent to Jerusalem.

⁵⁸ And when that young man had gone forth, raising his face toward Jeru-salem, he blessed the King of heaven,

⁵⁹ and said, Of thee, *Lord*, is victory, and of thee is wisdom, and clearness (*or glory*), and I am thy servant.

⁶⁰ Thou art blessed [*or Blessed thou art*], for thou hast given to me wisdom, and I acknowledge to thee, Lord of our fathers.

⁶¹ And he took the epistles, *or (the) letters*, and went forth into Babylon; and he came, and told to all his brethren, that were in Babylon.

⁶² And they blessed the God of their fathers, that gave to them forgiveness and refreshing,

⁶³ that they should go up, and build Jerusalem, and the temple, where his name is named in it; and they joyed [*full out*] with musics and with gladness (*for*) seven days.

CHAPTER 5

¹ After these things forsooth there were princes chosen of (*or from their*) towns, that they should wend [*or go*] up, by houses, by their lineages, and the wives of them, and the sons and daughters of them, and servants and handmaidens of them, and their beasts.

² And king Darius sent together with them a thousand horsemen, to the time that they

brought them into Jerusalem, with peace, and with musics, and timbres, and trumps;

³ and all the brethren were playing. And he made them to go up together with them.

⁴ And these be the names of the men, that went up, by their towns, into lineages, and into (*the*) part of the princehood of them.

⁵ Priests; the sons of Phinehas, the sons of Aaron, Jesus, (*or Jeshua, or Joshua*), the son of Josedek, the son of Saraeas, (*and*) Joakim, the son of Zer-ubbabel, son of Salathiel, of the house of David, of the progeny of Phares (*or Perez*), of the lineage forsooth of Judah,

⁶ that spake under Darius, king of Persia, marvellous doing words, in the second year of his realm [*or of his reign*], in April (*or Nisan*), the first month.

⁷ Forsooth these it be, that went up of Judah from the captivity, *or thralldom*, of the transmigration, whom Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, translated (*or brought over*) into Babylon;

⁸ and each is (*re*)turned again into Jerusalem, and into all the cities of Judea, each into his own city, that came with Zerubbabel, and with Jesus, (*or Jeshua, or Joshua*); Nehemiah, Zar-aeas, and Resaiah, Eneneus, Mardocheus (*or Mordecai*), Beelsarus, Asphar-asus, Reeliah, Romelius, (*and*) Baana, one of the princes of them.

⁹ And the number from the Gentiles of them, from the provosts, *or reeves*, of them; the sons of Phoros, two thousand an hundred seventy and two; (*the sons of Saphat, four hundred seventy and two*);

- ¹⁰ the sons of Ares, seven hundred fifty and six;
- ¹¹ the sons of Pahath-moab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve;
- ¹² the sons of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four; the sons of Zathui, nine hundred forty and five; the sons of Chorbe, seven hundred and five; the sons of Bani, six hundred forty and eight;
- ¹³ the sons of Bebai, six hundred twenty and three; the sons of Astaa, three thousand two hundred twenty and two;
- ¹⁴ the sons of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and seven; the sons of Bagoi, two thousand sixty and six; the sons of Adin, four hundred fifty and four;
- ¹⁵ the sons of Ater (*the son of*) Hezekiah, ninety and two; the sons of Keilan and Azetas, threescore and seven; the sons of Azurus, four hundred thirty and two;
- ¹⁶ the sons of Annias, an hundred and one; the sons of Arom, thirty-two; the sons of Bassa, three hundred twenty and three; the sons of Arsiphurith, an hundred and two (*or twelve*);
- ¹⁷ the sons of Baeterus, three thousand and five; the sons of Bethlo-mon, an hundred twenty and three;
- ¹⁸ the sons of Netophah, fifty and five; the sons of Anathoth, an hundred fifty and eight; the sons of Bethas-moth, forty and two;
- ¹⁹ the sons of Cariatharius, twenty and five; the sons of Caphira and Beroth, seven hundred forty and three; the sons of Pira, seven hundred;

20 the sons of Chadias and Ammidoi, four hundred twenty and two; the sons of Cirama and Gabdes, six hundred twenty and one;

21 the sons of Macalon, an hundred twenty and two; the sons of Betolio, fifty and two; the sons of Phinis, an hundred fifty and six;

22 the sons of Calamolalus and Onus, seven hundred twenty and five; the sons of Jerechus, two hundred forty and five;

23 the sons of Sanaas, three thousand three hundred and thirty.

24 Priests: the sons of Jeddu, the son of Jesus, (*or Jeshua, or Joshua*), among the sons of Anasib, nine hundred seventy and two; the sons of Emmer-uth (*or Immer*), a thousand fifty and two;

25 the sons of Phassurus, a thousand forty and seven; the sons of Charme, a thousand and seventeen.

26 Deacons [*or Levites*]; the sons of Jessue, and Cadmielus, and Bannus, and Sudius, four and seventy; all the number from the two and twenty year, thirty thousand four hundred and two and sixty; sons, and daughters, and wives, all the numbering, sixty thousand two hundred and two and forty.

27 The sons of priests, that sung in the temple; the sons of Asaph, an hundred and eight and twenty.

28 Ushers forsooth (*or The porters*); the sons of Salum, the sons of Atar, the sons of Tolmon, the sons of Dacubi, the sons of Ateta, the sons of Sabi, (*in*) all an hundred and nine and thirty.

²⁹ Priests, serving in the temple (*or The Temple servants*); (*the*) sons of Esau, the sons of Asipha, the sons of Taboth, the sons of Keras, the sons of Susa, the sons of Phaleas, the sons of Labana, the sons of Aggaba,

³⁰ the sons of Acud, the sons of Uta, the sons of Ketab, the sons of Gaba, the sons of Subai, the sons of Anan, the sons of Cathua, the sons of Geddur,

³¹ the sons of Jairus, the sons of Desan, the sons of Noeba, the sons of Chaseba, the sons of Gazera, the sons of Ozius, the sons of Phinoe, the sons of Asara, the sons of Basthae, the sons of Asana, the sons of Maani, the sons of Naphisi, the sons of Acum, the sons of Achipha, the sons of Asur, the sons of Pharakim, the sons of Baaloth,

³² the sons of Meedda, the sons of Coutha, the sons of Charea, the sons of Barchue, the sons of Serar, the sons of Thomi, the sons of Nasith, the sons of Atepha.

³³ Solomon, the sons of him (*or The sons of Solomon's servants*); the sons of Asapphioth, the sons of Pharida, the sons of Jeeli, the sons of Lozon, the sons of Isdael, the sons of Saphythi,

³⁴ the sons of Hagia, the sons of Phacareth, the sons of Sabie, the sons of Sarothie, the sons of Masias, the sons of Gas, the sons of Addus, the sons of Subas, the sons of Apherra, the sons of Barodis, the sons of Saphat, the sons of Adlon.

³⁵ All *these were* in holy serving; and the children of Solomon *were* four hundred fourscore and two.

³⁶ These be the sons that went up to (*or from*) Thermeleth and Thelsas; the princes of them *were* Charaathalar and Alar;

³⁷ and they might not tell out their cities, and their progenies, what manner they be; and of Israel, the sons of Dalan, the sons of Ban, the sons of Necodan, (*six hundred and fifty-two*).

³⁸ And of the priests, that used (*the office of the*) priesthood, and were [*not*] found; the sons of Obdia, the sons of Accos, the sons of Joddus, that took Augia (*as his*) wife, (*one*) of the daughters of Barzillai, and they be called by the name of her;

³⁹ and of these is sought the genealogy written [*or the written genealogy*] of the kindred, and they be prevented to use (*the office of the*) priesthood.

⁴⁰ And Nehemiah said to them, and Attharias, that they take not part of the holy things, till the time that there arise a taught bishop, into showing (*or revelation*) and truth.

⁴¹ All Israel forsooth was twelve thousand (*or All Israel twelve years of age and older*), out-take (*or besides*) servants and handmaidens, two and forty thousand three hundred and sixty.

⁴² The servants of [*them, and*](*the*) handmaidens *were* seven thousand three hundred and seven and thirty (*or forty*); singers and singsters [*or singeresses*], two hundred and five and sixty (*or forty*);

⁴³ camels, four hundred and five and thirty; horses, seven thousand six and thirty; mules, two hundred thousand and five and forty (*or two hundred and five and forty*); beasts under yoke,

five thousand (*and five hundred*) and five and twenty.

⁴⁴ And of those provosts, *or reeves*, by towns, while they should come into the temple of God, that was in Jeru-salem, to be avowed to rear up the temple in his place, after their virtue;

⁴⁵ and the holy treasury to be given into the temple of works [*or to be given into the temple (into) the holy treasury of works*], were eleven thousand bezants, and an hundred priests' stoles.

⁴⁶ And there dwelled (*the*) priests, and deacons [*or Levites*], and *others*, that were of the people, in Jerusalem, and in the realm [*or region*]; and the holy singers, and ushers (*or the porters*), and all Israel, in their regions.

⁴⁷ While the seventh month *yet* lasted, and when the sons of Israel were each in his own things, they came together of one accord into the porch (*or open space*), that was before the east gate.

⁴⁸ And while Jesus, (*or Jeshua, or Joshua*), the son of Josedek, and his brethren, (*the*) priests, stood, and Zerubbabel, the son of Salathiel, and his brethren, they made ready an altar,

⁴⁹ that they would offer on it burnt sacrifices, after those things that be written in the book of Moses, the man of God.

⁵⁰ And there came to them of other nations of the land, and reared (*up*) the holy treasury in his (*or its own*) place, all the folk of the land; and they offered hosts, and burnt sacrifices of the morrowtide to the Lord.

51 And they did the feast of tabernacles, and a solemn day, as it is written in the law, and sacrifices each day, as it behooved.

52 And after these things they ordain-ed offerings, and hosts of sabbaths, and of new moons, and of all solemn days hallowed [*or all hallowed solemn days*].

53 And how many ever vowed to the Lord, from the *time of the* new moon of the seventh month, they took hosts to offer to God; and the temple of the Lord was not yet builded up [*or yet was not built up*].

54 And they gave money to masons, and to wrights, and drinks [*or and drink*] and meats, with joy.

55 And they gave cars (*or carts*) to (*the*) Sidonians and to (*the*) Tyrians (*or the men of Tyre*), that they should carry over to them from Lebanon wood cedar beams, and to make a navy into the haven of Joppa, after the decree that was written to them from Cyrus, king of Persia.

56 And in the second year (*after*) they came into (*or back to*) the temple of God, into Jerusalem; the second month Zerubbabel began, the son of Salathiel, and Jesus, (*or Jeshua, or Joshua*), the son of Josedek, and the brethren of them, and (*the*) priests, and Levites (*or deacons*), and all they that came from the captivity into Jerusalem;

57 and founded the temple of God, in the new moon of the second month of the second year, when they had come into Judea and to Jerusalem;

⁵⁸ and set deacons [*or Levites*] from *the age of* twenty years (*old*) upon the works of the Lord. And Jesus, (*or Jeshua, or Joshua*), stood, (*and*) his son(s), and his brethren, all the deacons [*or all Levites*] together casting, and executors, *or followers*, of the law, and doing works in the house of the Lord.

⁵⁹ And there stood (*the*) priests, hav-ing stoles, *or long clothes*, with trumps, and (*the*) Levites (*or the deacons*), the sons of Asaph, having cymbals,

⁶⁰ together praising the Lord, and blessing him, after *the manner of* David, king of Israel.

⁶¹ And they sung a song to the Lord, for his sweetness and his worship into worlds, *or ever (more)*, upon all Israel.

⁶² And all the people sung with trumps, and cried with (*a*) great (*or a loud*) voice, praising together the Lord, in the rearing (*up*) of the Lord's house.

⁶³ And there came *many* of the priests, and of (*the*) deacons [*or Levites*], and of (*the*) presidents after (*the*) towns (*or the princes of the towns*), to the elders that had seen the rather house (*or the first Temple*), and at the building up of this *house*, with cry(*ing*), and with great wailing;

⁶⁴ and many with trumps, and great joy,

⁶⁵ so that the people heard not the trumps, for the great wailing of the people. Forsooth there was a company singing worshipfully in trumps (*or with the trumpets*), so that it was heard afar.

⁶⁶ And the enemies heard the lineages of Judah and of Benjamin, and came to know, what was this voice (*or meaning*) of (*the*) trumps.

⁶⁷ And they knew, that they that were of the captivity builded, [*or built*], the temple to the Lord God of Israel.

⁶⁸ And *the enemies* coming nigh to Zerubbabel, and to Jesus, (*or Jeshua, or Joshua*), and to the reeves of (*the*) towns, they said to them, We shall build together with you.

⁶⁹ In like manner forsooth we have heard our Lord, and we have gone together from the days of Asbasareth (*or Esarhaddon*), king of Assyrians, that over-passed from hence, [*or that went over hence*], (*or that brought us here*).

⁷⁰ And Zerubbabel, and Jesus, (*or Jeshua, or Joshua*), and the princes of the towns of Israel said to them, It (*be*)longeth not to us and to you *together* to build up the house of our God;

⁷¹ forsooth we alone shall build the house of our God, after those things, that Cyrus, king of Persia, commanded.

⁷² The Gentiles forsooth of the land living with them that be in Judea, and rearing up the work of building, and bringing forth both (*their*) spies and people, they prevented them to build up;

⁷³ and they hindered (*the*) men, haunting the goings-to, (*so*) that the building should not be ended in all the time of the life of the king Cyrus; and they drew along the making-up by two years, unto the reign of Darius.

CHAPTER 6

¹ Forsooth in the second year of the realm of Darius, Haggai prophesied, and Zechariah, the son of Addo, a prophet, with Judea and in

Jerusalem, in the name of the Lord God of Israel, upon them.

² Then standing Zerubbabel, the son of Salathiel, and Jesus, (*or Jeshua, or Joshua*), the son of Josedek, *they* began to build up the house of the Lord, that is in Jerusalem; when there were nigh to them, (*yea*), (*the*) prophets of the Lord, and helped them.

³ In that time came to them Sisinnes, the under-little-king of Syria and of Phenice (*or Phoenicia*), and Sathrabuzanes, and his fellows. And they said to them,

⁴ Who commanded to you, that ye build this house, and this roof, and many other things (*that*) ye perform? and who be those builders [*or the builders*], that build up these things?

⁵ And the elder men of Israel had grace of (*or from*) the Lord, when the visitation of them was made upon them that were of the captivity;

⁶ and they were not hindered to build up, to the time that it were signified to Darius of all these things, and an answer were taken *again*.

⁷ *This is* the ensample of the letter, that Sisinnes, the under-(*little-*)king of Syria and of Phenice (*or of Phoenicia*), and Sathrabuzanes, and their fellows, rulers in Syria and in Phenice (*or in Phoenicia*), sent *to the king*. To king Darius, greeting(s).

⁸ All things be they known to the lord the king; forsooth when we came into the region of Judea, and went into Jerusalem, we found men

⁹ building a great house of God, and a temple of great polished stones, and of precious materials in the walls;

¹⁰ and those works busily in making, and to help, and to make wealsome in the hands of them, and in all glory, full diligently to be performed.

¹¹ Then we asked the elder men, saying, Who suffered (*or allowed*) you to build this house, and to build [*or (to) found*] these works?

¹² Therefore forsooth we asked them, (*so*) that we might make known to thee the men, and the provosts, *or reeves*; and we asked them the writing of the names of the masters of the work.

¹³ And they answered to us, saying, We be servants of the Lord, that made both heaven and earth [*or that made heaven and earth*];

¹⁴ and this house was builded [*or built*] before these many years of (*or by*) the king of Israel, that was great, and a full strong king, and it was destroyed *again*[*or full ended*].

¹⁵ And for our fathers stirred and sinned against [*the*] God of Israel, he betook them into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, king of (*the*) Chaldeans;

¹⁶ and they destroyed and burned up this house, and they brought the people made thrall [*or captive*] into Babylon.

¹⁷ In the first year reigning Cyrus, king of Babylon, king Cyrus wrote to build up this house;

¹⁸ and those holy golden vessels and silvern, that Nebuchadnezzar had borne away from the house of God, that is in Jerusalem, and had

(*made*) sacred (*or had consecrated*) them in his temple, again king Cyrus brought them forth from the temple that was in Babylon, and they were betaken to Zerubbabel, and to Sanabassar, the under-little-king.

¹⁹ And it was commanded to them, that they offer these vessels, and they should lay them up in the temple, that was in Jerusalem, and to build up that temple of God in that place.

²⁰ Then Sanabassar under-laid the foundations of the house of the Lord, that is in Jerusalem; and from thence unto now is (*still*) abuilding, and hath taken no full ending.

²¹ Now then, O king! if it is deemed of (*or by*) thee, that it be perfectly sought [*or be it perfectly sought*] in the king's libraries of king Cyrus, that be in Babylon;

²² and if it were found in the counsel of king Cyrus, (*that*) the making of the house of the Lord, that is in Jerusalem, to be begun, and *if* it shall be showed of (*or by*) the lord our king, write he to us of these things.

²³ Then king Darius commanded to be inwardly sought in the libraries; and there was found in Ecbatana, a borough town, that is in the middle region, a place (*or a roll*), in the which were written these things.

²⁴ The first year reigning Cyrus king, Cyrus commanded to build up the house of the Lord, that is in Jerusalem, where they burned with continual fire;

²⁵ whose height was made of sixty cubits, and the breadth of sixty cubits, squared with three

polished stones, and with solar (*or throne*) tree of the same region, and with one new solar (*or with three rows of polished stones, and one row of new wood from the same region*); and costs to be given (*out*) of the house of king Cyrus;

²⁶ and the holy vessels of the house of the Lord, both golden and silvern, that Nebuchadnezzar bare away, that those [*or they*] be put thither into the house, that is in Jerusalem, where they were put.

²⁷ And he commanded Sisinnes, the under-little-king of Syria and Phenice (*or Phoenicia*), and Sathrabuzanes, and his fellows, to do *their(own)* business, and they that were in Syria and Phenice (*or Phoenicia*) ordained rulers, that they should abstain them(*selves*) from the same place.

²⁸ And I also commanded to make (*or build*) it up all (*again*), and I looked forth, that they help them that be of the captivity of (*the*) Jews, unto the time that the temple of the house of the Lord be full(y) ended (*or finished*);

²⁹ and a quantity to be given dili-gently to these men of the travail of the tributes of Celosyria and Phenice (*or taxes of Greater Syria and Phoenicia*), to the sacrifice of the Lord, to Zerubbabel, the prefect, to bulls, and wethers (*or rams*), and to lambs;

³⁰ also forsooth both wheat, and salt, wine, and oil, busily by all years, as the priests, that be in Jerusalem, ordained to be fulfilled each day, without any delay;

³¹ *also* that there be offered offer-ings of liquors (*or liquid sacrifices*) to the highest God, for the king, and for his children, and pray they for the life of them.

³² And be it denounced (*or announced*), that whosoever over-pass anything of these things that be written, either [*or*] despise (*them*), be there taken a tree of their own, and be they hanged *thereon*, and their goods be escheated (*or forfeited*) to the king.

³³ Therefore also the Lord, whose name is inwardly called there, outlaw he each king and folk, that stretch out their hand to offend [*or to hinder*], or to evil treat that house of the Lord, that is in Jerusalem.

³⁴ I, king Darius, have made a decree, to be done as most diligently after these things.

CHAPTER 7

¹ Then Sisennes, the under-little-king of Celosyria and Phenice (*or the governor of Greater Syria and Phoenicia*), and Sathrabuzanes, and *their* fellows, obeyed to these things, that were deemed of (*or by*) king Darius,

² and stood full diligently into the holy works, working together with the elder men of (*the*) Jews, (*and*) princes of Syria (*or the temple officers*).

³ And the holy works be made wealsome, as the prophets Haggai and Zechariah prophesied.

⁴ And they fulfilled all things, after the behest (*or the command*) of the Lord God of Israel, and

after the counsel of Cyrus, and of Darius, and of Artaxerxes, king(s) of Persia.

⁵ And our house is ended (*or was finished*), in the three and twentieth day of the month of March, in the sixth year of king Darius.

⁶ And the sons of Israel, and the priests, and (*the*) deacons [*or Levites*], and others that were of the captivity, the which be set to, did after those things that be written in the book of Moses.

⁷ And they offered into the dedi-cation of the temple of the Lord, an hundred bulls, two hundred wethers (*or rams*), four hundred lambs;

⁸ (*and*) twelve kids, for the sins of all Israel, after the number of the twelve lineages of Israel.

⁹ And the priests and (*the*) deacons [*or Levites*] stood, clothed [*or clad*] with the stoles, by *their* lineages, upon the works of the Lord God of Israel, after the book of Moses; and *there were* porters [*or ushers*] by all the gates.

¹⁰ And the sons of Israel did that pask, with them that were of the captivity, in the moon of the first month, the fourteenth *day*, when the priests and (*the*) deacons be hallowed.

¹¹ And all the sons of (*the*) captivity they be not hallowed together, for (*or but*) all the Levites be hallowed together.

¹² And they offered (*the*) pask to all the sons of (*the*) captivity, and to their brethren (*the*) priests, and to themselves.

¹³ And the sons of Israel, the which were of the captivity, all they that had left (*or separated*) from all the cursed-nesses of (*the*) Gentiles, *or*

heathen folk, of the earth, ate, and sought the Lord;

¹⁴ and they hallowed the feast day of therf loaves, seven days eating in the sight of the Lord;

¹⁵ for he converted the counsel of the king of Assyria in (*or towards*) them, to comfort (*or to strengthen*) the hands of them to (*or in*) the works of the Lord God of Israel.

CHAPTER 8

¹ And after this, while Artaxerxes, king of Persia, reigned, there went to Ezra, *a man that was the son of Seraiah (or there came Ezra, the son of Seraiah)*, son of Azariah, son of Hilkiah, son of Shallum,

² son of Zadok, son of Ahitub, son of Amariah, son of Azariah, son of Meraioth, son of Zerariah, son of Uzzi, son of Bukki, son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, the first priest.

³ This Ezra went up from Babylon, when he was (*a*) scribe, and witty, (*or witting, or knowing*) in the law of Moses, the which was given of (*or by*) the Lord of Israel, to say *it* and do *it*.

⁴ And the king gave to him glory, that he had found grace in all dignity, and in desire, in the sight of him.

⁵ And there went up with him into Jerusalem (*some*) of the sons of Israel, both priests, and deacons, and (*the*) holy singers of the temple, and ushers, (*or porters*), and servants of the temple.

⁶ In the seventh year reigning Artaxerxes, in the fifth month, this is the seventh year of the

realm [*or the reign*], going out forsooth from Babylon in the new moon of the fifth month, they came to Jerusalem, after the behests (*or commands*) of him, when the prosperity of the way was granted [*or given*] to them of (*or by*) that Lord.

⁷ In these things forsooth Ezra wielded great discipline, lest he passed (*over*) anything of those things that were of the law of the Lord, and of the behests (*or commandments*), and in teaching all Israel all rightwiseness and doom (*or judgements*).

⁸ They forsooth that write the writings of king Artaxerxes, coming nigh, took writing that (*or Now regarding the ordinance, or the decree*), that came from king Artaxerxes to Ezra, the priest, and reader of the law of the Lord, the ensample of the which thing *written* is set next after [*or of which thing the example is laid under(neath)*].

⁹ King Artaxerxes to Ezra, the priest, and reader of the law of the Lord, *sendeth* greeting(s).

¹⁰ More benign I deeming also to benefits, commanded to them that desire of the folk of (*the*) Jews their own things willfully (*or willingly*), and of the priests, and of (*the*) deacons [*or Levites*], that be in my realm, to fellowship with thee into Jerusalem.

¹¹ Then if any covet to go with thee, come they together, and go they forth, as it pleaseth to me, and to my seven friends (*the*) counsellors;

¹² that they visit those things, that be done after (*or unto*) Judea and Jerusalem, keeping *the law*, as thou hast in the law of the Lord;

13 and bear they gifts to the Lord of Israel, whom I knew, and the friends of Jerusalem, and all the gold and the silver, that were found in the realm of Babylon, *be it borne* to the Lord in Jerusalem,

14 with that that is given of (*or by*) those folk in (*or for*) the temple of the Lord, of (*or by*) them that is in Jeru-salem; that this gold be gathered and silver [*or that be gathered this gold and silver*], to bulls, and wethers (*or rams*), and to lambs, and kids, and that to these be covenable (*or suitable*);

15 that they offer hosts to the Lord, upon the altar of the Lord of them, that is in Jerusalem.

16 And all things whatever thou wilt do with thy brethren, perform *it* with (*the*) gold and silver, for *thy* will, after the behest of the Lord thy God.

17 And the sacred holy vessels, the which were given to thee, to (*or for*) the works of the Lord's house, thy God, that is in Jerusalem,

18 and other things, whatever will help to (*or for*) the works of the temple of thy God, thou shalt give *it(out)* of the king's treasury, when thou wilt make the work with thy brethren, with gold and silver; and perform thou all thing(s) after the will of thy Lord.

19 And I, king Artaxerxes, have commanded to [*the*] keepers of the treasures of Syria and of Phenice (*or to the treasury officials of Syria and Phoenicia*), that whatever things Ezra, the priest, and (*the*) reader of the law of the Lord, write for, busily (*or swiftly*) be it given to him,

²⁰ unto an hundred talents of silver, also and of gold [*or (in) like manner and of gold*]; and unto an hundred bushels of wheat, and an hundred vessels of wine, and other things, whatever abound, without taxing.

²¹ All things be done (*un*)to the highest God, after the law of God, lest peradventure wrath arise up in the realm of the king, and of his son, and of the sons of him.

²² To you forsooth it was said, that to all the priests, and deacons [*or Levites*], and to (*the*) holy singers, and servants of the temple, and to (*the*) scribes of this temple, no tribute, nor any other preventing or hindering be borne to *them*, nor have there any man power to against-cast (*or impose*) anything to them.

²³ Thou forsooth, Ezra, after the wisdom of God ordain doomsmen (*or judges*) and arbitrators, in all Syria and Phenice (*or Phoenicia*), and teach all (*those*) that know (*not*) the law of thy God [*or all that the law of thy God knew (not), teach*];

²⁴ that how many ever [*over*]-pass (*or transgress*) the law, they be busily (*or swiftly*) punished, or by death, or by torment, or also by mulcting, *or punishing*, of money, or by departing away.

²⁵ And Ezra, the scribe, said, Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, that gave this will (*or this desire*) into the heart of the king, to clarify (*or to glorify*) his house, that is in Jerusalem;

²⁶ and hath worshipped (*or honoured*) me in (*the*) sight of the king, and of his counsellors, and of his friends, and of his purpled men.

27 And I am made steadfast in inwit, after the helping of the Lord our God; and I gathered of Israel men (*or I gathered men of Israel*), that they should go up together with me.

28 And these be the provosts, after their countries, and apportional prince-hoods of them, that with me went up from Babylon, in the realm of Artaxerxes.

29 Of the sons of Phineas *was* Gershom; of the sons of Ithamar, Gamael; of the sons of David, Attus, the son of Sechenias;

30 of the sons of Phoros, Zechariah, and with him be turned again an hundred men and fifty;

31 of the sons of Pahath-moab, Eliaonias, (*the son of*) Zaraeas, and with him two hundred men and fifty;

32 of the sons of Zathoe, Sechenias (*the son of*) Jezelus, and with him two hundred men and fifty; of the sons of Adin, Obeth (*the son of*) Jonathan, and with him two hundred men and fifty;

33 of the sons of Elam, Jessias (*the son of*) Gotholias, and with him seventy men;

34 of the sons of Sophotias, Zerahiah (*the son of*) Michael, and with him fourscore men;

35 of the sons of Joab, Abadias (*the son of*) Jezelus, and with him two hundred men and twelve;

36 of the sons of Bani, Assalimoth (*the son of*) Josiphiah, and with him an hundred men and sixty;

³⁷ of the sons of Babi, Zechariah (*the son of*) Bebai, and with him two hundred men and eight (*or twenty-eight men*);

³⁸ of the sons of Astath, Johanan (*the son of*) Hacatan, and with him an hundred men and ten;

³⁹ of the sons of Adonikam, *that be* the last, and these be the names of them, Eliphalatus, Jeuel, and Samaeas, and with them seventy men;

⁴⁰ (This verse is omitted in the original text.)

⁴¹ And I gathered them to the flood, that is said Theras and Methati (*or And I gathered them together at the river, that is called Theras*); there we were (*for*) three days, and I knew them.

⁴² And of the sons of (*the*) priests and of (*the*) Levites I found not there.

⁴³ And I sent to Eleazar, and to Iduel, and Maasmas,

⁴⁴ and Elnathan, and Samaeas, and Joribus, Nathan, Ennatas, Zechariah, [*and*] Mosollamus, *the which* were leaders and wise men.

⁴⁵ And I said to them that they should come to Doldaeus, (*the chief official*), that was at the place of the treasury.

⁴⁶ And I sent to them, that they should say to Doldaeus, and (*to*) his brethren, and to them that were in the treasury, that they should send to us them that should use (*the office of the*) priesthood in the house of the Lord our God.

⁴⁷ And they brought to us, after the strong hand of the Lord our God, wise men of the sons of Mahli, son of Levi, son of Israel, Asebebias, and (*his*) sons, and (*his*) brethren, that were eighteen;

48 (*and*) Asebias, and Annunus, and Hosaeas, his brother, of the sons of Chanunaeus; and the sons of them, *were* twenty men.

49 And of them that served in the temple, the which David and they princes gave [*or the which David gave, and they princes*], to the working to the Levites, to the temple, of men serving, two hundred and twenty. The names of all be signified in (*the*) scriptures (*or in the register*).

50 And I vowed there fasting to (*the*) young men, in the sight of the Lord, (*so*) that I should seek of him a good way to us (*or so that I should seek from him a good way for us*), and to (*or for*) *them* that were with us, of sons, and beasts, for espies (*or safe from ambush*).

51 Forsooth I shamed to ask of the king (*for*) footmen and horsemen, in fellowship of grace, of keeping against our adversaries.

52 Forsooth we said to the king, For the virtue of the Lord shall be with them, that inwardly seek him in all effect.

53 And (*so*) again we prayed the Lord our God, after these things, whom also we had benignly; and we be made whole to our God.

54 And I parted (*or set apart*) of the provosts of the folk, and of the priests of the temple, twelve men, and Sarabias (*or yea, Sarabias*), and Asamias, and ten men with them of their brethren.

55 And I weighed (*out*) to (*or for*) them (*the*) silver and (*the*) gold, and (*the*) priests' vessels, of the house of the Lord our God, the which the king

had given, and his counsellors, and princes, and all Israel.

⁵⁶ And when I had peised (*or weighed*)it(out), I took an hundred talents of silver and fifty, and silvern vessels of an hundred talents, and of gold an hundred talents,

⁵⁷ and of golden vessels sevenscore, and twelve brazen vessels of good shining metal, yielding the likeness of gold.

⁵⁸ And I said to them, Both ye be holy to the Lord, and the vessels be holy, and the gold and the silver is of the avow to the Lord God of our fathers.

⁵⁹ Wake ye, and keep *it*, till the time that ye take *it* of (*or to*) the provosts of the people, and of the priests, and of the deacons, and of (*the*) princes of the cities of Israel, and Jerusalem [*or in Jerusalem*], in the privy chamber of the house of our God.

⁶⁰ And these priests and deacons [*or Levites*], that took (*the*) gold and silver, and (*the*) vessels, that were in Jerusalem, they brought *those* into the temple of the Lord.

⁶¹ And we moved forth from the flood of Theras, the twelfth day of the first month, till that we went into Jerusalem.

⁶² And when the third day was done, the fourth day forsooth the peised gold and silver was betaken into the house of the Lord our God, to Marmathi, the son of Uri, the priest;

⁶³ and with him was Eleazar, the son of Phinehas; and there were with them Jozabdu, the son of Jeshua, and Moeth, and Sabannus, the son of a deacon (*or and Moeth, the son of*

Sabannus, Levites); all things (*were delivered to them*) at number and weight.

⁶⁴ And the weight of them is written (*up*) in the same hour.

⁶⁵ Those forsooth, that came from the captivity, offered sacrifice of (*or unto*) the Lord of Israel, twelve bulls for all Israel, fourscore wethers and six (*or eighty-six rams*),

⁶⁶ two and seventy lambs, twelve goats for sin, and twelve kine for health; all into the sacrifice of the Lord.

⁶⁷ And again they read the behests of the king to the king's dispensers, and to the little-under-kings (*or to the under-little-kings*) of Celosyria, and of Phenice; and they worshipped the folk and the temple of the Lord.

⁶⁸ And after these things were ended, they came to me, saying,

⁶⁹ The kindred of Israel, and the princes, and the priests, and Levites (*or deacons*), and alien folks, and (*the*) nations of the land, have not parted away [*or severed*] their uncleannesses from the Canaanites, and Hittites, and from (*the*) Perizzites, and Jebusites, and from the Moabites, and Egyptians, and Idumeans (*or Edomites*);

⁷⁰ forsooth they were joined to the daughters of them, both they and their sons; and the holy seed was [*or is*] mingled (*or mixed*) together with the heathen folk of the land; and the provosts and master judges were partners of this wickedness, from the beginning of that realm.

⁷¹ And anon (*or at once*) as I heard these things, I cut *my* clothes, and the hallowed [*or the sacred*]

coat, and I tore the hairs of mine head, and the beard, *and* I sat sorrowing, and dreary.

⁷² And there came to me then as many as ever were moved in (*or by*) the word of the Lord God of Israel, wailing me [*or me wailing*] upon this wickedness (*or while I wailed over this iniquity*); and I sat sorrowful unto the eventide sacrifice.

⁷³ And *then* I rising from fasting, having my clothes cut, kneeled much [*or much kneeling*], and stretching out *mine* hands to the Lord,

⁷⁴ I said, Lord, I am confounded (*or confused*), and I am adread before thy face.

⁷⁵ Forsooth our sins be multiplied upon our heads, and our wickednesses be enhanced (*or be exalted or raised up*) unto heaven;

⁷⁶ for from the time of our fathers we have been in great sin unto this day.

⁷⁷ And for our own sins, and *for the sins* of our fathers we be taken, with our brethren, and with our priests, and with kings of the land, into sword, and captivity, and into prey, with confusion, unto the day that is now.

⁷⁸ And now how much is *it*, that the mercy of thee, Lord God, falleth to us; leave thou to us a root and a name, into the place of thine hallowing (*or in the place of thy sanctuary*),

⁷⁹ to uncover (*or to discover*) our giver of light in the house of the Lord our God, to give to us meat in the time of our servage (*or to give us food in the time of our servitude*).

⁸⁰ And when we served (*in bondage*), we were not forsaken of (*or by*) the Lord our God; but he

set us in grace, putting to us kings of Persia to give us meat (*or food*),

⁸¹ and to clarify (*or to glorify*) the temple of the Lord our God, and to build (*up*) the deserts (*or the ruins*) of Zion, and to give to us stableness in Judea and in Jerusalem.

⁸² And now, Lord, what say we, having these things? We have over-passed thy behests (*or have transgress-ed thy commandments*), the which thou give [*or thou gave*] into the hands of thy children (*or which thou gavest by the hands of thy servants*), (*the*) prophets, that said,

⁸³ Forsooth the land, in(*to*) which ye have entered, to wield the heritage of it, is a defouled (*or a defiled*) land with the filths of [*the*] heathen men of the land, and the uncleannesses of them have full-filled all (*of*) it [*or have full-filled it all*] in (*or with*) his uncleanness.

⁸⁴ And now *therefore* ye shall not join your daughters to their sons, and their daughters ye shall not take to yours sons;

⁸⁵ and ye shall not seek to have peace with them (*for*) all time, (*so*) that coming above ye eat the best things of the land, and (*so*) that ye deal the heritage to your sons, ever(*more*).

⁸⁶ And those things that fall to us, be they all done for our shrewd (*or depraved*) works, and our great sins.

⁸⁷ And thou hast given to us such a root, and again we be turned again to over-pass (*or transgress*) thy lawful things, (*so*) that the uncleannesses of the heathen folk of this land were mingled.

⁸⁸ Whether thou shalt not wrath to us, to lose (*or to destroy*) us, for till the root be forsaken, and our seed?

⁸⁹ Lord God of Israel, thou art sooth-fast; forsooth the root is forsaken, unto the day that is now.

⁹⁰ Lo! now we be in thy sight in our wickednesses; forsooth it is not yet to stand before thee in these things.

⁹¹ And when Ezra honouring (*or worshipping*) acknowledged, weeping, he fell down to the earth before the temple, there be gathered before him a full great multitude of Jerusalem [*or be gathered before him of Jerusalem a full great company or crowd*], men, and women, and young men, and young women; forsooth the weeping was great in that multitude.

⁹² And when Jechonias, the son of Jeel, of the sons of Israel, had cried, Ezra said, We have sinned against the Lord (*or And then Jechonias, the son of Jeel, one of the sons of Israel, cried out, and said, O Ezra, we have sinned against the Lord*), for that we have set with us into matrimony heathen women, of the Gentiles of the land.

⁹³ And now whosoever is over all Israel in these things, be there to us an oath of (*or to*) the Lord, to put away all our wives, that be, with their sons, of the heathen folk;

⁹⁴ as it is deemed to (*or by*) thee of the greater men, after the law of the Lord.

⁹⁵ Arise *now* up, and show [*out*]thy will; forsooth to thee abideth this need, and we be with thee; do manly.

⁹⁶ And Ezra arising up, made the princes of *(the)* priests, and the deacons [*or the Levites*], and *(or of)* all Israel, to swear to do after all these things; and they swore.

CHAPTER 9

¹ And Ezra rising up from the fore-porch *(or the courtyard)* of the temple, went into the cell *(or the room)* of Johanan, the son of Eliasibus.

² And he harboured there, tasted no bread, nor drank water, for the wickednesses of the multitude.

³ And there was made a preaching in all Judea and in Jerusalem, to all that were of the captivity *(that they should be)* gathered *(together)* in Jerusalem,

⁴ *(And)* Whosoever again-cometh not to the second or the third day, after the doom of the elder men sitting, his faculties shall be taken away, and *(that)* he be deemed alien *(or stranger, or cast out)* from the multitude of the captivity.

⁵ And all, that were of the lineage(s) of Judah and Benjamin, were gathered together, three days *(later)* in Jerusalem; this is the ninth month, the twentieth day of the month.

⁶ And all the multitude sat in the floor *(or the open space)* of the temple, trembling for winter *then* being.

⁷ *And* Ezra rising up, said to Israel, Ye have done wickedly, setting to you into matrimony heathen wives, *(so)* that ye add to the sins of Israel.

8 And now give ye to the Lord God of our fathers confession, and great worthiness;

9 and perform ye his will, and goeth away from the heathen folk of the land, and from heathen wives.

10 And all the multitude cried, and they said with a great (*or a loud*) voice, We shall do, as thou hast said.

11 But for the multitude is great, and the time is winter, and we may not stand unholpen, [*or unhelped*], (*or without help*), and this work is not to (*or for*) us of one day, nor of two; (*for*) much we have sinned in these things;

12 *therefore* stand the provosts of the multitude, and all that dwell with us, and how many ever have with them heathen wives;

13 and stand they nigh in the time that is taken [*or in the accept(able) time of (or in) all place(s)*], priests, and doomsmen, till that they lose (*or turn away*) the wrath of the Lord, of this need (*or over this matter*).

14 Jonathan forsooth, the son of Azael, and Hezekiah, (*the son of*) Thocanus, took after these things, and Mosollamus, and Levi, and Sabbaetaeus wrought together with them.

15 And all that were of the captivity stood *there*, after all these things.

16 And Ezra, (*the*) priest, chose to him(*self*) men, (*the*) great princes, of the fathers of them, after the names; and they sat together, in the new moon of the tenth month, to examine this need (*or this matter*).

17 And it is determined of the men, that had heathen wives, unto the new moons of the first month.

18 And there be found mingled (*or mixed*) among of the priests, that had heathen wives;

19 of the sons of Jesus, (*or Jeshua, or Joshua*), the son of Josedek, and of his brethren, Mathelas, and Eleazar, and Joribus, and Joadanus.

20 And they laid (*or put up*) their hands, that they should (*or would*) put away their wives, and for to sacrifice a ram, into prayer for their ignorance.

21 And of the sons of Emmer, Ananias, and Zabdaeus, and Manes, and Samaeus, and Jereel, (*and*) Azarias;

22 and of the sons of Phaesus, Elionas, Massias, Ishmael, and Nathanael, and Okidelus, and Sallows.

23 And of the deacons [*or the Levites*], Jozabadus, and Semis, and Colius, who was called Calitas, and Phathaeus, and Judas, and Jonas.

24 And of the hallowed [*or the sacred*] singers, Eliasibus, (*and*) Bacchurus.

25 And of the ushers, Sallumus, and Tolbanes. (*And of the porters, Shallum, and Telem.*)

26 And of Israel, of the sons of Phoros, Jermas, and Jeddias, and Melchias, and Maelus, and Eleazar, and Asibias, and Bannaeas.

27 And of the sons of Ela, Matthanias, and Zechariah, (*and*) Jezrielus, and Jeremoth, and Aedias.

28 And of the sons of Zamoth, Eliadas, and Eliasimus, and Othonias, and Jarimoth, and Sabathus, and Zardaeus.

29 And of the sons of Bebai, Johannes, and Ananias, and Ozabadus, and Emathis.

30 And of the sons of Mani, Olamus, and Mamuchus, and Jedaeus, and Jasubus, and Asaelus, and Jeremoth.

31 And of the sons of Addi, Naathus, and Moosias, and Laccunus, and Naidus, Matthanias, and Sesthel, and Balnuus, and Manasseas.

32 And of the sons of Annas, Elionas, and Asaeas, and Melchias, and Sabbaeus, and Simon Chosamaeus.

33 And of the sons of Asom, Altan-naeus, Mattathias, and Bannaesus, and Eliphalat, and Manasseh, and Shimei.

34 And of the sons of Bani, Jeremiah, and Momdis, and Ismaerus, and Juel, and Mandae, and Paedias, and Anos, Carabasion, and Enasibus, and Mamni-tanaemus, and Eliasis, and Bannus, and Eliali, and Somis, and Selemias, and Nathaniah; and of the sons of Ezora, Sessis, and Ezril, and Azael, and Samatus, and Zambris, and Josephus.

35 And of the sons of Nooma, Mazitias, and Zabadaeas, and Edaes, and Juel, (*and*) Banaeas.

36 All (*of*) these (*had*) joined to them-(*selves*) heathen wives, and (*now*) left them (*or let them go*), with *their* sons.

37 And (*the*) priests, and deacons, and they that were of Israel, dwelled in Jerusalem in an one region (*or dwelled in Jerusalem, and its vicinity*), (*in*) the new moon of the seventh month; and the sons of Israel were in their abidings.

38 And all the multitude gathered together in the floor (*or in the open space*), that is from the east of the hallowed [*or the sacred*] gate.

39 And they said to Ezra, (*the*) bishop and reader, that he should bring forth the law of Moses, that was given of (*or by*) the Lord God of Israel.

40 And Ezra, the bishop, brought forth the law to all the multitude of them, from man unto woman, and to all the priests, to hear the law, in the new moon of the seventh month.

41 And he read in the floor (*or the open space*), that is before the holy gate of the temple, from the first light of *the day* unto even(*ing*), before men and women; and all they gave wit, (*or thought, or understanding*) to the law.

42 And Ezra, the priest, and reader of the law, stood [*up*] upon the treen (*or the wooden*) chair, that was made *therefore*.

43 And there stood with him Mattathias, and Sammus, and Ananias, Azariah, Uriah, Hezekiah, and Baal-samus, at the right side;

44 and at the left side, Phaldaeus, Mishael, Melchias, Lothasubus, Nabariah, and Zechariah.

45 And Ezra took a book before all the multitude; forsooth he sat before in worship (*or in honour*), in the sight of all.

46 And when he had assoiled the law (*or had opened, or had expounded upon, the law*), all they stood upright. And Ezra blessed the Lord God, alder-Highest God of (*the*) Sabbath, Almighty or all mighty.

47 And all the people answered, Amen. And again they raised up *their* hands, and falling down unto the earth, they honoured (*or worshipped*) the Lord.

48 And Ezra commanded, that these should teach the law, Jesus, (*or Jeshua, or Joshua*), and Annus, and Sarabias, and Jadinus, and Jacobus, and Sabba-taeas, and Autaeas, and Maeannas, and Calitas, and Azarias, and Jozab-dus, and Ananias, and Phiathas, (*the*) deacons [*or Levites*]. The which taught the law of the Lord, and in (*or to*) the multitude they read the law of the Lord; and each by himself, that under-stood the lesson, told *it* before them.

49 And Attharates said to Ezra (*or And the governor said to Ezra*), the bishop and reader, and to the Levites that taught the multitude, saying,

50 This day is holy to the Lord. And all they wept, when they had heard the law.

51 And Ezra said, Ye therefore, after ye be gone atwain, eateth all most fat things, and drinketh all most sweet, and send ye gifts to them that have not;

52 forsooth this day of the Lord is holy; and be ye not sorry, the Lord forsooth shall clarify us (*or for the Lord shall glorify us*).

53 And the deacons [*or the Levites*] denounced (*or announced*), *or showed*, openly to all men, saying, This day is holy; will ye not (*to*) be sorry (*or resolve not to be sorrowful*).

54 And then all they went away, to eat, and to drink, and to have plenty of meat (*or food*), and

to give gifts to them that have not, whereof to eat plenteously.

⁵⁵ Greatly forsooth they be enhanced in the words, with the which they be taught. And all they were gathered into Jerusalem, to make solemn the gladness, after the testament of the Lord God of Israel.

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