

2 ESDRAS (EZRA)

CHAPTER 1

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of the Persians, that the word of the Lord by Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of the Persians, and he issued a proclamation through all his kingdom, and that in writing, saying, ²Thus said Cyrus king of the Persians, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the earth; and He hath given me a charge to build Him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judea. ³Who is there among you of all His people? for his God shall be with him, and he shall go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judea, and let him build the house of the God of Israel, (He is the God Which is in Jerusalem). ⁴And every one that remaineth, let him go from every place where he sojourneth, and the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with cattle, together with the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem. ⁵Then rose up the chiefs of the families of Judah, and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, all whose spirit the Lord had stirred up to go up to build the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem. ⁶And all they that were round about strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with good, and with cattle, and with presents, beside the freewill offerings. ⁷Also king Cyrus brought forth the vessels, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought out from Jerusalem, and put in the house of his god. ⁸And them did Cyrus king of the Persians bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and he numbered them unto Sheshbazzar the chief man of Judah. ⁹And this is the number of them: thirty basons of gold, and a thousand basons of silver, nine and twenty changes, ¹⁰thirty goblets of gold, and four hundred and ten double silver vessels, and a thousand other vessels. ¹¹All the gold and silver vessels were five thousand four hundred, *even* all that went up with Sheshbazzar from the *place of transportation*, from Babylon unto Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 2

Now these are the sons of the land that went up, of the number of prisoners which had gone up from the captivity of the exile, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon; and they came again unto Judah and Jerusalem, every man unto his city, ²which came with Zerubbabel: Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mardecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah, the number of the men of Israel: ³the sons of Parosh, two thousand and hundred seventy and two; ⁴the sons of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy and two; ⁵the sons of Arah, seven hundred seventy and five; ⁶the sons of Pahath-Moab pertaining to the sons of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve; ⁷the sons of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four; ⁸the sons of Zattu, nine hundred forty and five;

⁹the sons of Zaccai, seven hundred and threescore; ¹⁰the sons of Bani, six hundred forty and two; ¹¹the sons of Bebai, six hundred twenty and three; ¹²the sons of Azgad, a thousand two hundred twenty and two; ¹³the sons of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and six; ¹⁴the sons of Bigvai, two thousand fifty and six; ¹⁵the sons of Adin, four hundred fifty and four; ¹⁶the sons of Ater the son of Hezekiah, ninety and eight; ¹⁷the sons of Bezai, three hundred twenty and three; ¹⁸the sons of Jorah, an hundred and twelve; ¹⁹the sons of Hashum, two hundred twenty and three; ²⁰the sons of Gibbar, ninety and five; ²¹the sons of Bethlehem, an hundred twenty and three; ²²the sons of Netophah, fifty and six; ²³the sons of Ananoth, an hundred twenty and eight; ²⁴the sons of Azmaveth, forty and three; ²⁵the sons of Kirjath-jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty and three; ²⁶the sons of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty and one; ²⁷the sons of Michmas, an hundred twenty and two; ²⁸the men of Michmas, an hundred twenty and two; ²⁹the sons of Nebo, fifty and two; ³⁰the sons of Magbish, an hundred fifty and six; ³¹the sons of Elamer, a thousand two hundred fifty and four; ³²the sons of Elam, three hundred and twenty; ³³the sons of Lod and Ono, seven hundred twenty and five; ³⁴the sons of Jericho, three hundred forty and five; ³⁵the sons of Senaah, three thousand and six hundred and thirty; ³⁶and the priests: the sons of Jedaiah, pertaining to the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three; ³⁷the sons of Immer, a thousand fifty and two; ³⁸the sons of Pashhur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven; ³⁹the sons of Harim, a thousand and seven; ⁴⁰and the Levites, the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, pertaining to the sons of Hodvaiah, seventy and four; ⁴¹the sons of Asaph, singers, an hundred twenty and eight; ⁴²the sons of the porters, the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, in all an hundred thirty and nine; ⁴³the Nethinim: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth, ⁴⁴the sons of Keros, the sons of Siaha, the sons of Padon, ⁴⁵the sons of Lebanah, the sons of Hagabah, the sons of Akkub, ⁴⁶the sons of Hagab, the sons of Shalmal, the sons of Hanan, ⁴⁷the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, the sons of Reaiah, ⁴⁸the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, the sons of Gazzam, ⁴⁹the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, the sons of Besai, ⁵⁰the sons of Asnah, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephusim, ⁵¹the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur, ⁵²the sons of Bazluth, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha, ⁵³the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Tamah, ⁵⁴the sons of Neziah, the sons of Hatipha, ⁵⁵the sons of the servants of Solomon, the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Peruda, ⁵⁶the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel, ⁵⁷the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth, the sons of Zebaim, the sons of Ami; ⁵⁸all the Nethinim, and the sons of Abdeselma, were three hundred ninety and two. ⁵⁹And these are they that went up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, Immer; but they could not shew their father's house, and their seed, whether they were of Israel: ⁶⁰the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Bua, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, six hundred fifty and two; ⁶¹and of the sons of the priests, the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Kos, the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife and daughter

of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name. ⁶²These sought their genealogy as though they had been reckoned, but they were not found; therefore were they put away from the priesthood. ⁶³And Athersatha told them that they should not eat of the most holy things, until a priest should arise with Lights and Perfections. ⁶⁴And the whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore, ⁶⁵beside their menservants and their maidservants: and these were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven; and among these were two hundred singing men and singing women. ⁶⁶Their horses were seven hundred thirty and six; their mules, two hundred forty and five; ⁶⁷their camels, four hundred thirty and five; their asses, six thousand seven hundred and twenty. ⁶⁸And some of the chiefs of families, when they went into the house of the Lord which was in Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God, to establish it in the prepared place thereof. ⁶⁹According to their power they gave into the treasury of the work pure gold threescore and one pieces, and five thousand pounds of silver, and one hundred priests' garments. ⁷⁰So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinim, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

CHAPTER 3

And the seventh month came on, and the sons of Israel were in their cities, and the people gathered themselves together as one man at Jerusalem. ²Then stood up Joshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer whole burnt offerings thereon, according to the things that were written in the law of Moses the man of God. ³And they set up the altar on his place, for there was a terror upon them because of the people of the lands; and the whole burnt offering was offered up thereon unto the Lord morning and evening. ⁴They kept also the feast of tabernacles, according to that which was written, and offered whole burnt offerings daily by number, according to the ordinance, the exact daily rate; ⁵and after this the perpetual whole burnt offering, and for the season of new moon, and *offering* for all the hallowed feasts of the Lord, and for every one that offered a freewill offering unto the Lord. ⁶On the first day of the seventh month began they to offer whole burnt offerings unto the Lord; but the foundation of the house of the Lord was not yet laid. ⁷They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters, and meat and drink and oil unto them of Sidon and of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant of Cyrus king of the Persians unto them. ⁸Now in the second year of their coming to the house of God in Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, over the workmen in the house of the Lord. ⁹Then stood

Jeshua and his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, and the sons of Judah, over them that wrought in the house of the Lord: the sons of Henadad, their sons, and their brethren the Levites. ¹⁰And they laid a foundation for building the house of the Lord; and the priests in their apparel stood with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel. ¹¹And they answered with praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord, because He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a loud voice to praise the Lord, at the laying of the foundation of the house of the Lord. ¹²But many of the priests and Levites and the elders, chiefs of families, that had seen the former house upon the foundation thereof, and who saw this house with their eyes, wept with a loud voice; but the multitude shouted with joy to raise a song. ¹³And the people did not discern the voice of the glad shout from the voice of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud voice, and the voice was heard from afar off.

CHAPTER 4

Now they that afflicted Judah and Benjamin heard that the sons of the captivity builded an house unto the Lord God of Israel. ²And they drew near unto Zerubbabel, and to the heads of the families, and said unto them, We will build with you, for we seek our God as you do, and we do sacrifice unto Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, which brought us hither. ³Then Zerubbabel, and Joshua, and the rest of the heads of the families of Israel said unto them, It is not for us and you to build an house unto our God; for we ourselves together will build unto the Lord our God, as Cyrus the king of the Persians hath commanded us. ⁴Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and hindered them in building, ⁵hiring *counsellors* against them also, plotting to frustrate their counsel, all the days of Cyrus king of the Persians, even until the reign of Darius king of the Persians.

⁶And in the reign of Ahasuerus, even in the beginning of his reign, they wrote a letter against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem. ⁷And in the days of Artaxerxes, wrote Tabeel unto Mithradates and unto the rest of his fellow servants; the tribute gatherer did write unto Artaxerxes king of the Persians a writing in the Syrian tongue, and *the same* interpreted. ⁸Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe wrote an epistle against Jerusalem to king Artaxerxes, saying, ⁹Thus hath judged Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of our fellow servants, the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarphalaeans, the Apharsaeans, the Archuaeans, the Babylonians, the Susanites, the Davaites, ¹⁰and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnapper carried away, and settled them in the cities of Samaria, and the rest beyond the river. ¹¹This is the purport of the letter that they sent unto him: Thy servants the men beyond the river unto king Artaxerxes. ¹²Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from

thee to us are come unto Jerusalem the rebellious and wicked city, which they are building; and the walls thereof are set in order, and they have exalted the foundations thereof. ¹³Now then be it known unto the king, that, if that city be builded up, and the walls thereof finished, thou shalt have no tribute, neither will they pay; and this injureth kings. ¹⁴And it is not lawful for us to see the dishonour of the king: therefore have we sent and certified *the matter* to the king; ¹⁵that examination may be made in the book of record of thy fathers: so shalt thou know that that city is rebellious, and do hurt unto kings and countries; and there are in the midst thereof refuges for slaves: therefore hath this city been made desolate. ¹⁶We therefore declare unto the king, that if the city be builded, and the walls thereof set up again, thou shalt not have peace.

¹⁷Then sent the king to Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their fellow servants that dwelt in Samaria, and the rest beyond the river, *saying*, Peace: and he saith, ¹⁸The tribute gatherer, whom ye sent to us, hath been called before me. ¹⁹And a decree hath been made by me, and we have examined and found that that city of old time exalteth herself against kings, and that rebellions and desertion take place therein. ²⁰There were powerful kings also in Jerusalem, and they ruled over all *the countries* beyond the river, and abundant revenues and tribute were given unto them. ²¹Now therefore make a decree to halt the work of those men; and that city shall be no more builded. ²²Be ye careful of the decree, not to be remiss concerning this matter; lest at any time destruction abound to the hurt of kings.

²³Then did the tribute gatherer of king Artaxerxes read the letter before Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and his fellow servants: and they went in haste to Jerusalem, and through Judah, and made them to cease, with horse and an armed force. ²⁴Then ceased the work of the house of God in Jerusalem; and it was at a stand unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of the Persians.

CHAPTER 5

And Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied a prophecy unto the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them. ²Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which was in Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them. ³At the same time came there upon them Tattenai, the governor on this side of the river, and Shethar-boznai, and their fellow servants, and spake thus unto them, Who hath ordained a decree for you to build this house, and to *make this* preparation? ⁴Then spake they thus unto them, What are the names of the men that build this city. ⁵But the eyes of God were upon the captivity of

Judah, and they did not cause them to cease, till the decree was brought to Darius: and then was sent by the tribute gatherer concerning this.

⁶The copy of a letter, which Tattenai, the governor of the part on this side the river, and Shethar-boznai, and their fellow servants the Apharsachites, which were on this side the river, sent unto king Darius. ⁷They sent an account unto him; and thus was written therein; All peace unto Darius the king. ⁸Be it known unto the king, that we went into the land of Judea, to the house of the great God; and it is building with choice stones, and they are laying timbers in the walls, and that work prospereth, and goeth favourably on in their hands. ⁹Then asked we those elders, and said unto them thus, Who gave you the order to build this house, and make this preparation? ¹⁰We asked them their names also, to declare them to thee, to write the names of their chief men unto thee. ¹¹And thus they returned us answer, saying, We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and build the house that was builded many years before this; and a great king of Israel builded it, and established it for them. ¹²But after that our fathers had provoked the God of heaven, He gave them into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar the Chaldean, king of Babylon, and he destroyed this house, and carried the people captive to Babylon. ¹³And in the first year of king Cyrus, Cyrus the king made a decree that this house of God should be builded. ¹⁴And the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar brought out of the house that was in Jerusalem, and carried them into the temple of the king, those did king Cyrus bring out from the temple of the king, and give them unto Sheshbazzar the treasurer, who was over the treasure, ¹⁵and said unto him, Take all the vessels, and go, put them into the house that is in Jerusalem in their place. ¹⁶Then came the same Sheshbazzar, and laid the foundations of the house of God in Jerusalem; and since that time even until now hath it been in building, and hath not been finished. ¹⁷Now therefore, if it seem good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure house at Babylon; that thou mayest know if that a decree was made by king Cyrus to build that house of God that was in Jerusalem, and let the king send to us when he hath learnt concerning this matter.

CHAPTER 6

Then Darius the king made a decree, and caused a search to be made in the houses of the rolls, where the treasure is laid up in Babylon. ²And there was found in the city, in the palace, a volume, and this was the record written therein. ³In the first year of king Cyrus, Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the holy house of God that was in Jerusalem, saying, Let the house be builded, and the place where they sacrifice the sacrifices. (Also he appointed the elevation thereof, in height sixty cubits; the breadth thereof of sixty cubits.) ⁴And let there be three strong layers of stones, and one layer of timber; and the expenses shall be paid out of the king's house. ⁵And the silver and the gold vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar carried

away out of the house that was in Jerusalem, and carried to Jerusalem, let them even be given, and carried again unto the temple, which is in Jerusalem, and placed in the place where they were set in the house of God. ⁶Now, ye rulers beyond the river, Shetharboznai, and their fellow servants the Persians, which are beyond the river, give these things, keeping far from that place. ⁷Now let the work of the house of God alone; let the rulers of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build that house of God in his place. ⁸Moreover a decree is made by me, if haply ye may do somewhat in concert with the elders of the Jews for the building of the house of God: to wit, out of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, let there be money to defray the expenses carefully granted unto those men, that they be not hindered. ⁹And whatsoever need, ye shall give both the young of bulls, and rams, and lambs, for whole burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt wine, and oil, according to the word of the priests which are in Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day whatsoever they shall ask; ¹⁰that they may offer sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and that they may pray for the life of the king and his sons. ¹¹And a decree is made by me, that every man that shall alter this word, timber shall be pulled down from his house, and let him be lifted up and slain thereon, and his house shall be confiscated. ¹²And may the God whose name dwelleth there, overthrow every king and people which is in Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be diligently attended to.

¹³Then Tattenai, the governor on this side beyond the river, Shetharboznai, and his fellow servants, according to that which king Darius had sent, so did they diligently. ¹⁴And the elders of the Jews, and Levites, builded, at the prophecy of Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo: and they builded, and finished it, by the decree of the God of Israel, and by the decree of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes, kings of the Persians. ¹⁵And they finished this house by the third day of the month Adar, which is the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king. ¹⁶And the sons of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the sons of the captivity, kept the dedication of the house of God with gladness. ¹⁷And they offered for the dedication of the house of God an hundred calves, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve kids of the goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. ¹⁸And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their separate orders, for the services of God in Jerusalem, according to the writing of the book of Moses.

¹⁹And the sons of the captivity kept the passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month. ²⁰For the priests and Levites were purified; all were clean to a man; and they killed the passover for all the sons of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. ²¹And the sons of Israel did eat the passover, even they that were of the captivity, and every one that had separated himself unto them from the uncleanness of the nations of the land, to seek the Lord God of Israel. ²²And they kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with gladness: for the Lord had made them glad, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the works of the house of the God of Israel.

CHAPTER 7

Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of the Persians, came up Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, ²the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, ³the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Maraioth, ⁴the son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, ⁵the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the first priest. ⁶This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given: and the king gave him *leave*, for the hand of the Lord his God was upon him in all things that he sought. ⁷And there went up some of the sons of Israel, and of the priests, and of the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinim, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. ⁸And they came to Jerusalem in the fifth month; this was the seventh year of the king. ⁹For in the first day of the first month began he the going up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came they to Jerusalem, for the good hand of the Lord his God was upon him. ¹⁰For Ezra had determined in his heart to seek the law, and to do and teach the ordinances and judgments in Israel.

¹¹Now this is the copy of the order that Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe of the book of the words of the commandments of the Lord, and of His ordinances to Israel. ¹²Artaxerxes, king of king, to Ezra, the scribe of the law of the Lord God of heaven, Let the order and the answer be accomplished. ¹³A decree is made by me, that every one that is willing in my kingdom of the people of Israel, and of the priests and the Levites, to go up to Jerusalem, let *them* go with thee. ¹⁴*One* hath been sent from the king and the seven counsellors, to visit Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of their God that is in thine hand; ¹⁵and to carry away even for the house of the Lord silver and gold, which the king and the counsellors have freely given unto the God of Israel, which dwelleth in Jerusalem; ¹⁶and all the silver and gold, whatsoever thou shalt find in all the land of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and the priests that offer freely for the house of God which is in Jerusalem. ¹⁷And as for every one that that arriveth there, speedily order him by this letter to bring calves, rams, lambs, and their meat offrings, and their drink offerings; and thou shalt offer them on the altar of you God, which is in Jerusalem. ¹⁸And whatsoever it shall seem good to thee and to thy brethren to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, do as it is pleasing unto your God. ¹⁹And deliver the vessels that are given thee for the service of the house of God, before God in Jerusalem. ²⁰And as to the rest of the need of the house of thy God, thou shalt give from the king's treasure houses, ²¹and from me. I king Araxerxes have made a decree for all the treasuries that are in the *country* beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest and scribe of the God of heaven may ask you, it shall be done readily, ²²to the amount of an hundred talents of silver, and an hundred measures of wheat, and an hundred baths of wine, and an hundred baths of oil, and salt without reckoning. ²³Let whatsoever is in the decree of the God of heaven be done:

take heed lest any one make an attack on the house of the God of heaven, lest at any time there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons. ²⁴Also this hath been certified unto you, touching all the priests, and Levites, the singers, porters, Nethinim, and ministers of the house of God, let no tribute be paid unto thee; thou shalt not have power to oppress them. ²⁵And thou, Ezra, as the wisdom of God is in thine hand, appoint scribes and judges, that they may judge for all the people beyond the river, all that know the law of the Lord thy God: and ye shall make it known to him that knoweth not. ²⁶And whosoever shall not do the law of God, and the law of the king readily, judgment shall be taken upon him, whether it be to death, or to chastisement, or to a fine of his property, or to casting into prison.

²⁷Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, Which hath put it thus in the king's heart, to glorify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem: ²⁸and hath given me favour in the sight of the king, and of his counsellors, and all the rulers of the king, the exalted ones. And I was strengthened according to the good hand of God upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me.

CHAPTER 8

And these are heads of the families, the leaders that went up with me in the reign of Artaxerxes the king of Babylon. ²Of the sons of Phinehas, Gershon; of the sons of Ithamar, Daniel; of the sons of David, Hattush. ³Of the sons of Shechaniah, and the sons of Parosh, Zechariah, and with him a company of an hundred and fifty. ⁴Of the sons of Pahath-moab, Eliehoenai the son of Zerahiah, and with him two hundred that were males. ⁵And of the sons of Zathoe, Shechaniah the son of Jahaziel, and with him three hundred males. ⁶And of the sons of Adin, Ebed the son of Jonathan, and with him fifty males. ⁷And of the sons of Elam, Jeshaiah the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy males. ⁸And of the sons of Shephatiah, Zebadiah the son of Michael, and with him fourscore males. ⁹And of the sons of Joab, Obadiah the son of Jehiel, and with him two hundred and eighteen males. ¹⁰And of the sons of Baani, Shelomith the son of Josiphiah, and with him an hundred and threescore males. ¹¹And of the sons of Bebai, Zechariah the son of Babai, and with him twenty and eight males. ¹²And of the sons of Azgad, Johanan the son of Hakkatan, and with him an hundred and ten males. ¹³And of the sons of Adonikam last, and these were their names: Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah, and with them threescore males. ¹⁴And of the sons of Bigvai, Uthai, and Zabud, and with him seventy males.

¹⁵And I gathered them together to the river that cometh to Ahava, and there we pitched three days; and I reviewed the people, and the priests, and found there none of the sons of Levi. ¹⁶And I sent men of understanding unto Eleazar, to Ariel, to Shimaiah, and to Elnathan, and to Jarib, and to Elnathan, and to Nathan, and to Zechariah, and to Meshullam, and to Joiarib, and to Elnathan. ¹⁷And I sent them to the rulers with the money of

the place, and put words in their mouth to speak unto their brethren the Nethinim with the money of the place, that they should bring us singers for the house of our God. ¹⁸And they came unto us, as the good hand of our God was upon us, even a man of understanding of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel, and at the commencement came his sons and his brethren eighteen. ¹⁹And Hashabiah and Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merari, his brethren and his sons, twenty. ²⁰And of the Nethinim, whom David and the princes had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim; all of them were gathered by their names. ²¹Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we should humble ourselves before our God, to seek of him a straight way for us, and for our sons, and for all our substance. ²²For I was ashamed to ask of the king a guard and horsemen to save us from the enemy in the way; for we have spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek Him, but His power and His wrath are upon all them that forsake Him. ²³So we fasted, and asked of our God concerning this, and He hearkened unto us. ²⁴And I gave charge to twelve of the chiefs of the priests, unto Sherebiah, to Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them. ²⁵And I weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of the firstfruits of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his princes, and all Israel that were found, had dedicated. ²⁶I even weighed into their hands six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and an hundred silver vessels, and an hundred talents of gold, ²⁷and twenty golden bowls, of about a thousand drachmas, and superior vessels of fine shining brass, precious as gold. ²⁸And I said unto them, Ye are holy unto the Lord; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are freewill offerings unto the Lord God of our fathers. ²⁹Be watchful, and keep them, until ye weigh them before the chief priests and the Levites, and the chiefs of the families in Jerusalem at the chambers of the house of the Lord. ³⁰So the priests and the Levites took the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring to Jerusalem into the house of the Lord.

³¹Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the last month, to come unto Jerusalem; and the hand of our God was upon us, and delivered us from the hand of the enemy and adversary in the way. ³²And we came to Jerusalem, and abode there three days. ³³And it came to pass on the fourth day, that we weighed the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, in the house of our God, into the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas, and with them Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, the Levites. ³⁴All things were reckoned by number and weight, and all the weight was written down. ³⁵At that time the sons of the banishment that came from the captivity offered whole burnt offerings unto the God of Israel, twelve calves for all Israel, ninety and six rams, seventy and seven lambs, twelve goats for a sin offering: all whole burnt offerings unto the Lord. ³⁶And they gave the king's commission unto the king's lieutenants, and the governors beyond the river; and they honoured the people, and the house of God.

CHAPTER 9

Now when these things were done, the princes 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 in their abominations, even the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, the Ammonite, the Moabite, and the Moserite, and the Amorite. ²For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons; and the holy seed hath passed among the nations of the lands: yea, the hand of the princes hath been first in this transgression. ³And when I heard this thing, I rent my garments, and trembled, and plucked of the hairs of my head and of my beard, and sat down mourning. ⁴Then were assembled unto me all that followed the word of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of the captivity; and I remained mourning until the evening sacrifice. ⁵And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my humiliation; and when I had rent my garments, then I trembled, and I bowed myself on my knees, and spread out my hands unto the Lord God, ⁶and said, O Lord, I am ashamed and confounded, my God, for our transgressions are abounded over our head, and our trespasses are increased even unto heaven. ⁷Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our sons, been delivered in the hand of the kings of the nations, by the sword, and by captivity, and by spoil, and with shame of our face, as at this day. ⁸And now our God hath dealt mercifully with us, to leave us to escape, and to give us an establishment in the place of His sanctuary, to lighten our eyes, and to give a little quickening in our servitude. ⁹For we are bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our servitude, but hath extended favour unto us in the sight of the kings of the Persians, to give us a reviving, that they should raise up the house of our God, and restore the desolate places thereof, and to give us a fence in Judah and Jerusalem. ¹⁰O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken Thy commandments, ¹¹which Thou hast given us by the hand of Thy servants the prophets, saying, 'The land, into which ye go to inherit it, is a land subject to disturbance by the removal of the people of the nations for their abominations, wherewith they have filled it from one end to the other by their uncleannesses. ¹²Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, and take not of their daughters for your sons, neither shall ye seek their peace or their good for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and give it as an inheritance unto your sons for ever. ¹³And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, *it is clear* that there is none like unto our God, for Thou hast lightly visited our iniquities, and given us deliverance; ¹⁴whereas we have again broken Thy commandments, and joined in affinity with the people of the lands: be not very angry with us unto our utter destruction, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping. ¹⁵O Lord God of Israel, Thou art righteous; for we remain *yet* escaped, as at this day: behold, we are before Thee in our trespasses, for we cannot stand before Thee because of this.

CHAPTER 10

So when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and praying before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and youths: for the people wept, and wept aloud. ²And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have broken covenant with our God, and have taken strange wives of the nations of the land; yet now there is patience *of hope* unto Israel concerning this thing. ³Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and all such as are born of them, as thou shalt advise: ⁴arise, and alarm them with the commandments of our God, and let it be done according to the law. Arise, for the matter is upon thee, and we are with thee: be strong, and do. ⁵Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. ⁶Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went unto the treasury of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib; he even went thither; he did eat no bread, and drank no water, for he mourned over the unfaithfulness *of them* of the captivity. ⁷And they made proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem unto all the sons of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together unto Jerusalem, saying, ⁸Every one that shall not arrive within three days, as is the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his substance shall be forfeited, and himself separated from the congregation of the captivity.

⁹So all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together at Jerusalem within the three days. This was the ninth month: on the twentieth day of the month all the people sat down in the street of the house of the Lord, because of their alarm concerning the word, and for the storm. ¹⁰And Ezra the chief priest arose, and said unto them, Ye have broken covenant, and have taken strange wives, to add to the trespass of Israel. ¹¹Now therefore give praise unto the Lord God of our fathers, and do that which is pleasing in His sight, and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives. ¹²Then all the congregation answered and said, This thy word is powerful upon us, to do it. ¹³But the people is many in number, and the season is stormy, and there is no power to stand without, and the work is more than enough for one day or for two; for we have greatly sinned in this matter. ¹⁴Let now our rulers stand, and for all in our cities that have taken strange wives, let them come at appointed times, and with them elders from every several city, and judges, to turn away the fierce wrath of our God from us concerning this matter. ¹⁵Only Jonathan the son of Asahel, and Jahaziah the son of Tikvah were with me concerning this; and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite helped them. ¹⁶And the sons of the captivity did so; and Ezra the priest, and heads of families according to their house were separated, and all by their names, for they returned in the first day of the month to examine the matter. ¹⁷And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first day of the first month.

¹⁸And of the priests there were found that had taken strange wives: of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren, Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah. ¹⁹And they gave their hands that they would put away their wives, and offered a ram of the flock for a trespass offering because of their trespass. ²⁰And of the sons of Immer, Hanani, and Zebadiah. ²¹And of the sons of Harim, Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uzziah. ²²And of the sons of Pashhur, Elioenai, Maaseiah, and Ishmael, and Nethanel, and Jozabad, and Elasa. ²³And of the Levites, Jozabad, and Shimei, and Kelaiah (the same is Kelita), and Pethahiah, and Judah, and Eliezer. ²⁴And of the singers, Eliashib: and of the porters, Shallum, and Telem, and Uri. ²⁵Also of Israel, of the sons of Parosh, Ramiah, and Jeziah, and Malchiah, and Mijamin, and Eleazar, and Asabia, and Benaiah. ²⁶And of the sons of Elam, Mattaniah, and Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Eliah. ²⁷And of the sons of Zattu, Elioenai, Eliashib, and Mattaniah, and Jeremoth, and Zabad, and Aziza. ²⁸And of the sons of Bebai, Jehohanan, Hananiah, and Zabbai, and Athlai. ²⁹And of the sons of Bani, Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, and Ramoth. ³⁰And of the sons of Pahath-moab, Adna, and Chelal, and Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, and Binnui, and Manasseh. ³¹And of the sons of Harim, Eliezer, Ishijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon, ³²Benjamin, Malluch, Shemariah. ³³And of the sons of Hashum, Mattenai, Mattattah, Zadab, Eliphelet, Jereamai, Manasseh, Shimei. ³⁴And of the sons of Bani, Maadai, Amram, Uel, ³⁵Benaiah, Badeiah, Cheluh, ³⁶Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib, ³⁷Mattaniah, Mattenai: ³⁸and so did the sons of Bani, and the sons of Shimei, ³⁹and Shelemiah, and Nathan, and Adaiah, ⁴⁰Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai, ⁴¹Azarel, and Shelemiah, and Shemariah, ⁴²and Shallum, Amariah, Joseph. ⁴³Of the sons of Nebo, Jeiel, Matithiah, Zebed, Zebina, Jaddai, and Joel, and Benaiah. ⁴⁴All these had taken strange wives, and begat sons of them.