

FIRST EZRA

CHAPTER 1

And Josiah kept the Passover to his Lord¹ in Jerusalem; they² killed the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the first month, **2** having placed the priests according to their divisions, arrayed in their vestments, in the temple of the Lord. **3** He told the Levites, the temple-servants³ of Israel, that they should sanctify themselves to the Lord when depositing the holy ark of the Lord inside the house that King Solomon son of David, had built; **4** and he said, "It is no longer necessary for you to carry it on your shoulders. Now worship the Lord your God and serve his people Israel; prepare yourselves by your families and tribes, **5** in accordance with the directions of King David of Israel and the magnificence⁴ of his son Solomon. And stand in order within the temple according to the divisions of the ancestral-houses, as Levites *who minister* before your brothers, the sons of Israel. **6** And kill the Passover lamb and prepare the sacrifices for your brothers, and keep the Passover according to the commandment of the Lord that was given to Moses."

7 Josiah provided *the following* to the people who were present: 30,000 lambs and kids, and 3,000 calves. As he promised, these were contributed from the king's possessions to the people and the priests and Levites. **8** Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, the superintendents of the temple, contributed *the following* to the priests for the Passover: 2,600 sheep and 300 calves. **9** And Jeconiah and Shemaiah and his brother Nethanel, and Hashabiah and Ochiel and Joram, captains over thousands,⁵ contributed *the following* to the Levites for the Passover: 5,000⁶ sheep and 700⁷ calves.

10 This is what took place: The priests and the Levites, having the unleavened bread, stood in proper order according to tribes **11** and the divisions of the ancestral-houses, before the people, to make the offering to the Lord as it is written in the book of Moses; this *was done* in the morning.⁸ **12** They roasted the Passover lamb with fire, as required; and they boiled the sacrifices in bronze pots and caldrons, with a pleasing odor,⁹ **13** and distributed *them* to all the people. Afterward they prepared the Passover for themselves and for their brothers the priests, the sons of Aaron, **14** because the priests were offering the fat until nightfall; so the Levites prepared it for themselves¹⁰ and for their brothers the priests, the sons of Aaron. **15** The temple-singers, the sons of Asaph, were in their place according to the arrangement made by David, and also Asaph, Zechariah, and Iddin, who represented the king. **16** The gatekeepers were at each gate; it was not necessary for anyone to leave his post of daily service, for their brothers the Levites prepared *the Passover* for them.

17 So the things pertaining to the sacrifices of the Lord were accomplished that day: the Passover was kept **18** and the sacrifices were offered on the sacrificial-altar of the Lord, according to the command of King Josiah. **19** And for seven days, the sons of Israel who were present at that time kept the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. **20** No Passover like it had been kept in Israel since the times of the prophet Samuel; **21** nor had any of the kings of Israel kept such a Passover as was kept by Josiah and the priests and Levites and the people of Judah and all of Israel who were living in Jerusalem. **22** In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah this Passover was kept.

23 And the deeds of Josiah were upright in the sight of the Lord, for his heart was full of piety. **24** And the events of his reign were chronicled in former times: concerning those who sinned and acted impiously toward the Lord beyond any other people or kingdom, and how they grieved the Lord deeply, so that the accounts of the Lord rose over Israel.

25 After all these acts of Josiah, it happened that Pharaoh, king of Egypt, went to make war at Carchemish on the Euphrates,¹¹ and Josiah went out against him. **26** And the king of Egypt sent word to him saying, "What have we to do with each other, O king of Judah? **27** I was not sent against you by the Lord God, for my war is at the Euphrates. And now the Lord is with me! The Lord is with me, urging me on! Stand aside, and do not oppose the Lord."

28 Josiah, however, did not turn back to his chariot, but tried to fight with him, paying no attention to *the* words of the prophet Jeremiah from the mouth of the Lord. **29** He joined battle with him in the Plain of Megiddo, and the commanders came down¹² against King Josiah. **30** The king said to his servants, "Take me away from the battle, for I am very weak." And immediately his

servants removed him from the line of battle.¹³ **31** He got into his second chariot; and while he was returning to Jerusalem he ceased *living*, and was buried in the tomb of his fathers.

32 And all Judah mourned for Josiah. The prophet Jeremiah composed a lament in honor of Josiah, and the principal men,¹⁴ with the women, have made lamentation for him to this day; this has become an established custom for the whole nation of Israel. **33** These things are written in the book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah; and every one of the acts of Josiah, and his splendor, and his understanding of the law of the Lord, and both his earlier and later achievements, and these that are now told, are recorded in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

34 The men took Jehoahaz¹⁵ son of Josiah, who was twenty-three years old, and made him king in succession to his father Josiah. **35** He reigned three months in Judah and Jerusalem. Then the king of Egypt deposed him from reigning in Jerusalem, **36** and fined the nation 100¹⁶ talents of silver and 1 talent of gold. **37** The king of Egypt made his brother Jehoiakim king of Judah and Jerusalem. **38** Jehoiakim put the nobles in prison, and seized his brother Jehoahaz¹⁷ and brought him back from¹⁸ Egypt.

39 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign in Judah and Jerusalem; he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. **40** King Nebuchadnezzar of Babel came up against him; he bound him with a chain of bronze and took him away to Babel. **41** Nebuchadnezzar also took some holy vessels of the Lord, and carried them away, and stored them in his inner-sanctum in Babel. **42** But the things which are reported about Jehoiakim, and his uncleanness and impiety, are written in the book of the Chronicles of the Kings.

43 His son Jehoiachin became king in his place. He was eight¹⁹ years old when he was made king, **44** and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem. And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. **45** At the turn of the year, Nebuchadnezzar had him brought to Babel, together with the holy vessels of the Lord, **46** and made Zedekiah king of Judah and Jerusalem.

Zedekiah was twenty-one years old, and he reigned eleven years. **47** He also did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and disregarded the words that were spoken by the prophet Jeremiah from the mouth of the Lord. **48** Although he swore an oath to King Nebuchadnezzar in the name of the Lord, he broke his oath and rebelled; and he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart and transgressed the laws of²⁰ the Lord God of Israel. **49** Even the leaders of the people and of the priests committed many acts of sacrilege and lawlessness beyond all the unclean-deeds of all the nations, and stained the temple of the Lord—*the temple* which God had made holy in Jerusalem.

50 So the God²¹ of their fathers sent his messengers²² to recall them, because he wanted to spare *both* them and his dwelling place. **51** But they mocked his messengers, and whenever the Lord spoke,²³ they scoffed at his prophets. **52** *They did this* until he, in his anger against his people on account of their depravity, incited the kings of the Chaldeans to go up against them. **53** These killed-off their youths with the long-sword around their holy temple, sparing neither youth nor virgin, neither elder nor newborn, instead he gave everyone into their hands. **54** And they took all the holy vessels of the Lord, great and small, the treasure chests of the Lord, and the royal stores, and carried them away to Babel. **55** They set fire to the house of the Lord, broke down the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to its towers, **56** and utterly destroyed²⁴ all its glorious things. The survivors he led away to Babel with the long-sword, **57** and they became slaves to him and to his sons until the Persians began to reign, in fulfillment of the word of the Lord *spoken* by the mouth of Jeremiah, **58** saying, "Until the land has enjoyed its sabbaths, it shall keep sabbath all the time of its desolation until the completion of seventy years."²⁵

CHAPTER 2

In the first year of the reign of Cyrus of the Persians, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord *spoken* by the mouth of Jeremiah, **2** the Lord stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of the Persians, and he made a proclamation throughout his entire kingdom,²⁶ and which he also put in writing:

3 This is what King Cyrus of the Persians says:

¹³ [1:30] Chron(MT) "the chariot"

¹⁴ [1:32] Chron(MT) "male singers" (correctly)

¹⁵ [1:34] some LXX(LXX(N)), ChronI36:2 / most LXX "Jeconiah"

¹⁶ [LXXI136] some OL "10"

¹⁷ [1:38] ChronI36:4 / LXX "Zarius"

¹⁸ [1:38] LXX(B) / LXX(B,b), ChronI36:4, Josephus "brought along to"

¹⁹ [1:43] LXX, Chron(LXX(B)) / Chron(LXX(A)), Kings(MT) "eighteen"

²⁰ [1:48] ChronI36:13 "heart, rather than return to"

²¹ [1:50] LXX(B) "King" / Chron(MT) "The Lord God"

²² [1:50] LXX(b,B), Chron(MT) / others "messenger"

²³ [1:51] ChronI36:16 "and despising his words"

²⁴ [1:56] ChronI36:19 "and all the vessels of"

²⁵ [1:58] ChronI36:21 "Until the land has compensated for the neglect of its sabbaths, all the days of its desolation, it rested until the completion of seventy years"

²⁶ [2:2] Josephus "throughout all Asia"

¹ [1:1] Chron(MT) "to Yahweh" / Chron(LXX) "to the Lord his God"

² [1:1] LXX(A) "; the sons of Israel"

³ [1:3] Chron(MT) "instructors"

⁴ [1:4] Chron(MT) "decree"

⁵ [1:9] MT "; chiefs of the Levites"

⁶ [1:9] LXX(A), Chron / most LXX "1,000"

⁷ [1:9] Chron, some Lat "500"

⁸ [1:11] LXX, Chron(LXX) / Chron(MT) "did with the cattle"

⁹ [1:12] Chron "with pots for cooking"

¹⁰ [1:14] LXX(B) / LXX(A) "for them"

¹¹ Greek / from Persian "Ufratu" / Hebrew "Furat"

¹² [1:29] Chron(MT) "and the bowmen shot"

The Lord of Israel, the Lord Most High,¹ has made me king of the inhabited earth, **4** and I am persuaded that he is the god whom the Israelite nation worships, for he foretold my name through the prophets,² and he has commanded me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in the land of³ Judah.⁴ **5** Therefore, if any of you are of his people, may your Lord⁵ be with you; go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord of Israel—he is the Lord who dwells in Jerusalem— **6** and let each of you, wherever you may live, be helped by the people of your neighborhood⁶ with gold and silver, **7** with gifts, and with horses⁷ and livestock, and with other things set aside as vows for the temple of the Lord that is in Jerusalem.

8 Then the family chiefs of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin arose, along with the priests and the Levites, indeed, everyone whose spirit had been stirred by the Lord, to go up to build the house in Jerusalem for the Lord. But many remained in Babel, being unwilling to leave their possessions.⁸ **9** Their neighbors helped them with everything, with⁹ silver and gold, with horses and livestock, and with a very great number of¹⁰ vows from many whose hearts were stirred.

10 King Cyrus also brought out the holy vessels of the Lord that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and had stored in the shrine of his idols. **11** When King Cyrus of the Persians brought these out, he gave them to Mithredath, his treasurer, **12** and by him they were given to Sheshbazzar, the governor of Judah. **13** The number of these was: 1000¹¹ gold dishes, 1000 silver dishes, 29 silver censers,¹² 30 gold bowls, 2410¹³ silver bowls, and 1000 other vessels. **14** The sum of all the gold and silver vessels returned was 5469.¹⁴ **15** And they were carried back by Sheshbazzar with the returning exiles from Babel to Jerusalem.¹⁵

16 In the time of King Artaxerxes of the Persians,¹⁶ Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel,¹⁷ the recorder Rehum,¹⁸ the scribe Shimshai, and the rest of their associates, living in Samaria and other places, wrote him the following letter, against those who were living in Judah and Jerusalem:

17 To King Artaxerxes¹⁹ our lord, your servants the recorder Rehum, and the scribe Shimshai, and the rest of their council, and the judges²⁰ in Coelesyria²¹ and Phoinike:

18 Let it now be known to our lord²² the king that the Judeans who came up from you to us have arrived at Jerusalem²³ and have begun to build that rebellious and wicked city, to repair both its marketplaces and walls and laying the foundations for²⁴ an inner-sanctum. **19** Now if

this city is built and the walls finished,²⁵ they will not only refuse to pay tribute but will even withstand kings and seek rather to rule than to obey.²⁶ **20** And since the construction of the inner-sanctum has already begun, we think it best not to overlook such a matter,²⁷ **21** but to call it to the attention of our lord the king, in order that, if it seems good to you, a search may be made in the records of your fathers. **22** And you will find in the annals²⁸ what has been written about them, and will learn that this city was rebellious, troubling both kings and cities, **23** and that the Judeans were rebellious and inciters of sieges in former times.²⁹ That is why this city was laid waste until now.³⁰ **24** Now therefore, we make known to you, O lord and king,³¹ that if this city is built and its walls raised up, you will no longer have access to Coelesyria and Phoinike.

25 Then the king, in reply to the recorder Rehum,³² the scribe Shimshai, and the rest of their associates living in Samaria and Syria and Phoinike, wrote as follows:³³

26 I have read the letter that you sent me. So I ordered search to be made into the records of my fathers,³⁴ and it was indeed discovered that this city has resisted kings in former times.³⁵ **27** that the humans within it³⁶ were given to rebellion and war, and that mighty and cruel kings ruled in Jerusalem and exacted tribute from Coelesyria and Phoinike. **28** Therefore I have now issued orders to prevent these humans³⁷ from building the city, and to see to it beforehand,³⁸ that nothing further be done **29** and that such wicked proceedings go no further to the annoyance of kings.

30 Then, when the letter from King Artaxerxes was read, Rehum and the scribe Shimshai and their associates went quickly to Jerusalem, with cavalry and a large number of armed troops, and began to obstruct the builders. And the building of the city and³⁹ the temple in Jerusalem was discontinued until the second year of the reign of King Darius of the Persians.

CHAPTER 3

Now in the first year of his reign,⁴⁰ King Darius held a great banquet for all his subjects, for all who were born in his house, and all the nobles of Media and the satraps of⁴¹ Persia, **2** and all the satraps and generals and governors that were under him in the hundred twenty-seven satrapies from Hodu to Cush. **3** And they ate and drank; and when they were satisfied they went away to their own homes to sleep,⁴² and King Darius went to his bedroom; he fell asleep, but woke up again.⁴³

4 Then he said to the three young bodyguards, who kept guard over the person of the king,⁴⁴ **5** “Let each of you⁴⁵ state what one thing he thinks is strongest; and to the one whose statement seems wisest, King Darius will give magnificent gifts and great honors of victory. **6** He shall be clothed in purple, and drink from gold cups, and sleep on a gold bed, and have a chariot with gold bridles, and a turban of fine linen, and a necklace around his⁴⁶ neck; **7** and because of his wisdom he shall sit next to Darius and shall be called Kinsman of Darius.”

8 Then each wrote his own maxim, and sealed it and put it under King Darius’ pillow. **9** And they said, “When the king wakes, they will give him the writing; and the one whose maxim the king and the three nobles of Persia judge to be wisest, will be given the prize of⁴⁷ victory for what is written.”

10 The first wrote, “Wine is strongest.”

¹ [2:3] Ezra1:2(MT), LXX(B) “Isarel, Yahweh God of the heavens” / Josephus “The Most High God”

² [2:4] Josephus add

³ [2:4] Josephus add

⁴ [2:2] Josephus add here “Cyrus knew about these things from reading the book of prophecy which Isaiah had left behind 210 years earlier. For this prophet had said that God told him in secret, ‘It is my will that Cyrus, whom I shall have appointed king of many great nations, shall send my people to their own land and build my house.’ Isaiah prophesied these things 140 years before the house was demolished. And so, when Cyrus read them, he wondered at the divine power and was seized by a strong desire and ambition to do what had been written. And so he summoned the most distinguished of the Judeans in Babel.”

⁵ [2:5] Ezra1:3 “God”

⁶ [2:9] Josephus “by the governors and satraps who were in the neighborhood of their country”

⁷ [2:7] Ezra1:4(MT,LXX) “goods”

⁸ [2:8] Josephus add

⁹ [2:9] Ezra1:6(MT,LXX) “with vessels of”

¹⁰ [2:9] Ezra1:6(MT,LXX)[omit “many” & “all”] “and with many presents besides all the”

¹¹ [2:13] Ezra1:9(MT,LXX) “30”

¹² [2:13] LXX, Ezra1:9(LXX) / Ezra1:9(MT) “1029 silver dishes” [Josephus “was: ‘50 gold wine-coolers, 400 silver, 50 Thericlean cups, 400 silver, 50 gold jars, 500 silver, 40 gold libation bowls, 300 silver’”

¹³ [2:13] Ezra1:9(MT,LXX) “410” / Josephus “2400”

¹⁴ [2:14] Ezra1:11(MT,LXX) “5400”

¹⁵ [2:14] Josephus add a letter of Cyrus here (which is also mentioned later) “King Cyrus to Tattenai and Shethar-boznai, greeting. To those among the Judeans dwelling in my country, whoever desired, I have given permission to return to their native land and to rebuild the city and build the house of God in Jerusalem on the same spot on which it formerly stood. And I have sent there my treasurer Mithredath along with the leader of the Judeans Zerubbabel, to lay the foundations of the house and build it to a height of 60 cubites and the same breadth and to make the walls of three layers of polished stone and one of their native wood, and similarly an altar on which they may sacrifice to God. The expense for these things, I desire to come out of my treasury. I have also sent the vessels which King Nebuchadnezzar took as plunder from the [TEMPLE], giving them over to my treasurer Mithredath and to the leader of the Judeans Zerubbabel, to carry to Jerusalem and place them once more in the house of God. Now the number of these vessels is as follows: 50 gold wine-coolers and 400 of silver, 50 gold Thericlean cups and 400 of silver, 50 gold jars and 500 of silver, 50 gold libations bowls and 300 of silver, 50 gold cups and 2400 of silver, and 1000 other large vessels. I also grant them the honorary gift which their fathers used to receive, for cattle, wine and oil: 205,500 drachmas and 20,500 artabae of wheat for fine flour. I order these to be furnished out of the tribute from Samaria. And the priests in Jerusalem shall offer these sacrifices in accordance with the laws of Moses and, when they bring them, shall pray to God for the well-being of the king and his family and that the kingdom of Persia may long endure. And it is my will that those who disobey these commands or set them aside shall be crucified and that their possessions shall become the property of the king.” These were the contents of the letter.”

¹⁶ [2:16] Josephus “In the time when Cyrus’ son Cambyses took over the royal power”

¹⁷ [2:16] Ezra4:7(LXX) “Artaxerxes, Tabeel wrote peaceably to Mithridates”

¹⁸ [2:16] Emendation / Text reads “Tabeel, Rehum, Belthethmus”

¹⁹ [2:17] Josephus omit “King Artaxerxes”

²⁰ [2:17] LXX(N), some OL, Syr, Vul, Josephus / LXX(A) “and the rulers” / LXX(B) omit altogether

²¹ [2:17] Josephus “Syria”

²² [2:17] Josephus omit “our lord”

²³ [2:18] Josephus “who were carried off to Babel have come to our land”

²⁴ [2:18] Josephus “and erecting”

²⁵ [2:19] Josephus “Now if these things are finished”

²⁶ [2:19] Josephus add

²⁷ [2:20] Ezra4:14(MT) “since we partake of the salt of the place” / Josephus “since... we have thought it proper to write you, O King, and not to overlook these things” / Ezra4:14(LXX) omit altogether

²⁸ [2:22] Josephus “in t hem”

²⁹ [2:23] Josephus “and enemies of kings”

³⁰ [2:23] Josephus add

³¹ [2:24] Josephus omit “O lord and king”

³² [2:25] Emendation, Ezra4:17 / Text reads “to the recorder Rehum, Belthethmus”

³³ [2:25] Josephus “in reply, wrote as follows: ‘Thus says King Cambyses to the recorder Rehum, and Beelzemos, and the scribe Shimshai and their associates living in Samaria and Phoinike.’ [Josephus omit “Syria”]

³⁴ [2:26] Josephus add

³⁵ [3:26] Josephus “has always resisted kings”

³⁶ [2:27] Josephus “that its inhabitants”

³⁷ [2:28] Josephus “prevent the Judeans”

³⁸ [2:28] Josephus omit “and to see to it beforehand”

³⁹ [2:30] Josephus add

⁴⁰ [3:1] Josephus add

⁴¹ [3:1] Josephus add

⁴² [3:3] Josephus add

⁴³ [3:3] Josephus “bedroom, but, after resting a brief part of the night, he awoke. And being unable to sleep any longer, fell to talking with his three bodyguards.”

⁴⁴ [3:4] Emendation based on Josephus’ more probable paraphrase of this account / Text “Then the three young... the king, said to one another”

⁴⁵ [3:4] Emendation based on Josephus’ paraphrase / Text “us”

⁴⁶ [3:6] LXX(A) / LXX(B) “the”

⁴⁷ [3:9] LXX(A,N), Josephus / others omit “prize of”

11 The second wrote, "The king is strongest."

12 The third wrote, "Women are strongest, but truth is victorious over all things."

13 When the king awoke, they took the writing and gave it to him, and he read it. 14 Then he sent and summoned all the nobles of Persia and Media and satraps and generals and toparchs and consuls, 15 and he took his seat in the judgment hall, and the writing was read in their presence. 16 He¹ said, "Call the youths, and they shall explain their maxims."

So they were summoned. And when they came in, 17 they said to them, "Explain to us what you have written."

Then the first, who had spoken of the strength of wine, began and said, 18 "Men, how incomparably strong is wine! It confuses the minds of all humans who drink it. 19 It reduces to the same level the mind of the king and the orphan or the untutored,² of the slave and the free,³ of the poor and the rich. 20 It turns every thought into feasting and mirth, and makes one forget all sorrow and debt. 21 It makes all hearts feel rich, makes one forget kings and satraps, and makes everyone talk in millions of talents.⁴ 22 When men drink they forget to be friendly with friends and brothers, and before long they draw their sabers.⁵ 23 And when they recover from the wine, they arise and⁶ do not remember what they have done during their drunkenness.⁷ 24 Men, is not wine incomparably strong, since it forces men to act in this manner?" Once he had said this, he stopped speaking.

CHAPTER 4

Then the second, who had spoken of the strength of the king, began to speak, 2 "Men, are not humans incomparably strong, who rule over land and sea and all that is in them?⁸ 3 But the king is incomparably stronger; he is their lord and master, and whatever he decrees to them they obey.⁹ 4 If he tells them to make war upon one another, they do it. And if he sends¹⁰ them out against the enemy, they go, and scale¹¹ mountains, and pull down¹² walls, and towers. 5 They kill and are killed, and never transgress the king's command. If they win the victory, they bring everything¹³ to the king—both what they plunder, as well as everything else. 6 Likewise, there are those who neither serve in the army, nor make war,¹⁴ but cultivate the soil and plow;¹⁵ whenever they sow and reap,¹⁶ they bring some¹⁷ to the king; and they compel one another to pay taxes to the king. 7 And yet he is only one man! If he tells them to kill, they kill; if he tells them to desist, they desist; 8 if he tells them to strike, they strike; if he tells them to lay waste, they lay waste; if he tells them to build, they build; 9 if he tells them to cut down, they cut down; if he tells them to plant, they plant. 10 All his subjects and his armies obey him without delay.¹⁸ Furthermore, he reclines, he eats and drinks and sleeps; 11 but they stand guard around him, and no one may¹⁹ go away or withdraw²⁰ to attend to his own affairs, nor do they disobey him.²¹ 12 Men, why is the king not incomparably strong, since he is to be obeyed in this fashion?"²² And he stopped speaking.

13 Then the third, who had spoken of²³ women and truth (he was Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel from the tribe of Judah²⁴), began to speak, 14 "Men, is not the king great, and are not humans many,²⁵ and is not wine strong? But who is their

master? Who dominates them? Is it not women?²⁶ 15 Women have given birth to the king and to every people that rules over sea and land. 16 From women they came;²⁷ and women brought²⁸ up the very men who plant the vineyards which produce wine. In short, there is nothing which we do not get from them.²⁹ 17 Women make the clothes of the humans, and they bring glory to the humans; and humans cannot exist without women.³⁰ 18 Indeed, if men gather gold and silver or any other elegant thing, and then see a woman beautiful in her form and her beauty, 19 they let all those things go, and gape after her, and with open mouths stare at her countenance,³¹ all preferring her beauty³² to gold or silver or any other elegant thing. 20 A human leaves his own father and mother,³³ who brought him up, and his own country, and clings to his own woman. 21 And he resigns his soul with his woman, with no thought of his father or his mother or his country and often become forgetful of our best friends, and we have the courage to lose our lives by their side.³⁴ 22 Therefore you must realize that women dominate you!

"Do you not labor and toil, and bring everything and give it to women? 23 And a human takes his long-sword, and proceeds to wage war, and rob and steal, and to sail the sea and rivers; 24 he faces lions, and he walks through darkness, and when he steals and robs and steals-clothes, he brings it back to the woman he passionately desires. 25 And a human loves his wife more than his father or his mother. 26 Many men have lost their minds because of women, and have become slaves because of them. 27 Many have perished, or stumbled, or sinned for the sake of women. 28 Now, then, will you not believe me?"

"Is not the king great in his power? Do not all lands fear to touch him? 29 Yet I have seen him with Apame, the king's concubine, the daughter of the illustrious Bartacus;³⁵ she would sit at the king's right hand 30 and take the crown from the king's head and put it on her own, and slap the king with her left hand. 31 At this the king would gaze at her with mouth agape. If she smiles at him, he laughs;³⁶ if she loses her temper with him, he flatters her, so that she may be reconciled to him.³⁷ 32 Men, how incomparably strong are women, since they can act like this?"

33 Then the king and the nobles looked at one another; and he proceeded to speak about truth, 34 "Men, are not women strong? Great is the earth, high are the heavens, and swift is the sun in its course when it races around its circuit of the heavens and returns again to its place in one day. 35 Is not the one who does these things great? But truth is great, and incomparably stronger than all things.³⁸ 36 The whole earth appeals to truth, and the heavens bless it. And all God's works quake and tremble, and with him³⁹ there is nothing unrighteous. 37 Wine is unrighteous, the king is unrighteous, women are unrighteous, all of the sons of the humans are unrighteous, and all of their works are unrighteous, and all such things. There is no truth in them and in their unrighteousness they will perish. 38 But truth endures and is⁴⁰ strong forever, and lives and prevails forever and ever. 39 With it, there is neither partiality nor preference, but it does what is righteous instead of anything that is unrighteous or wicked. Everyone approves its deeds,⁴¹ 40 and there is nothing unrighteous in its judgment.⁴² To it belongs the strength and the kingship and the power and the majesty of all the ages. Blessed be the God of the truth!" 41 When he stopped speaking, all the people shouted and said, "Great is truth, and incomparably strong!"

42 Then the king said to him, "Ask what you desire, even beyond what is written, and we will give it to you, for you have been found to be the wisest. You shall sit next to me, and be called my Kinsman."

43 Then he said to the king, "Remember the vow which you vowed on the day when you became king, to build Jerusalem, 44 and to send back all the vessels that were taken from Jerusalem, which Cyrus set apart⁴⁵ when he vowed to destroy Babel, and vowed to send them back there. 45 And you also vowed to build the inner-sanctum, which the Edomites⁴⁶ and Samaritans and those of

¹ [4:16] others "They"

² [3:19] Josephus add

³ [3:19] Josephus "the mind of the slave to the boldness of the free"

⁴ [3:20-21] Josephus "It remakes and regenerates their souls when it enters them, and drowns the sorrow of those overtaken by misfortune, while debtors forget what they owe to others and makes them think themselves the richest of all men, so that they do not mention any small sum but speak in talents and such denominations only familiar to the wealthy."

⁵ [3:22] Josephus "Moreover, it makes men unaware of commanders and kings, and makes them forget friends and companions. For it arms men against even their best friends, and makes these seem more complete strangers than any others."

⁶ [3:23] Josephus "when they become sober and the wine had left them during their night's sleep, they arise and"

⁷ [3:23] Josephus add

⁸ [4:2] Josephus "for they compel the earth and the sea to be of use to them in whatever way they desire"

⁹ [4:3] Josephus "And they, in turn, are ruled by kings, since these have the authority. Now it is only reasonable, that those who are masters of the strongest and mightiest of living things should therefore be of unsurpassed power."

¹⁰ [4:4] Josephus "It is certain that when they make war and danger upon their subjects they are obeyed, and when they send"

¹¹ [4:4] Josephus "and they order them to level"

¹² [4:4] Josephus add

¹³ [4:5] Josephus "bring the spoils of war" & omit "both what they plunder...else"

¹⁴ [4:6] Josephus "who are not soldiers"

¹⁵ [4:6] Josephus add

¹⁶ [4:6] Josephus "they have reaped and gathered in the fruits"

¹⁷ [4:6] Josephus "bring their tribute"

¹⁸ [4:10] Josephus add

¹⁹ [4:10-11] Josephus "Furthermore, when he goes to sleep after taking his full of every luxury and pleasure, he is guarded by men who keep awake and are, as it were, chained to their post by fear, for while he sleeps no one dares to"

²⁰ [4:11] Josephus add

²¹ [4:11] Josephus "affairs, but holding only one task to be imperative, namely that of guarding the king, he devotes himself to that."

²² [4:12] Josephus "since so great a number of men obey his commands"

²³ [4:13] Josephus "who began to discourse on"

²⁴ [4:13] Syr, OL add

²⁵ [4:14] Possibly the original read "mighty"

²⁶ [4:14] Josephus "Wine and the king, whom all obey, are, to be sure, very strong, but greater in power than these are women."

²⁷ [4:15-16] Josephus omit "and to every people...they came"

²⁸ [4:16] Josephus "women bear and bring up"

²⁹ [4:16] Josephus add

³⁰ [4:17] Josephus "For it is they who weave our clothes for us, and it is through them that household affairs receive due care and attention"

³¹ [4:19] Josephus add

³² [4:19] Josephus add

³³ [4:20] LXX, some Josephus / some Josephus add

³⁴ [4:21] Josephus add

³⁵ [4:29] Josephus "of Rabshases Themasius"

³⁶ [4:31] Josephus "smiles"

³⁷ [4:31] Josephus "with him, he looks serious, flattering the woman according to her change of feelings, and if he happened to see her displeased, appeasing her by making himself very humble."

³⁸ [4:34] Josephus "I have now shown how great is the strength of women, but none the less, both they and the king are weaker than truth. For, although the earth is very great and the heavens high and the sun swift, yet all these move in accordance with the will of God, and, since he is true and righteous, we must for the same reason believe truth also to be the strongest thing, against which no unrighteousness can prevail."

³⁹ [4:36] LXX(N) "her"

⁴⁰ [4:38] LXX(A) "and will be"

⁴¹ [4:39] Josephus "It provides us neither beauty that evaporates with time nor wealth of which fortune may deprive us"

⁴² [4:39] Josephus "39 And it gives us, not beauty that fades with time, nor wealth which may be robbed by fortune, but what is righteous and lawful, and from this it keeps away unrighteousness and puts it to shame."

⁴³ [4:44] LXX(B) / LXX(A,N) "Cyrus put away"

⁴⁴ [4:45] LXX(A,N) / LXX(B) "which the Judeans" / Josephus "which Nebuchadnezzar"

Coelesyria¹ burned when Judah was laid waste by the Chaldeans. **46** And now, O lord the king, this is what I ask and request of you,² and this befits your greatness. Therefore, I beseech that you fulfill the vow whose fulfillment you vowed to the King of the heavens with your own lips.³

47 Then King Darius arose and kissed him, and wrote letters for him to all the treasurers and governors and⁴ generals and satraps, *ordering them* to grant safe conduct to him and to all who were going up with him to build Jerusalem.⁴ **48** And he wrote letters to all the governors in Coelesyria⁵ and Phoinike and to those in Lebanon, to cut down and⁶ transport cedar timber from Lebanon to Jerusalem, and to assist him in building the city. **49** He wrote in behalf of all the Judeans⁷ who were going up from his kingdom to Judah, in the interest of their freedom,⁸ that no officer or satrap or governor or treasurer should force his way into their doors; **50** that all the country that they would occupy should be free from tribute; that the Edomites⁹ and Samaritans and Coelesyrians¹⁰ should give up the villages¹¹ which they had taken over from the Judeans; **51** that twenty¹² talents a year should be given for the building of the temple until it was completed, **52** and that an additional ten talents a year *should be given* for daily holocausts to be offered on the sacrificial-altar, in accordance with the commandment to make seventeen offerings; **53** and that freedom should be given to everyone who came up from Babelia to build the city, to them and to their children, as well as to the priests who came. **54** He wrote also concerning their support and the priests' vestments in which they were to minister to God.¹³ **55** He decreed that the expenses for the Levites should be provided¹⁴ until the day when the house would be finished and Jerusalem built. **56** He wrote that land and wages should be allocated for all the city guards.¹⁵ **57** And he sent back from Babel all the vessels that Cyrus had expropriated; everything that Cyrus had ordered to be done, he also commanded to be done and to be sent to Jerusalem.

58 When the youth departed, he lifted up his face toward the heavens in the direction of Jerusalem, and blest the King of the heavens, saying:

59 "From you *comes* the victory;
from you *comes* wisdom,
and yours is the glory.¹⁶
I am your slave.

60 Blessed are you,
who have given me wisdom;
I give you thanks,
O Lord of our fathers."¹⁷

61 So he took the letters, and went to Babel, where he informed all of his brothers. **62** And they blest the God of their fathers, because he had given them release and permission **63** to go up and build Jerusalem and the temple that is called by his name. So they feasted, with music and rejoicing, for seven days.

CHAPTER 5

After this, the chief-captains of the ancestral-houses, according to their tribes, were chosen to return, along with their women and sons and daughters, and their boys and servant-girls, and their livestock. **2** And Darius sent with them 1,000 cavalry to take them back to Jerusalem in safety, with the music of drums and flutes;¹⁷ **3** all their brothers were playing *instruments*.¹⁸ And he ordered them to go up with them.

4 These are the names of the men who went up, according to their ancestral-houses in the tribes, over their groups: **5** the priests, the sons of Phinehas, the sons of Aaron were¹⁹ Jeshua, son of Jozadak, son of Seraiah; and Joakim, son of Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, of the house of David, of the lineage of Perez, of the tribe of Judah, **6** who spoke wise words before King Darius of the Persians, in the second year of his reign, in the month of Nisan, the first month.

7 These are the Judeans who returned from their sojourn in exile, whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babel had carried away to Babel **8** and who returned to Jerusalem and the rest of Judah, each to his own town. They came with

¹ [4:45] Josephus add

² [4:46] Josephus "this is the request which you have just permitted me to make for being judged wise and intelligent"

³ [4:47] Josephus omit "treasurers and governors and"

⁴ [4:47] Josephus "build the {TEMPLE};"

⁵ [4:48] Josephus "Syria"

⁶ [4:48] Josephus add

⁷ [4:49] Josephus "exiles"

⁸ [4:50] Josephus "Judah should be free"

⁹ [4:50] LXX(A,N), Syncellus, Josephus / LXX(B) "Chaldeans"

¹⁰ [4:50] Josephus add

¹¹ [4:50] LXX, some Josephus / some Josephus "countries"

¹² [4:51] Josephus "50" (also omit "a year" and omit "and that an additional ten...seventeen")

¹³ [4:54] Josephus add

¹⁴ [4:55] Josephus "He decreed that the Levites should be given the instruments with which they sang the praises of God"

¹⁵ [4:56] Josephus "land should be...city and the {TEMPLE}, and a fixed amount of silver annually"

¹⁶ [4:59] LXX(L) "to you belongs counsel and victory and wisdom and glory"

¹⁷ [5:2] Josephus "music of harps and flutes, and the clashing of cymbals"

¹⁸ [5:3] Josephus "were rejoicing"

¹⁹ [5:5] LXX(B) / LXX(A) "the son of Aaron was"

Zerubbabel and Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Resaiah,²⁰ Nahamani,²¹ Mordecai, Bilshan, Asphareth,²² Reeliah,²³ Rehun,²⁴ and Baanah, their fore-leaders.

9 The number of those of the nation and their fore-leaders:

The sons of Parosh	2172
The sons of Shephatiah	472 ²⁵
The sons of Arah	756 ²⁶
11 The sons of Pahath-moab, of the sons of Jeshua and Joab ²⁷	2812 ²⁸
12 The sons of Elam	1254
The sons of Zattu	945 ²⁹
The sons of Chorbe ³⁰	705 ³¹
The sons of Bani ³²	648 ³³
13 The sons of Bebai	623 ³⁴
The sons of Azgad ³⁵	1322 ³⁶
14 The sons of Adonikam	667 ³⁷
The sons of Bigvai	2066 ³⁸
The sons of Adin	454 ³⁹
15 The sons of Ater, namely of Hezekiah	92 ⁴⁰
The sons of Keilan and Azetas	67
The sons of Azzur	432
16 The sons of Anniah	101
The sons of Arom ⁴¹	[...]
The sons of Bezai	323 ⁴²
The sons of Harsiphorith ⁴³	112
17 The sons of Baitar	3005 ⁴⁴
The sons of Bethlehem	123
18 The men of Netophah	55 ⁴⁵
The men of Anathoth	158 ⁴⁶
The men of Beth-azmaveth	42
19 The men of Kiriath-jearim	25
The men of ⁴⁷ Chephirah and Beeroth	743 ⁴⁸
20 The Chadiansans and Ammidians	422 ⁴⁹
The men of Ramah and Geba	621
21 The men of Michmash	122
The men of Bethel [and Ai]	[223]
[The men of Nebo]	52 ⁵⁰
The sons of Magbish ⁵¹	156
22 The sons of another Elam	[1254]
[The sons of Harim]	[320]
[The sons of Lod, Hadid,] and ⁵² Ono	725
The sons of Jericho	245 ⁵³
23 The sons of Senaah	3301 ⁵⁴

24 The priests:

²⁰ [5:8] Ezra2:2(MT) "Reelaiah"

²¹ [5:8] LXX / Ezra omit "Nahamani"

²² [5:8] Ezra, Neh "Mispereth"

²³ [5:8] LXX(A,N) / LXX(B) "Boroleios" / Ezra "Bigvai"

²⁴ [5:8] LXX, Ezra / Neh "Nehum"

²⁵ [5:9] some Eth, some Syr, Ezra, Neh "372"

²⁶ [5:10] Ezra "775" / Neh "652"

²⁷ [5:11] LXX(B) "Roboab"

²⁸ [5:11] LXX, Ezra / Neh "2618" / Brooke-McLean "2802"

²⁹ [5:12] LXX(A,N) / other LXX, Ezra(MT) "945" / Neh "845"

³⁰ [5:12] one, Ezra(MT) "Zaccai"

³¹ [5:12] Ezra, Neh "760"

³² [5:12] LXX, Ezra(MT,LXX), Neh(LXX) / Neh(MT) "Binnui"

³³ [5:12] LXX, Neh / Ezra "642"

³⁴ [5:13] LXX(A,N), Ezra / other LXX "633" / Neh "628"

³⁵ [5:13] some L, Ezra / LXX(B) "Argai"

³⁶ [5:13] some, Ezra "1222" / Neh "2322"

³⁷ [5:14] LXX(A,N) / LXX(B) "37" / Ezra "666" / Neh "667"

³⁸ [5:14] LXX(A,N) / other LXX "2606" / Ezra "2056" / Neh "2067"

³⁹ [5:14] LXX, Ezra / some LXX "654" / Neh "655"

⁴⁰ [5:15] LXX(A,N) / some LXX(B), Eth, Ezra, Neh "98" [[[LXX(B) has "Azer"]]]

⁴¹ [5:15-16] Ezra omit "The sons of Keilan...Arom"

⁴² [5:16] LXX, Ezra / Neh "324"

⁴³ [5:16] LXX(b), Ezra "Jorah" / Neh "Hariph" [[Neh(LXX) add, after this, "the sons of Asen—223"]]

⁴⁴ [5:17] Ezra, Neh(LXX) "—112. The sons of Hashum—223. The sons of Gibbar—95." [Neh(MT) omit "the sons of Hashum" reference (having included it earlier, while the LXX has both), but includes "the sons of Gibbar"]

⁴⁵ [5:18] Ezra, Neh(LXX) "56" / Neh(MT) "Bethlehem and Netophah—188"

⁴⁶ [5:18] LXX(b), Ezra, Neh "128"

⁴⁷ [5:19] Ezra, Neh omit "—25, those from"

⁴⁸ [5:19] LXX(A,N), Ezra / LXX(B) "700"

⁴⁹ [5:20] Ezra, Neh omit "the Chadiansans and Ammidians"

⁵⁰ [5:21] Ezra, Neh "of Bethel and Ai—[Ezra(MT) "223" / Ezra(LXX) "423" / Neh "123"]. The sons of Nebo—52."

⁵¹ [5:22] LXX(B) "Neipheis"

⁵² [5:22] some persons missing here as found in Ezra and Neh, perhaps due to scribal error (possible restoration from Ezra) [Neh(LXX) has "The sons of Elamaar—1252" / [Neh has "721" for "Lod...Ono"]]

⁵³ [5:22] some LXX(A), Ezra, Neh "345" / LXX(N) "445"

⁵⁴ [5:23] LXX(A,N) "3330" / Ezra "3630" / Neh "3930"

	The sons of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, of the sons of Sanasib	972 ¹
	The sons of Immer	1052 ²
25	The sons of Pashhur	1247
	The sons of Harim	1017 ³
26	The Levites:	
	The sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel and Binnui and ⁴ Hodaviah	74
27	The temple-singers:	
	The sons of Asaph	128 ⁵
28	The gatekeepers:	
	The sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai <u>the doorkeepers—400; the men of Ishamel, the sons of Lakoubatos—1,000; the sons of Tobiah⁶—139⁷ in all.</u>	

29 The temple-servants:

The sons of Esau,⁸ the sons of Hasupha,⁹ the sons of Tabbaoth, the sons of Keros, the sons of Siaha, the sons of Padon, the sons of Lebanah, the sons of Hagabah,¹⁰ **30** the sons of Akkub, the sons of Uthai, the sons of Ketab,¹¹ the sons of Hagab, the sons of Shamlai, the sons of Hanan, the sons of Koua,¹² the sons of Gahar, **31** the sons of Jairus,¹³ the sons of Dezin,¹⁴ the sons of Nekoada, the sons of Chezib, the sons of Gazera,¹⁵ the sons of Uzza, the sons of Phinoe, the sons of Hasrah,¹⁶ the sons of Besai, the sons of Asnah, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephusim, the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,¹⁷ the sons of Pharakim,¹⁸ the sons of Bazluth, **32** the sons of Mehida, the sons of Koutha, the sons of Harea,¹⁹ the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah, the sons of Nezhiah, the sons of Hatipha.

33 The sons of Solomon's servants:

[The sons of Sotai],²⁰ the sons of Hassophereth, the sons of Peruda, the sons of Jaalah, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Shephathiah, **34** the sons of Hagia,²¹ the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, the sons of Sarothie, the sons of Mesaiah, the sons of Gas, the sons of Addus, the sons of Subas, the sons of Apherra, the sons of Barodis, the sons of Shaphat, the sons of Allon.

35 All the temple-servants and the sons of Solomon's servants were 372.²²

36 The following are those who returned from Tel-melah and Tel-harsha, under the leaders: Cheruthalan, and Aller,²³ **37** but they were unable to trace their ancestral-houses or lineage in Israel: the sons of Delaiah²⁴ son of Tobiah, and the sons of Nekoda—652.²⁵

38 Of the priests, the following had assumed the priesthood, but whose registration could not be found: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, and the sons of Jaddus²⁶ who had married Agia, one of the daughters of Barzillai, and was called by his name. **39** When a search was made in the register and the genealogy of these men was not found, they were excluded from serving as priests. **40** And

Nehemiah and the governor²⁷ told them not to share in the holy things until a chief-priest should arise wearing Urim and Thummim—525.²⁸

41 All those of Israel, twelve or more²⁹ years of age, besides boys and servant-girls, were 42,360,³⁰ **31** **42** their boys and servant-girls were 7,337;³² there were 245³³ musicians and singers. **43** There were 435 camels, and 7,036³⁴ horses, 245 mules, and 5,525³⁵ donkeys.

44 When some of the leaders of the ancestral-houses came to the temple of God that is in Jerusalem, they vowed that, to the best of their ability, they would erect the house on its *former* site, **45** and that they would contribute *the following* to the sacred treasury for the work: 1,000³⁶ minas of gold, 5,000³⁷ minas of silver, and 100³⁸ priests' vestments.

46 The priests, and the Levites, and some of the people settled in Jerusalem and its vicinity; and the temple-singers, the gatekeepers, and all Israel *settled* in their towns.

47 When the seventh month came, and the Israelites were all in their own homes, they assembled as one man in the plaza before the first gate facing the east. **48** Then Jeshua son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, with his brothers, took their places and prepared the sacrificial-altar of the God of Israel, **49** to offer holocausts upon it, as prescribed in the book of Moses the human of God. **50** And some of the peoples of the land united with them in erecting the sacrificial-altar in its site; even though they were at enmity with them, all the peoples of the land supported them.

And they offered sacrifices at the proper times and holocausts to the Lord, morning and evening. **51** They kept the Festival of Booths, as it is commanded in the law, and offered the proper sacrifices every day, **52** and thereafter the regular offerings, and sacrifices on sabbaths and at new moons and at all the consecrated festivals. **53** And as many as had vowed any vow to God began to offer sacrifices to God, from the new moon of the seventh³⁹ month, though the inner-sanctum of God was not yet built. **54** They contributed money to the masons and the carpenters, and food and drink **55** and oil⁴¹ to the Sidonians and the Tzorites,⁴² for bringing cedar logs from Lebanon to be conveyed in rafts to⁴³ the harbor of Joppa, according to the decree that they had in writing from Cyrus, Now it was ordered by Darius⁴⁴ King of the Persians.

56 In the second month, during the second year of Darius⁴⁵ after their⁴⁶ arrival at the temple of God in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua son of Jozadak, together with their kindred and the levitical priests and all who had come back to Jerusalem from exile, **57** began to lay the foundation of the inner-sanctum of God on the new moon of the second month in the second year after *their* arrival in Judah and Jerusalem. **58** They appointed the Levites who were twenty or more years of age to have charge of the work of the Lord. And Jeshua arose, together with his sons and brothers, and his brother Kadmiel,⁴⁷ and the sons of Jeshua Emadabun,⁴⁸ and the sons of Judah son of Eiliadun, with his sons and brothers,⁴⁹ all the Levites, pressing forward the work on the house of God⁵⁰ with a single purpose.

So the builders built the inner-sanctum of the Lord. **59** And the priests stood arrayed in their vestments, with musical instruments and trumpets, in conjunction with the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, **60** hymning to the Lord and blessing *him*, according to *the directions* of King David of Israel; **61** and they sang hymns, confessing the Lord, "Because his goodness and his glory are in Israel *even* to the age." **62** And all the people sounded trumpets and raised a mighty shout, singing to the Lord for the erection of the house of the Lord. **63** Some of the priests (*that is* the Levites), and the presidents of the ancestral-houses, the elderly *men* who had seen the former house, came⁵¹ to the building of

¹ [5:24] LXX(A,N) / other LXX "872" / some LXX "973", Ezra, Neh "973"

² [5:24] LXX(A), Ezra, Neh / LXX(N) "825" / other LXX "252"

³ [5:25] LXX(A,N), Ezra(MT), Neh "1017" / other LXX "217" / Ezra(LXX) "1007"

⁴ [5:26] LXX, Possible MT translation / LXX, Possible MT translation "Kadmiel, and the sons of"

⁵ [5:27] some LXX, Ezra, Josephus / LXX(A,N), Neh "148"

⁶ [5:28] LXX(B) add

⁷ [5:28] LXX, Ezra / Neh "138" / Josephus "110"

⁸ [5:29] Ezra, Neh "Ziha"

⁹ [5:29] most LXX "Tasupha"

¹⁰ [5:29] LXX(A,B), Ezra(MT), Neh(MT) / some LXX omit "the sons of Hagabah"

¹¹ [5:30] Ezra omit "thes ons of Uthai, the sons of Ketab"

¹² [5:30] Ezra, Neh "Giddel"

¹³ [5:31] Ezra, Neh "Reaiah"

¹⁴ [5:31] Ezra "Rezin"

¹⁵ [5:31] LXX(A,N) / LXX(B) "Gazzam"

¹⁶ [5:31] Ezra omit "the sons of Uzza...Hasrah"

¹⁷ [5:32] Ezra / LXX "Hashur"

¹⁸ [5:31] Ezra omit "the sons of Pharakim"

¹⁹ [5:32] LXX(A,N) / LXX(B) omit "the sons of Cutha...Charea" / Ezra has only "Mehida, the sons of Harsha"

²⁰ [5:33] Ezra, Neh / "the sons of Sotai" are missing from 1Ezra

²¹ [5:34] Ezra "Hattil"

²² [5:35] Ezra, Neh, Josephus "392"

²³ [5:36] Ezra "Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer"

²⁴ [5:37] LXX(B) "Asan" / LXX(A,N) "Dalan"

²⁵ [5:37] LXX, Ezra / Neh "642" / Josephus "662"

²⁶ [5:38] LXX(B) / LXX(b), Ezra "Barzillai"

²⁷ [5:40] Emendation, Ezra(MT), Neh / LXX(B), Ezra(LXX) "and the Atharias"

²⁸ [5:40] Josephus / LXX, Ezra omit "525"

²⁹ [5:41] Josephus "about twelve"

³⁰ [5:41] LXX, Ezra, Neh(MT, LXX(A)) / Josephus "4,628,000" (error) / Neh(LXX(B)) "42308"

³¹ [5:41] Josephus also add a detail about there being "a mixed number of women and children amounting to 40,742"

³² [5:42] Neh(LXX(B)) only "7334"

³³ [5:42] LXX, Neh, Josephus / Ezra "200"

³⁴ [5:43] most LXX / LXX(N), Ezra, Neh(MT) "736" / Neh(LXX) omit this number

³⁵ [5:43] LXX, Josephus / Ezra, Neh(MT, most LXX) "6720" / Neh(LXX(B)) "2700"

³⁶ [5:45] LXX / Josephus "100" / Ezra "61000" / Neh "1000" + "20,000" + "20,000"

³⁷ [5:45] LXX, Josephus, Ezra / Neh(MT) "50 bowls" + "2,200" + "2,000" / Neh(LXX) "50 bowls" + "2,000" + "2,200"

³⁸ [5:45] LXX, Ezra / Neh(MT) "530" + "67" / Neh(LXX) "30" + "67"

³⁹ [5:53] most LXX, Josephus, Ezra / LXX(B) "first"

⁴⁰ [5:53] Josephus "month. And they also began to build the {{TEMPLE}}."

⁴¹ [5:55] LXX(B), Ezra(MT) / LXX(A) "carts" / Josephus "joy"

⁴² [5:55] Josephus omit "and the Tzorites"

⁴³ [5:55] Josephus "Lebanon, bind the logs together and fasten them into rafts to convey them to"

⁴⁴ [5:55] Josephus add

⁴⁵ [5:56] one, L(C), add

⁴⁶ [5:56] LXX(N), Ezra(MT) / LXX(B) "his"

⁴⁷ [5:58] LXX(N), Ezra, Neh / LXX(B) "Damadiel" / Josephus "Zodmiel"

⁴⁸ [5:58] Josephus, Ezra, Neh "Henadad"

⁴⁹ [5:58] LXX / Josephus "brothers, and Kadmiel brother of Judah, son of Henadad, and his sons" / Ezra

"brothers, and Kadmiel and Binnui, son of Henadad, and their sons and their brothers"

⁵⁰ [5:58] most LXX, Ezra / others "Lord"

⁵¹ [5:63] Ezra(MT) "and many"

this one with weeping and great lamentation, **64** while many *came* with trumpets and a joyful noise, **65** so that the people were unable to hear the trumpets because of the weeping of the people; for the multitude sounded the trumpets so loudly, that *the sound* was heard from afar.

66 And when the enemies of the tribe of Judah and Benjamin heard *it*, they came to find out what the sound of the trumpets meant. **67** And they learned that the returned¹ exiles were building the inner-sanctum for the Lord God of Israel. **68** So they approached Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the leaders of the ancestral-houses and said to them, “Let us build with you. **69** For we obey your Lord just as you do and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of King Esarhaddon² of the Assyrians, who brought us here from Cuthia and Media.³”

70 But Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the leaders of the ancestral-houses in Israel said to them, “You may not share in building the house for the Lord our God, **71** for we alone will build *it* for the Lord of Israel, just as Cyrus, and now Darius,⁴ the king of the Persians, has commanded us.”

72 But the peoples of the land pressed hard upon those in Judah, cut off their supplies, and hindered their building; **73** and by schemes and demagoguery and uprisings they prevented the completion of the building as long as King Cyrus lived. They were kept from building for two years, until the reign of Darius.

CHAPTER 6

Now in the second year of the reign of Darius, the prophets Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo prophesied to the Judeans who were in Judah and Jerusalem; they prophesied to them in the name of the Lord God of Israel. **2** Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak began to build the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem, with the help of the prophets of the Lord who were with them.

3 At the same time, Tattenai the governor of Syria and Phoinike, and Shethar-bozenai, and *their* associates came to them and said, **4** “By whose order are you building this house and this roof, and finishing everything else? And who are the builders that are finishing these things?” **5** Yet the Judean elders dealt with kindly, for the providence of the Lord was over the captives; **6** they were not prevented from building up till the time that Darius was informed about them and a report made.

7 A copy of the letter that Tattenai the governor of Syria and Phoinike, and Shethar-bozenai, and *their* associates the local leaders in Syria and Phoinike, wrote and sent to Darius:

8 To King Darius, greetings.

Let it be fully known to our lord the king that, when we went to the country of Judah and entered the city of Jerusalem, we found the Judean elders, who had been in exile, **9** building in the city of Jerusalem a great new house for the Lord, of hewn stone, with rafters being laid on the walls.⁵ **10** These operations are going on rapidly, and the work is prospering in their hands and being completed with all splendor and diligence. **11** Then we asked these elders, ‘At whose command are you building this house and laying the foundations of this structure?’ **12** In order that we might inform you in writing who the humans, the ones leading them, are, we questioned them and asked them for a list of the names of those who are at their head.

13 They answered us, ‘We are the servants of the Lord⁶ who created the heavens and the earth. **14** The house was built and finished many years ago by a great and strong king of Israel. **15** But when our fathers sinned against the Lord of Israel who is in the heavens, and provoked him, he gave them over into the hands of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babel,⁷ king of the Chaldeans; **16** and they demolished the house, and burned it, and carried the people away captive to Babel. **17** But in the first year that Cyrus reigned over the country of Babelia, King Cyrus issued a decree that this house should be rebuilt. **18** And the holy vessels of gold and of silver, which Nebuchadnezzar had removed from the house in Jerusalem and stored in his own inner-sanctum, these King Cyrus took out again from the inner-sanctum in Babelia, and they were delivered to Zerubbabel⁸ and Sheshbazzar the governor⁹ **19** to whom he gave orders to take back all these vessels and put them in the inner-sanctum at Jerusalem, and that this inner-sanctum of the Lord should be rebuilt on its site. **20** So when Sheshbazzar arrived here, he laid the foundations of the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem. Although it has been under construction from that time until now, it has not yet reached completion.’

21 Now therefore, O king, if it seems wise to do so, let search be made in the royal archives of our lord¹⁰ the king that are in Babel; **22** and if it is found that the house of the Lord in Jerusalem was constructed with the consent of King Cyrus, and if it is approved by our lord the king, let *him* send us directions concerning these things.

23 Then Darius commanded that search be made in the royal archives that were deposited in Babel. And in Hachmatha (*also known as Ekbatana*), the castle that is in the country of Media, a scroll¹¹ was found in which the following was recorded:

24 In the first year of the reign of King Cyrus, he ordered that the Lord’s¹² house in Jerusalem be built, where they sacrifice with perpetual fire; **25** its height to be sixty cubits and its width sixty cubits, with three layers of hewn stone¹³ and one layer of new native timber,¹⁴ and similarly an altar on which they may sacrifice to God,¹⁵ and the cost is to be paid from the treasury of King Cyrus;¹⁶ **26** also that the holy vessels of the house of the Lord, both of gold and of silver, which Nebuchadnezzar removed from the house in Jerusalem and carried away to Babel, should be restored to the house in Jerusalem, to be placed where they were originally.

27 So Darius commanded Tattenai the governor of Syria and Phoinike, and Shethar-bozenai, and their associates, and those who were appointed as local leaders in Syria and Phoinike, to keep away from the place, and to permit Zerubbabel, *who was* the servant of the Lord and governor of Judah, and the Judean elders to build this house of the Lord on its site.

28 “And I further decree that it be fully built, and that full effort be made to assist those who have returned from the exile of Judah, until the house of the Lord is finished; **29** and that a regular quota of the taxes levied in Coelesyria and Phoinike be scrupulously given to these humans for sacrifices to the Lord, that is, to Zerubbabel the governor, for bulls and rams and lambs and kids,¹⁷ **30** and likewise wheat and salt and wine and oil, regularly every year, without quibbling, for daily use as the priests in Jerusalem may indicate, **31** in order that libations may be made to the Most High God in behalf of the king and his boys,¹⁸ and that prayers be offered for their lives.”¹⁹

32 He decreed that if anyone should transgress or nullify any of the things herein written,²⁰ that a beam should be torn out of the house of the perpetrator, who then should be impaled upon it,²¹ and all his property be *confiscated* for the king.²²

33 “Therefore, may the Lord, whose name is there called upon, eliminate every king and nation that stretches out their hands to hinder or damage that house of the Lord in Jerusalem. **34** I, King Darius, have decreed that it be done with all diligence as here prescribed.”²³

CHAPTER 7

Then Tattenai the governor of Coelesyria and Phoinike, and Shethar-bozenai, and their associates, following the orders of King Darius, **2** supervised the holy work with very great care, assisting the Judean elders and the temple-officers.²⁴ **3** And the holy work prospered, while the prophets Haggai and Zechariah prophesied; **4** and they completed it in accordance with the command of the Lord God of Israel. So with the consent of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes,²⁵ kings of the Persians, **5** the holy house was finished by the twenty-third²⁶ *day* of the month of Adar, in the sixth²⁷ year of King Darius. **6** And the people of Israel, the priests, the Levites, and the rest of those who returned from exile who joined them, carried out the prescriptions *stated* in the book of Moses. **7** For at the dedication of the temple of the Lord, they offered 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs, **8** and twelve he-goats for the sin of all Israel, corresponding to the number of the twelve tribal-chiefs²⁸ of

¹⁰ [6:21] others “of Cyrus”

¹¹ [6:23] LXX(A,N), Ezra / LXX(B) “passage” / Josephus “book”

¹² [6:24] Josephus omit “Lord’s”

¹³ [6:25] LXX(B) “of stone” / LXX(A) “of mighty stones”

¹⁴ [6:25] LXX(B) “one course of timber” / some “one course of new timber”

¹⁵ [6:25] Josephus add

¹⁶ [6:25] Josephus “from my treasury”

¹⁷ [6:29] LXX, Ezra / Josephus add

¹⁸ [6:31] LXX, Ezra / Josephus “and the Persians,”

¹⁹ [6:31] Josephus “High God. Pray for the welfare of the king and the Persians.”

²⁰ [6:32] others “stated above” or “added in writing”

²¹ [6:32] Josephus “, that he should be seized and crucified”

²² [6:32] Josephus “and his house shall become mine.” / Ezra “and let his house be made a dunhill”

²³ [7:34] LXX, Ezra / Josephus replaces entire verse 34 with “Upon finding these things in the archives of Cyrus, Darius wrote an answer to Tattenai and his associates, which read as follows: ‘King Darius to the eparch Tattenai and Shethar-bozenai and their associates, greeting. I have sent to you a copy of the letter which I found in the archives of Cyrus, and it is my will that everything should be done as is stated therein. Farewell.’”

²⁴ [7:2] Josephus “officers of the senate”

²⁵ [7:4] Josephus omit “and Artaxerxes”

²⁶ [7:5] LXX, Josephus / Ezra “the third” (in error?)

²⁷ [7:5] LXX, Ezra / some Josephus “ninth” / other Josephus “eleventh”

²⁸ [7:8] LXX, Josephus / Ezra “twelve tribes”

¹ [5:67] Josephus “Judean”

² [5:69] Ezra / LXX(B) “Asbakapath” / LXX(A,N) “Asbasareth” / Josephus “Shalmaneser”

³ [5:69] Josephus add

⁴ [5:70] Josephus add

⁵ [6:9] LXX(A,N), Ezra / LXX(B) “laid in the houses”

⁶ [6:13] Josephus “of God Almighty”

⁷ [6:15] Josephus “of the Babelians”

⁸ [6:18] LXX, Josephus / Ezra omit Zerubbabel here

⁹ [6:18] LXX / Josephus “and Mithredath the treasurer” / Ezra omit altogether

Israel; **9** and the priests and the Levites arrayed in their vestments, stood in *their proper* positions for the services of the Lord God of Israel as prescribed in the book of Moses; and the gatekeepers were at each gate.

10 The people of Israel who came from exile kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month, after the priests and the Levites were purified together. **11** Not all of the returned captives were purified, but the Levites were all purified together; **12** and they sacrificed the Passover *lamb* for all the sons of the captivity, and for their brothers the priests, and for themselves. **13** It was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile, all those who had separated themselves from the abominations of the peoples of the land and sought the Lord. **14** They also celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days, rejoicing before the Lord, **15** because he had changed the will of the king of the Assyrians¹ toward them, to strengthen their hands for the service of the Lord God of Israel.²

CHAPTER 8

After these events, during the reign of Artaxerxes, the king of the Persians, Ezra arrived. *He was* the son of Azariah,³ son of Zechariah,⁴ son of Hilkiah, son of Shallum, **2** son of Zadok,⁵ son of Ahitub, son of Amariah,⁶ son of Azariah, son of Merioth, son of Zarahiah,⁷ son of Uzzi, son of Bukki, son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the chief-priest. **3** This Ezra came up from Babel as a scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which was given by the God of Israel. **4** And the king showed him honor, for he found favor before the king in all his requests. **5** Some of the people of Israel *also* came up to Jerusalem, along with some of the priests, and Levites, and temple-singers, and gatekeepers, and temple-servants. **6** *All of them arrived* during the seventh year of the reign of Artaxerxes, in the fifth month (this was the king's seventh year). For they had departed from Babel on the new moon of the first month, and arrived in Jerusalem on the new moon of the fifth month (this was the king's second year),⁸ because a prosperous journey was given to them by the Lord *for his sake*.⁹ **7** For Ezra¹⁰ possessed great knowledge, so that he omitted nothing from the law of the Lord or the commandments, but taught¹¹ *its* ordinances and judgments to all Israel.

8 The following is a copy of the written commission from King Artaxerxes that was delivered to Ezra the priest and reader of the law of the Lord:

9 Artaxerxes, king of kings¹² to Ezra the priest and reader of the law of the Lord,¹³ greetings.

10 In accordance with my gracious decision,¹⁴ I have issued orders that those of the Judean nation, as well as of the priests and Levites, in our kingdom,¹⁵ may, if they freely choose *to do so*, go with you to Jerusalem. **11** Therefore, let as many as are so disposed leave with you, just as I and the seven friends who are my counselors have decided, **12** in order to investigate *matters* in Judah and Jerusalem,¹⁶ in accordance with what is in the law of the Lord,¹⁷ **13** and to carry to Jerusalem the gifts for the Lord of Israel¹⁸ that I and my friends have vowed *to send*,¹⁹ and to collect for the Lord in Jerusalem²⁰ all the gold

and silver that may be found in the country of Babelia,²¹ **14** together with what is given by the nation for the temple of their Lord which is in Jerusalem, both gold and silver, bulls and rams and lambs with their accessories, **15** so that sacrifices may be offered on the sacrificial-altar of their Lord that is in Jerusalem. **16** Whatever you and your brothers may desire to do with the gold and silver, perform it in accordance with the will of your God; **17** *And you shall* deliver²² the holy vessels of the Lord that are given you for the use of the temple of your God that is in Jerusalem.²³ **18** And whatever else you may find necessary for the temple of your God, you must provide out of the royal treasury.

19 And indeed, I, King Artaxerxes,²⁴ have commanded the treasurers of Syria and Phoinike to give him, without hesitation, whatever Ezra the priest and reader of the law of the Most High God²⁵ sends for, **20** up to a hundred talents of silver, and likewise up to a hundred cors of wheat, a hundred baths of wine, and salt in abundance.²⁶ **21** Let *everything* prescribed in the law of God be scrupulously fulfilled for the Most High God, so that wrath may not fall upon the kingdom of the king and his sons.²⁷ **22** You are also advised that no tribute or any other tax is to be laid on any of the priests or Levites or temple-singers or gatekeepers or temple-servants or persons²⁸ employed in this temple, nor anyone who has authority to impose any tax upon them.

23 And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of God, appoint judges and magistrates to render decisions for all those who know the law of your God,²⁹ throughout all Syria and Phoinike; and you shall instruct those who do not know *it*. **24** All who transgress the law of your God or the law of the king³⁰ he may suffer punishment not as an ignorant transgressor but as one who, in spite of knowing it, boldly disobeys and shows contempt for it. Such men shall be strictly punished, whether by death or *some other* punishment, be it fine or imprisonment.³² Farewell.³³

25 Then Ezra the scribe said,³⁴ "Blessed is the Lord alone, who has put these things into the heart of the king, to glorify his house which is in Jerusalem, **26** and who honored me in the sight of the king³⁵ and his counselors and all his advisers,³⁶ friends and nobles."³⁷

27 I was encouraged by the help of the Lord my God, and I assembled men from Israel to go up with me. **28** These are the fore-leaders, according to their ancestral-houses and their divisions, who went up with me from Babel, in the reign of King Artaxerxes:

- 29** Of the sons of Phinehas:³⁸ Gershom.³⁹
Of the sons of Ithamar: Gamael.⁴⁰
Of the sons of David: Hattush son of Shecaniah.⁴¹
30 Of the sons of Parosh: Zechariah, and with him 150 men enrolled.
31 Of the sons of Pahath-moab:⁴² Eliehoenai son of Zerahiah, and with him 200 men.
32 Of the sons of Zattu: Shecaniah⁴³ son of Jahaziel,⁴⁴ and with him 300⁴⁵ men.
Of the sons of Adin: Obed son of Jonathan, and with him 250⁴⁶ men.
33 Of the sons of Elam: Jeshaiiah son of Gatholiah,⁴⁷ and with him 70 men.
34 Of the sons of Shephatiah: Zeraiah¹ son of Michael, and with him 70² men.

¹ [7:15] LXX, Ezra / Josephus "of the Persian King"

² [7] Josephus add the following here: "But the Samaritans, who regarded them with feelings of hostility and envy, inflicted many injuries on the Judeans, for they relied on their wealth and pretended to be related to the Persians, since they had come from their country. And the sums which they had been ordered by the king to pay the Judeans out of their tribute for the sacrifices, they refused to furnish, and they had the hipparchs zealously aiding them in this; and whatever else they could do to injure the Judeans either by themselves or through others, they did not hesitate to try. Therefore, the people of Jerusalem resolved to send an embassy to King Darius to accuse the Samaritans; the envoys were Zerubbabel and four other leaders. When the king learned from these envoys the complaints and charges which they brought against the Samaritans, he gave them a letter and sent them off to bring it to the eparchs of Syria and the council. It was written as follows: 'King Darius to Taganas and Sanballat, the eparchs of the Samaritans, and Sadrakes and Buedon and the rest of their fellow-servants in Samaria. Zerubbabel, Hananiah and Mordecai, the envoys of the Judeans, have charged you with hampering them in building the {TEMPLE} and with failing to provide them with the sums which I commanded you to pay them for the expenses of the sacrifices. Therefore, it is my will that, when you have read this letter, you shall furnish them out of the royal treasury, from the tribute of Samaria, everything which they may need for the sacrifices as the priests request, in order that they may not leave off their daily sacrifices or their prayers to God on behalf of me and the Persians.' These were the contents of the letter."

³ [8:1] LXX / Ezra "Seraiah"

⁴ [8:1] most LXX / LXX(B) add "the son of Zechariah" / Ezra(MT) instead add "the son of Azariah" / Ezra(LXX) instead add "son of Zarahiah"

⁵ [8:2] some LXX, Ezra / LXX(B) "Zadolok"

⁶ [8:2] LXX(A), Ezra / LXX(B) "Amarthiah"

⁷ [8:2] Ezra add [LXX has "Mererith" for "Merioth"]

⁸ [8:6] LXX(B) add this doublet / LXX(A,N) add this double, but has "seventh year"

⁹ [8:6] others add "for his sake" or "upon him"

¹⁰ [8:7] LXX(A,N), Ezra / LXX(B) "Apsaras"

¹¹ [8:7] LXX(A,N) / some LXX omit "but taught"

¹² [8:9] Ezra / Josephus "Xerxes, king of kings" / LXX "King Artaxerxes"

¹³ [8:9] Josephus "of God"

¹⁴ [8:10] Josephus "with my love toward mankind"

¹⁵ [8:10] Josephus / LXX "that those...Levites, and of others in our kingdom" / Ezra "everyone in my kingdom of the people of Israel and of the priests and Levites"

¹⁶ [8:12] LXX, 1Ezra(MT,LXX) / Josephus omit "and Jerusalem"

¹⁷ [8:12] LXX / Josephus, Ezra "of God"

¹⁸ [8:13] Josephus omit "to Jerusalem" & "for the Lord of Israel"

¹⁹ [8:13] Josephus add

²⁰ [8:13] Josephus "to dedicate to God"

²¹ [8:13] LXX / Josephus "of the Babelians" / Ezra "of Babel"

²² [8:17] Josephus "And you shall dedicate" / Ezra(MT,LXX) "And deliver"

²³ [8:17] LXX, Ezra(MT,LXX) / Josephus omit "for the use of...in Jerusalem"

²⁴ [8:19] LXX, Ezra(MT,LXX) / Josephus omit "King Artaxerxes"

²⁵ [8:19] LXX / Josephus "of God" / Ezra(MT,LXX) "of the God of the heavens"

²⁶ [8:20] LXX(A,N), Ezra / other LXX omit "and salt in abundance"

²⁷ [8:21] LXX, Ezra(MT,LXX) / Josephus "upon me or my children"

²⁸ [8:22] LXX / Josephus "scribes" / Ezra(MT,LXX) "ministers"

²⁹ [8:23] LXX, Ezra(MT) / Ezra(LXX) "of the Lord your God" / Josephus omit altogether

³⁰ [8:24] Ezra(MT,LXX) / LXX "or the law of the kingdom" / Josephus "or the king"

³¹ [8:24] Josephus add

³² [8:24] Josephus "punished either with death or with the payment of a fine."

³³ [8:24] LXX, Ezra(MT,LXX) / Josephus add

³⁴ [8:25] LXX(A,N) / other LXX omit "Then Ezra the scribe said"

³⁵ [8:26] LXX(A,N) / LXX(B) "rulers"

³⁶ [8:26] some LXX add

³⁷ [8:26] Josephus add "Then he read the letter to the Judeans who were in Babel. And while he kept the letter itself, he sent a copy of it to his countrymen who were in Media. When they learned of the king's orders and of his piety toward God, as well as his goodwill toward Ezra, they were all greatly pleased."

³⁸ [8:29] LXX(A,N), Ezra / LXX(B) "Phoros"

³⁹ [8:29] LXX(N), Ezra / LXX(B) "Tarosotomos"

⁴⁰ [8:29] some LXX, Ezra "Daniel" / some LXX "Gamaliel"

⁴¹ [8:29] some LXX, Ezra / LXX(A,N) "Hattush the Shecaniah" / most LXX omit altogether

⁴² [8:31] LXX "Maath-moab"

⁴³ [8:32] LXX(A,N), Ezra / LXX(B) "Eieconiah"

⁴⁴ [8:32] LXX, Ezra(MT) / Ezra(LXX) "Azziel" / LXX(B) "Jethel"

⁴⁵ [8:32] LXX(A,N), Ezra / LXX(B) "200"

⁴⁶ [8:32] Ezra "50"

⁴⁷ [8:33] Ezra "Athaliah"

- 35 Of the sons of Joab: Obadiah son of Jehiel, and with him 212³ men.
 36 Of the sons of Bani: Shelomith son of Josiphiah, and with him 160 men.
 37 Of the sons of Bebai: Zechariah son of Bebai,⁴ and with him 28 men.
 38 Of the sons of Azgad: Johanan son of Hakkatan, and with him 110 men.
 39 Of the sons of Adonikam, the last ones, their names being Eliphelet, Jiel, and Shemaiah, and with them 70⁵ men.
 40 Of the sons of Banai:⁶ Uthai son of Istakur,⁷ and with him 70 men.

41 I assembled them at the river called Thera,⁸ and we encamped there three days, where I inspected them. 42 When I found none of the sons of the priests or of the Levites there, 43 I sent *word* to Eliezar, Iduel,⁹ Maasmah,¹⁰ 44 Elnathan, Shemaiah,¹¹ Jarib, Nathan, Elnathan,¹² Zechariah, and Meshullam and Joiarib and Elnathan,¹³ who were the leaders and learned *men*; 45 and I told them to go to Iddo,¹⁴ *who was* the leader at the place of the treasurers, 46 and ordered them to tell Iddo and his brothers and the treasurers at that place to send us men capable of serving in the priestly office in the house of our Lord. 47 And by the mighty hand of our Lord they brought us competent men of the sons of Mahli son of Levi, son of Israel, namely Sherebiah¹⁵ with his sons and brothers—18¹⁶ *men*; 48 also Hashabiah and Hannan and his brother Jeshaiiah,¹⁷ of the sons of Hananiah, and their sons—20 men; 49 and of the temple-servants, whom David and the leaders had appointed for the service of the Levites—220 temple-servants; the list of all their names was on record.

50 There I vowed a fast for the youths before our Lord, to seek from him a prosperous journey for ourselves and for our children and the livestock. 51 For I was ashamed to ask the king for foot soldiers and cavalry as an escort to keep us safe from our adversaries; 52 for we had said to the king, “The power of our Lord is with those who seek him, and will support *them* in every way.” 53 So we again beseeched our Lord about these things, and we found him very merciful.

54 Then I selected twelve of the tribal-chiefs of the priests: Sherebiah¹⁸ and Hashabiah,¹⁹ and ten of their brothers with them; 55 and I weighed out to them the silver and the gold and the holy vessels of the house of our Lord, which the king himself and his counselors and the nobles and all Israel had contributed. 56 I weighed out and gave to them 650 talents of silver, and silver vessels worth 100 talents, and 100 talents of gold, 57 and 20 golden bowls,²⁰ and 12²¹ bronze vessels of fine bronze that glittered like gold.

58 And I said to them, “You are holy to the Lord, and the vessels are holy, and the silver and the gold is a vow to the Lord, the Lord of our fathers. 59 Take care of them and guard them until you deliver them to the tribal-chiefs of the priests and the Levites, and to the leaders of the ancestral-houses of Israel, in Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of our Lord.”

60 So the priests and the Levites who took the silver and the gold and the vessels that had been in Jerusalem, carried them to the temple of the Lord.

61 Leaving the Thera River²² on the twelfth day of the first month of the seventh year of the reign of (Arta)xerxes,²³ we arrived in Jerusalem because of the mighty hand of our Lord, which was upon us; he protected us from every enemy on the way, and so we came to Jerusalem on the fifth month of the same year.²⁴ 62 When we had been there three days, the silver and the gold were weighed out and delivered in the house of our²⁵ Lord to the priest Meremoth son of Uriah; 63 with him was Eleazar son of Phinehas, and with them were Jozabad²⁶ son of Jeshua, and Moeth²⁷ son of Binnui,²⁸ the Levites. 64 The entirety was counted and weighed, and the weight of everything was recorded at that very time. 65 And those who had returned from exile offered sacrifices to the Lord God of Israel,

twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, 66 seventy-two²⁹ lambs, and as a thank-offering³⁰ twelve male goats—all as a sacrifice to the Lord. 67 They delivered the king’s orders³¹ to the royal stewards and to the governors of Coelesyria³² and Phoinike; and these officials honored the people and the temple of the Lord.

68 After these things had been done, the leaders came to me and said, 69 “The people of Israel, and³³ the rulers, and the priests, and the Levites have not kept themselves apart from the aliens of the land and their uncleanness, from the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Edomites.³⁴ 70 For they and their sons have married the daughters of these people, so that the holy race has been mixed with the alien peoples of the land; and from the beginning of this affair, even the fore-leaders and the great *men* have been sharing in this lawlessness.”

71 As soon as I heard these things, I tore my robes and my holy mantle, and pulled out hair from my head and beard, and sat down in anxiety and grief. 72 And all those who were moved by the word of the Lord of Israel gathered around me, as I mourned over this iniquity, and I sat grief-stricken until the evening sacrifice.

73 Then I rose from my fast, still in my torn robes and my holy mantle; and kneeling down and stretching out my hands to the Lord,³⁵ 74 I said:

“O Lord, I am mortified, confused before your face. 75 For our sins have risen higher than our heads, and our mistakes have mounted up to the heavens, 76 from the times of our fathers, and we are in great sin to this day. 77 And because of our sins and the sins of our fathers, we, together with our brothers and our kings and our priests, were given over to the kings of the earth, to the long-sword and exile and plundering, in shame until this day. 78 And now in some measure mercy has come to us from you, O Lord,³⁶ to leave to us a root and a name in your holy place, 79 and to uncover a light for us in the house of the Lord our God, and to give us food in the time of our slavery. 80 Even in our enslavement we were not forsaken by our Lord, but he brought us into favor with the Persians kings, so that they gave us food 81 and glorified the temple of our Lord, and raised Zion from desolation, to give us a stronghold³⁷ in Judah and Jerusalem.

82 “And now, O Lord, having these things, what *more* can we ask? For we have transgressed your commandments, which you issued through your servants the prophets, saying, 83 ‘The land that you are entering to take possession of is a polluted land, polluted by its aliens who have filled it with their uncleanness. 84 Therefore do not give your daughters in marriage to their sons, and do not take their daughters for your sons; 85 you must never seek to have peaceful relations with them, so that you may be strong, and eat the good things of the land, and leave *it* for an inheritance to your sons forever.’

86 “And all that has happened to us has come about because of our evil deeds and our great sins. For you, O Lord, lifted the burden of our sins 87 and gave us such a root as this; but we turned back again to transgress your law by mixing with the uncleanness of the nations of the land. 88 Were you not angry enough with us to destroy us without leaving a root or seed or name? 89 O Lord of Israel, you are faithful; for we are left as a root to this day. 90 Behold, we are now before you in our iniquities; yet we can no longer stand in your presence because of these things.”

91 While Ezra was praying and making his confession, weeping and lying on the ground before the temple, there gathered around him a very great crowd of men and women and youths from Jerusalem; for there was great weeping among the multitude.

92 Then Shecanaiah³⁸ son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Israel,³⁹ called out, and said to Ezra, “We have sinned against the Lord, and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land; but even now there is hope for Israel.⁴⁰ 93 Let us swear an oath⁴¹ to the Lord *about this*, that we will put away all our foreign wives, together with their children, 94 as seems good to you and to all who obey the law of the Lord. 95 Arise⁴² and take action, for it is your obligation, and we are with you to take strong measures.”

96 Then Ezra arose and made the tribal-chiefs of the priests and Levites of all Israel swear that they would do this. And they swore *to it*.

¹ [8:34] LXX / Ezra “Zebadiah”

² [8:34] Ezra “80”

³ [8:35] Ezra “218”

⁴ [8:37] LXX(A,N), Ezra / LXX(B) “sons of Baier...of Bemai”

⁵ [8:39] most LXX / some LXX, Ezra “60”

⁶ [8:40] LXX / Ezra “Bigvai”

⁷ [8:40] Ezra(MT) “Zakkur” / Ezra(LXX) “Zabud”

⁸ [8:41] most LXX / LXX(B) “them at the river” / Ezra “them at the river that flows toward Ahava” / Josephus “them on other side of the Euphrates”

⁹ [8:43] Ezra8:16 “Ariel”

¹⁰ [8:43] LXX / Ezra “Shemaiah”

¹¹ [9:44] LXX / Ezra omit “Shemaiah”

¹² [8:44] LXX / Ezra “Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan”

¹³ [8:44] Ezra add [LXX has “Jarib” for “Joarib”]

¹⁴ [8:45] Ezra(MT) / LXX “Ladaios”

¹⁵ [8:45] LXX “Aseberbiah”

¹⁶ [8:47] LXX(A,N), Ezra / other LXX “10”

¹⁷ [8:48] some LXX / other LXX omit “also Hashabiah...Jeshaiiah”

¹⁸ [8:54] LXX(B) “Esherabiah”

¹⁹ [8:54] LXX(B) “Hashamiah”

²⁰ [8:57] LXX, Ezra(MT,LXX) / Josephus “and gold vessels weighing 20 talents”

²¹ [8:57] LXX(A,N) / other LXX “10” / Ezra(MT) “two” / Ezra(LXX) “excellent” / for this entire phrase, Josephus “and bronze vessels more precious than gold weighting 12 talents”

²² [8:61] LXX(A,N) / other LXX “the Thera place” / Ezra(MT,LXX) “the Thera River” / Josephus “the Euphrates River”

²³ [8:61] LXX, Ezra(MT,LXX) / Josephus add (though he has “Xerxes” instead of “Artaxerxes”)

²⁴ [8:61] LXX, Ezra(MT,LXX) / Josephus add

²⁵ [8:62] LXX(A,N) / other LXX “the”

²⁶ [8:63] LXX(A,N), Ezra / LXX(B) “Iosabees”

²⁷ [8:63] LXX / Ezra “Noadiah”

²⁸ [8:63] Ezra / LXX “Sabannos”

²⁹ [8:66] most LXX, Josephus / LXX(B) “76” / Ezra “77”

³⁰ [8:66] LXX / Ezra “a sin offering” / Josephus “as an atonement for sins”

³¹ [8:67] LXX, Ezra(MT,LXX) / Josephus “letter”

³² [8:67] other LXX “Syria”

³³ [8:69] LXX(A) / LXX(B) omit “The people of Israel, and”

³⁴ [8:69] LXX / Ezra “Amorites”

³⁵ [8:73] LXX / Ezra(MT) “to Yahweh my God” / Ezra(LXX) “to the Lord God” / Josephus “toward the heavens”

³⁶ [8:78] LXX(A) / other LXX “And now how great has been the mercy of the Lord toward us”

³⁷ [8:81] Ezra “wall”

³⁸ [8:92] some LXX, Ezra10:2 / other LXX, Josephus “Jechoniah”

³⁹ [8:92] Ezra “Elam”

⁴⁰ [8:92] some LXX, Ezra / other LXX “but even now, Israel continues” / Ezra(LXX(B) only) “and now there is a remnant to Israel on this condition”

⁴¹ [9:93] LXX / Ezra “Let us make a covenant”

⁴² [8:95] others “as seems good to you.” And all who obeyed the law of the Lord rose and said to Ezra,

“Arise”

for he was seated in the place of honor in the presence of all. **46** When he opened the law, everyone stood erect. And Ezra¹ blest the Lord God Most High, the God of hosts,² the Almighty.

47 And the multitude answered, “Let it be, let it be.” They lifted up their hands, and fell to the ground and worshiped the Lord.

48 Jeshua and Anniuth³ and Sherebiah, Jamin,⁴ Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah,⁵ Maiannas⁶ and Kelita, Azariah and Jozabad,⁷ Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, taught the law of the Lord and read the law of the Lord to the multitude,⁸ at the same time explaining what was read.

49 Then the governor⁹ said to Ezra the chief-priest and reader, and to the Levites who were teaching the multitude, with regard to all, **50** “This day is holy to the Lord” — now they were all weeping as they heard the law — **51** “so go your way, eat the fat and drink the sweet,¹⁰ and send portions to those who have none; **52** for the day is holy to the Lord; and do not be sorrowful, for the Lord will exalt you.”

53 The Levites commanded all the people, saying, “This day is holy; do not be sorrowful.”

54 Then they all went their way, to eat and drink and enjoy themselves, and to give portions to those who had none, and to make great rejoicing; **55** because they were inspired by the words in which they had been taught. And they assembled.

¹ [9:46] LXX(A), Neh8:6 / LXX(B) “Azariah”

² [9:46] LXX(Bb,A) / LXX(B) “the Most High God”

³ [9:48] most LXX / some late LXX, Neh8:7 “Bani”

⁴ [9:48] LXX(Bb), Neh / other LXX “Jadin”

⁵ [9:48] LXX(B) “Autais”

⁶ [9:48] LXX / Neh8:7 “Maaseiah”

⁷ [9:48] LXX(Bb,A) / LXX(B) “Katethzabdos”

⁸ [9:48] others add

⁹ [9:49] Emendation / LXX “Then Atharates” / Neh8:9(MT) “Then Nehemiah the governor” / Neh8:9(LXX) “And Nehemiah”

¹⁰ [9:51] LXX(A), Neh8:10 / most LXX omit “and drink the sweet”