

ĚZ'ŘĀ

CHAPTER 1

NOW in the first year of Ćy'rus king of Pěr'siā, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jěr-ē-mi'āh might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Ćy'rus king of Pěr'siā, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying,

2 Thus saith Ćy'rus king of Pěr'siā, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jěr-rû'sā-lēm, which *is* in Jûd'āh.

3 Who *is there* among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jěr-rû'sā-lēm, which *is* in Jûd'āh, and build the house of the LORD God of Īs'rā-ēl, (he *is* the God,) which *is* in Jěr-rû'sā-lēm.

4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that *is* in Jěr-rû'sā-lēm.

5 ¶ Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Jûd'āh and Běn'jā-mīn, and the priests, and the Lē'vītes, with all *them* whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which *is* in Jěr-rû'sā-lēm.

6 And all they that *were* about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all *that* was willingly offered.

7 ¶ Also Ćy'rus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD,

which Nēb-ū-chād-něz'zār had brought forth out of Jěr-rû'sā-lēm, and had put them in the house of his gods; 8 Even those did Ćy'rus king of Pěr'siā bring forth by the hand of Mīth-rě-dāth the treasurer, and numbered them unto Shěsh-bāz'zār, the prince of Jûd'āh.

9 And this *is* the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives,

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

11 All the vessels of gold and of silver *were* five thousand and four hundred. All *these* did Shěsh-bāz'zār bring up with *them* of the captivity that were brought up from Bāb-ŷ-lōn unto Jěr-rû'sā-lēm.

CHAPTER 2

NOW these *are* the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nēb-ū-chād-něz'zār the king of Bāb-ŷ-lōn had carried away unto Bāb-ŷ-lōn, and came again unto Jěr-rû'sā-lēm and Jûd'āh, every one unto his city;

2 Which came with Zě-rüb-bā-běl: Jěsh-ū-ā, Nē-hēm-i'āh, Sě-rai'āh, Rē-ēl-ai'āh, Mōr-dě-cā-ī, Bīl-shān, Mīs-pār, Bĭg-vā-ī, Rē'hūm, Bā'ā-nāh. The number of the men of the people of Īs'rā-ēl:

3 The children of Pār'ōsh, two thousand an hundred seventy and two.

4 The children of Shěph-ā-tī'āh, three hundred seventy and two.

5 The children of Ār'āh, seven

hundred seventy and five.

6 The children of Pā-hāth-mō-āb, of the children of Jěsh-ū-ā and Jō-āb, two thousand eight hundred and twelve.

7 The children of Ē-lām, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.

8 The children of Zāt-tû, nine hundred forty and five.

9 The children of Zăc-cā-ī, seven hundred and threescore.

10 The children of Bā-nī, six hundred forty and two.

11 The children of Bē-bā-ī, six hundred twenty and three.

12 The children of Āz-gād, a thousand two hundred twenty and two.

13 The children of Ād-ō-nī-kām, six hundred sixty and six.

14 The children of Bĭg-vā-ī, two thousand fifty and six.

15 The children of Ā-dĭn, four hundred fifty and four.

16 The children of Ā-tĕr of Hĕz-ē-kī-āh, ninety and eight.

17 The children of Bē-zā-ī, three hundred twenty and three.

18 The children of Jōr-āh, an hundred and twelve.

19 The children of Hāsh-ŭm, two hundred twenty and three.

20 The children of Gĭb-bār, ninety and five.

21 The children of Bĕth-lĕ-hĕm, an hundred twenty and three.

22 The men of Nĕ-tō-phāh, fifty and six.

23 The men of Ān-ā-thōth, an hundred twenty and eight.

24 The children of Āz-mā-vĕth, forty and two.

25 The children of Kĭr-jāth-ār-ĭm, Chĕ-phĭ-rāh, and Bĕer-ōth, seven hundred and forty and three.

26 The children of Rā-māh and Gĕ-bā,

six hundred twenty and one.

27 The men of Mĭch-mās, an hundred twenty and two.

28 The men of Bĕth-ĕl and Ā-ī, two hundred twenty and three.

29 The children of Nĕ-bō, fifty and two.

30 The children of Măg-bĭsh, an hundred fifty and six.

31 The children of the other Ē-lām, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.

32 The children of Hār-ĭm, three hundred and twenty.

33 The children of Lōd, Hā-dĭd, and Ō-nō, seven hundred twenty and five.

34 The children of Jĕr-ĭ-chō, three hundred forty and five.

35 The children of Sĕn-ā-āh, three thousand and six hundred and thirty.

36 ¶ The priests: the children of Jĕ-dāi-āh, of the house of Jĕsh-ū-ā, nine hundred seventy and three.

37 The children of ĭm-mĕr, a thousand fifty and two.

38 The children of Pāsh-ŭr, a thousand two hundred forty and seven.

39 The children of Hār-ĭm, a thousand and seventeen.

40 ¶ The Lĕ-vĭtes: the children of Jĕsh-ū-ā and Kād-mĭ-ĕl, of the children of Hō-dā-vĭ-āh, seventy and four.

41 ¶ The singers: the children of Ā-sāph, an hundred twenty and eight.

42 ¶ The children of the porters: the children of Shāl-lŭm, the children of Ā-tĕr, the children of Tāl-mōn, the children of Āk-kŭb, the children of Hā-tĭ-tā, the children of Shō-bā-ī, in all an hundred thirty and nine.

43 ¶ The Nĕth-ĭ-nĭms: the children of Zĭ-hā, the children of Hā-sŭ-phā, the children of Tāb-bā-ōth,

44 The children of Kē-rōs, the children of Sī-ā-hā, the children of Pā-dōn,

45 The children of Lē-bā-nāh, the children of Hāg-ā-bāh, the children of Āk-kūb,

46 The children of Hā-gāb, the children of Shāl-māi, the children of Hā-nān,

47 The children of Gīd-dēl, the children of Gā-hār, the children of Rē-ai-āh,

48 The children of Rē-zīn, the children of Nē-kō-dā, the children of Gāz-zām,

49 The children of Ūz-zā, the children of Pā-sē-āh, the children of Bē-sai,

50 The children of Ās-nāh, the children of Mē-hū-nīm, the children of Nē-phū-sīm,

51 The children of Bāk-būk, the children of Hā-kū-phā, the children of Hār-hūr,

52 The children of Bāz-lūth, the children of Mē-hī-dā, the children of Hār-shā,

53 The children of Bār-kōs, the children of Sīs-ē-rā, the children of Thā-māh,

54 The children of Nē-zī-āh, the children of Hā-tī-phā.

55 ¶ The children of Sōl-ō-mōn's servants: the children of Sō-tā-ī, the children of Sō-phē-rēth, the children of Pē-rū-dā,

56 The children of Jā-ā-lāh, the children of Dār-kōn, the children of Gīd-dēl,

57 The children of Shēph-ā-tī-āh, the children of Hāt-tīl, the children of Pōch-ē-rēth of Zē-bā-īm, the children of Ā-mī.

58 All the Nēth-ī-nīms, and the children of Sōl-ō-mōn's servants, were three hundred ninety and two.

59 And these were they which went up from Tēl-mē-lāh, Tēl-hār-sā, Chēr-ūb, Ād-dān, and Īm-mēr: but they could not shew their father's house, and their seed, whether they were of Īs-rā-ēl:

60 The children of Dēl-ai-āh, the children of Tō-bī-āh, the children of Nē-kō-dā, six hundred fifty and two.

61 ¶ And of the children of the priests: the children of Hā-bai-āh, the children of Kōz, the children of Bār-zīl-lā-ī; which took a wife of the daughters of Bār-zīl-lā-ī the Gīl-ē-ād-ite, and was called after their name:

62 These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.

63 And the Tīr-shā-thā said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Ū-rīm and with Thūm-mīm.

64 ¶ The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore,

65 Beside their servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing women.

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

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

68 ¶ And some of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of the LORD which is at Jē-rū-sā-lēm,

offered freely for the house of God to set it up in his place:

69 They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pound of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

70 So the priests, and the Lē-vītes, and *some* of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nēth-ī-nīms, dwelt in their cities, and all Īś-rā-ēl in their cities.

CHAPTER 3

AND when the seventh month was come, and the children of Īś-rā-ēl were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jē-rû-sā-lēm.

2 Then stood up Jēsh-ū-ā the son of Jō-zā-dāk, and his brethren the priests, and Zē-rūb-bā-bēl the son of Shē-āl-tī-ēl, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Īś-rā-ēl, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as *it is* written in the law of Mō-šēs the man of God.

3 And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear *was* upon them because of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD, *even* burnt offerings morning and evening.

4 They kept also the feast of tabernacles, as *it is* written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required;

5 And afterward offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and of every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto the LORD.

6 From the first day of the seventh

month began they to offer burnt offerings unto the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid.

7 They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them of Zī-dōn, and to them of Tÿre, to bring cedar trees from Lēb-ā-nōn to the sea of Jōp-pā, according to the grant that they had of Ćy-rūs king of Pēr-siā.

8 ¶ Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jē-rû-sā-lēm, in the second month, began Zē-rūb-bā-bēl the son of Shē-āl-tī-ēl, and Jēsh-ū-ā the son of Jō-zā-dāk, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Lē-vītes, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jē-rû-sā-lēm; and appointed the Lē-vītes, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the LORD.

9 Then stood Jēsh-ū-ā *with* his sons and his brethren, Kād-mī-ēl and his sons, the sons of Jūd-āh, together, to set forward the workmen in the house of God: the sons of Hēn-ā-dād, *with* their sons and their brethren the Lē-vītes.

10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Lē-vītes the sons of Ā-sāph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of Dā-vid king of Īś-rā-ēl.

11 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because *he is* good, for his mercy *endureth* for ever toward Īś-rā-ēl. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of

the house of the LORD was laid.

12 But many of the priests and Lē-vītes and chief of the fathers, *who were* ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:

13 So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

CHAPTER 4

NOW when the adversaries of Jūd-āh and Bēn-jā-mīn heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Īś-rā-ēl;

2 Then they came to Zē-rūb-bā-bēl, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye *do*; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Ē-sār-hād-dōn king of Ās-sūr, which brought us up hither.

3 But Zē-rūb-bā-bēl, and Jēsh-ū-ā, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Īś-rā-ēl, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Īś-rā-ēl, as king Cŷ-rūs the king of Pēr-siā hath commanded us.

4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Jūd-āh, and troubled them in building,

5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cŷ-rūs king of Pēr-siā, even until the reign of Dā-rī-ūs king of Pēr-siā.

6 And in the reign of Ā-hās-ū-ē-rūs, in

the beginning of his reign, wrote they *unto him* an accusation against the inhabitants of Jūd-āh and Jē-rū-sā-lēm.

7 ¶ And in the days of Ār-tā-xēr-x-ēs wrote Bīsh-lām, Mīth-rē-dāth, Tāb-ēel, and the rest of their companions, unto Ār-tā-xēr-x-ēs king of Pēr-siā; and the writing of the letter was written in the Sŷr-ī-ān tongue, and interpreted in the Sŷr-ī-ān tongue.

8 Rē-hūm the chancellor and Shīm-shāi the scribe wrote a letter against Jē-rū-sā-lēm to Ār-tā-xēr-x-ēs the king in this sort:

9 Then wrote Rē-hūm the chancellor, and Shīm-shāi the scribe, and the rest of their companions; the Dī-nā-ites, the Ā-phār-sāth-chītes, the Tār-pē-lites, the Ā-phār-sītes, the Ār-chē-vītes, the Bāb-ŷ-lō-nī-āns, the Sū-sān-chītes, the Dē-hā-vītes, and the Ē-lām-ites,

10 And the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Ās-nāp-pār brought over, and set in the cities of Sā-mār-ī-ā, and the rest *that are* on this side the river, and at such a time.

11 ¶ This *is* the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, *even* unto Ār-tā-xēr-x-ēs the king; Thy servants the men on this side the river, and at such a time.

12 Be it known unto the king, that the Jēwś which came up from thee to us are come unto Jē-rū-sā-lēm, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up the walls *thereof*, and joined the foundations.

13 Be it known now unto the king, that, if this city be builded, and the walls set up *again*, then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so

thou shalt endamage the revenue of the kings.

14 Now because we have maintenance from *the king's* palace, and it was not meet for us to see the king's dishonour, therefore have we sent and certified the king;

15 That search may be made in the book of the records of thy fathers: so shalt thou find in the book of the records, and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same of old time: for which cause was this city destroyed.

16 We certify the king that, if this city be builded *again*, and the walls thereof set up, by this means thou shalt have no portion on this side the river.

17 ¶ *Then* sent the king an answer unto Rē-hūm the chancellor, and to Shīm-shaī the scribe, and to the rest of their companions that dwell in Sā-mâr-ī-ā, and *unto* the rest beyond the river, Peace, and at such a time.

18 The letter which ye sent unto us hath been plainly read before me.

19 And I commanded, and search hath been made, and it is found that this city of old time hath made insurrection against kings, and *that* rebellion and sedition have been made therein.

20 There have been mighty kings also over Jě-rû-să-lēm, which have ruled over all *countries* beyond the river; and toll, tribute, and custom, was paid unto them.

21 Give ye now commandment to cause these men to cease, and that this city be not builded, until *another* commandment shall be given from

me.

22 Take heed now that ye fail not to do this: why should damage grow to the hurt of the kings?

23 ¶ Now when the copy of king Ār-tă-xěrx-ēs' letter was read before Rē-hūm, and Shīm-shaī the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jě-rû-să-lēm unto the Jēwś, and made them to cease by force and power.

24 Then ceased the work of the house of God which is at Jě-rû-să-lēm. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Dă-rī-ūs king of Pěr-siā.

CHAPTER 5

THEN the prophets, Hăg-gai the prophet, and Zěch-ă-rī-ăh the son of Īd-dō, prophesied unto the Jēwś that were in Jûd-ăh and Jě-rû-să-lēm in the name of the God of Īs-ră-ěl, *even* unto them.

2 Then rose up Zě-rüb-bă-běl the son of Shē-ăl-tī-ěl, and Jěsh-ŭ-ă the son of Jō-ză-dăk, and began to build the house of God which is at Jě-rû-să-lēm: and with them were the prophets of God helping them.

3 ¶ At the same time came to them Tăt-nai, governor on this side the river, and Shē-thăr-bōz-nai, and their companions, and said thus unto them, Who hath commanded you to build this house, and to make up this wall?

4 Then said we unto them after this manner, What are the names of the men that make this building?

5 But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jēwś, that they could not cause them to cease, till the matter came to Dă-rī-ūs: and then they returned answer by letter concerning this *matter*.

6 ¶ The copy of the letter that Tăt'-nâi, governor on this side the river, and Shē-thār-bōz'-nâi, and his companions the Ā-phār'-să-chītes, which were on this side the river, sent unto Dă-rī-ūs the king:

7 They sent a letter unto him, wherein was written thus; Unto Dă-rī-ūs the king, all peace.

8 Be it known unto the king, that we went into the province of Jû-dē-ă, to the house of the great God, which is builded with great stones, and timber is laid in the walls, and this work goeth fast on, and prospereth in their hands.

9 Then asked we those elders, and said unto them thus, Who commanded you to build this house, and to make up these walls?

10 We asked their names also, to certify thee, that we might write the names of the men that were the chief of them.

11 And thus they returned us answer, saying, We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and build the house that was builded these many years ago, which a great king of Ís-rā-ěl builded and set up.

12 But after that our fathers had provoked the God of heaven unto wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nēb-ū-chăd-něz-zăr the king of Băb-ÿ-lon, the Chăl-dē-ăn, who destroyed this house, and carried the people away into Băb-ÿ-lon.

13 But in the first year of Çÿ-rūs the king of Băb-ÿ-lon the same king Çÿ-rūs made a decree to build this house of God.

14 And the vessels also of gold and silver of the house of God, which Nēb-ū-chăd-něz-zăr took out of the

temple that was in Jě-rû-să-lēm, and brought them into the temple of Băb-ÿ-lon, those did Çÿ-rūs the king take out of the temple of Băb-ÿ-lon, and they were delivered unto one, whose name was Shěsh-băz-zăr, whom he had made governor;

15 And said unto him, Take these vessels, go, carry them into the temple that is in Jě-rû-să-lēm, and let the house of God be builded in his place.

16 Then came the same Shěsh-băz-zăr, and laid the foundation of the house of God which is in Jě-rû-să-lēm: and since that time even until now hath it been in building, and yet it is not finished.

17 Now therefore, if it seem good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure house, which is there at Băb-ÿ-lon, whether it be so, that a decree was made of Çÿ-rūs the king to build this house of God at Jě-rû-să-lēm, and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter.

CHAPTER 6

THEN Dă-rī-ūs the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Băb-ÿ-lon.

2 And there was found at Āch-mē-thă, in the palace that is in the province of the Mēdeš, a roll, and therein was a record thus written:

3 In the first year of Çÿ-rūs the king the same Çÿ-rūs the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jě-rû-să-lēm, Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits;

4 With three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expences be given out of the king's house:

5 And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nēb-ū-chād-něz-zār took forth out of the temple which is at Jē-rû-sā-lēm, and brought unto Bāb-ŷ-ḷon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jē-rû-sā-lēm, every one to his place, and place them in the house of God.

6 Now therefore, Tāt-nāi, governor beyond the river, Shē-thār-bōz-nāi, and your companions, the Ā-phār-sā-chītes, which are beyond the river, be ye far from thence:

7 Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jēw̄s and the elders of the Jēw̄s build this house of God in his place.

8 Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jēw̄s for the building of this house of God: that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expences be given unto these men, that they be not hindered.

9 And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jē-rû-sā-lēm, let it be given them day by day without fail:

10 That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.

11 Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his

house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this.

12 And the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this house of God which is at Jē-rû-sā-lēm. I Dā-rī-ūs have made a decree; let it be done with speed.

13 ¶ Then Tāt-nāi, governor on this side the river, Shē-thār-bōz-nāi, and their companions, according to that which Dā-rī-ūs the king had sent, so they did speedily.

14 And the elders of the Jēw̄s builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Hāg-gai the prophet and Zēch-ā-rī-āh the son of Īd-dō. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Īś-rā-ēl, and according to the commandment of Çy-rūs, and Dā-rī-ūs, and Ār-tā-xērx-ēs king of Pēr-siā.

15 And this house was finished on the third day of the month Ā-dār, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Dā-rī-ūs the king.

16 ¶ And the children of Īś-rā-ēl, the priests, and the Lē-vītes, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy,

17 And offered at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Īś-rā-ēl, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Īś-rā-ēl.

18 And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Lē-vītes in their courses, for the service of God, which

is at Jě-rû-să-lěm; as it is written in the book of Mō'sěš.

19 And the children of the captivity kept the passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month.

20 For the priests and the Lē-vītes were purified together, all of them were pure, and killed the passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.

21 And the children of Īś-rā-ěl, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Īś-rā-ěl, did eat,

22 And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for the LORD had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Ās-syr-ī-ă unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Īś-rā-ěl.

CHAPTER 7

NOW after these things, in the reign of Ār-tă-xěrx-ěš king of Pěr-siā, Ěz-ră the son of Sě-rai-ăh, the son of Āz-ă-rī-ăh, the son of Hīl-kī-ăh,

2 The son of Shăl'lŭm, the son of Ză-dŏk, the son of Ā-hī-tŭb,

3 The son of Ām-ă-rī-ăh, the son of Āz-ă-rī-ăh, the son of Mě-rai-ŏth,

4 The son of Zěr-ă-hī-ăh, the son of Ūz-zī, the son of Bŭk-kī,

5 The son of Ā-bī-shŭ-ă, the son of Phīn-ě-hăš, the son of Ēl-ē-ă-zăr, the son of Āa-rŏn the chief priest:

6 This Ěz-ră went up from Băb-ŷ-lŏn; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Mō'sěš, which the LORD God of Īś-rā-ěl had given: and the king granted him all his request, according

to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.

7 And there went up *some* of the children of Īś-rā-ěl, and of the priests, and the Lē-vītes, and the singers, and the porters, and the Něth-ī-nīmš, unto Jě-rû-să-lěm, in the seventh year of Ār-tă-xěrx-ěš the king.

8 And he came to Jě-rû-să-lěm in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

9 For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Băb-ŷ-lŏn, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jě-rû-să-lěm, according to the good hand of his God upon him.

10 For Ěz-ră had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Īś-rā-ěl statutes and judgments.

11 ¶ Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Ār-tă-xěrx-ěš gave unto Ěz-ră the priest, the scribe, *even* a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of his statutes to Īś-rā-ěl.

12 Ār-tă-xěrx-ěš, king of kings, unto Ěz-ră the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect *peace*, and at such a time.

13 I make a decree, that all they of the people of Īś-rā-ěl, and of his priests and Lē-vītes, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jě-rû-să-lěm, go with thee.

14 Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to inquire concerning Jŭd-ăh and Jě-rû-să-lěm, according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand;

15 And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of

Īś-rā-ēl, whose habitation is in Jě-rû-să-lēm,

16 And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Băb-ÿ-lon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jě-rû-să-lēm:

17 That thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house of your God which is in Jě-rû-să-lēm.

18 And whatsoever shall seem good to thee, and to thy brethren, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the will of your God.

19 The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the house of thy God, *those* deliver thou before the God of Jě-rû-să-lēm.

20 And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow *it* out of the king's treasure house.

21 And I, *even* I Ār-tă-xěrx-ēs the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which *are* beyond the river, that whatsoever Ěz-ră the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,

22 Unto an hundred talents of silver, and to an hundred measures of wheat, and to an hundred bāths of wine, and to an hundred bāths of oil, and salt without prescribing *how much*.

23 Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven: for why should there be

wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

24 Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Lē-vītes, singers, porters, Nēth-ĭ-nĭmś, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.

25 And thou, Ěz-ră, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that *are* beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know *them* not.

26 And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether *it be* unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.

27 ¶ Blessed *be* the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put *such a thing* as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jě-rû-să-lēm:

28 And hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me, and I gathered together out of Īś-rā-ēl chief men to go up with me.

CHAPTER 8

THESE *are* now the chief of their fathers, and *this is* the genealogy of them that went up with me from Băb-ÿ-lon, in the reign of Ār-tă-xěrx-ēs the king.

2 Of the sons of Phĭn-ē-hăś; Gěr-shōm: of the sons of Īth-ă-măr; Dăn-ĭl: of the sons of Dă-vid; Hăt-tūsh.

3 Of the sons of Shĕch-ă-nĭ-ăh, of the sons of Phâr-ōsh; Zĕch-ă-rĭ-ăh: and

with him were reckoned by genealogy of the males an hundred and fifty.

4 Of the sons of Pā-hāth-mō-āb; Ěl-ī-hō-ē-nai the son of Zēr-ā-hī-āh, and with him two hundred males.

5 Of the sons of Shēch-ā-nī-āh; the son of Jā-hā-zī-ěl, and with him three hundred males.

6 Of the sons also of Ā-din; Ě-bēd the son of Jōn-ā-thān, and with him fifty males.

7 And of the sons of Ě-lām; Jēsh-ai-āh the son of Āth-ā-lī-āh, and with him seventy males.

8 And of the sons of Shēph-ā-tī-āh; Zēb-ā-dī-āh the son of Mī-chā-ěl, and with him fourscore males.

9 Of the sons of Jō-āb; Ō-bā-dī-āh the son of Jē-hī-ěl, and with him two hundred and eighteen males.

10 And of the sons of Shē-lō-mīth; the son of Jōs-ī-phī-āh, and with him an hundred and threescore males.

11 And of the sons of Bē-bā-ī; Zēch-ā-rī-āh the son of Bē-bā-ī, and with him twenty and eight males.

12 And of the sons of Āz-gād; Jō-hā-nān the son of Hāk-kā-tān, and with him an hundred and ten males.

13 And of the last sons of Ād-ō-nī-kām, whose names are these, Ě-līph-ē-lēt, Jē-ī-ěl, and Shēm-ai-āh, and with them threescore males.

14 Of the sons also of Bīg-vā-ī; Ū-thai, and Zāb-būd, and with them seventy males.

15 ¶ And I gathered them together to the river that runneth to Ā-hā-vā; and there abode we in tents three days; and I viewed the people, and the priests, and found there none of the sons of Lē-vī.

16 Then sent I for Ěl-ī-ē-zēr, for Ār-ī-ěl, for Shēm-ai-āh, and for

Ěl-nā-thān, and for Jār-īb, and for Ěl-nā-thān, and for Nā-thān, and for Zēch-ā-rī-āh, and for Mē-shūl-lām, chief men; also for Jōi-ā-rīb, and for Ěl-nā-thān, men of understanding.

17 And I sent them with commandment unto Īd-dō the chief at the place Cās-ī-phī-ā, and I told them what they should say unto Īd-dō, and to his brethren the Nēth-ī-nīmś, at the place Cās-ī-phī-ā, that they should bring unto us ministers for the house of our God.

18 And by the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a man of understanding, of the sons of Māh-lī, the son of Lē-vī, the son of Īś-rā-ěl; and Shēr-ē-bī-āh, with his sons and his brethren, eighteen;

19 And Hāsh-ā-bī-āh, and with him Jēsh-ai-āh of the sons of Mē-rār-ī, his brethren and their sons, twenty;

20 Also of the Nēth-ī-nīmś, whom Dā-vid and the princes had appointed for the service of the Lē-vītes, two hundred and twenty Nēth-ī-nīmś: all of them were expressed by name.

21 ¶ Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ā-hā-vā, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

22 For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way; because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.

23 So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.

24 ¶ Then I separated twelve of the

chief of the priests, Shēr-ē-bī'āh, Hāsh-ā-bī'āh, and ten of their brethren with them,

25 And weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, *even* the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Īś-rā-ēl *there* present, had offered:

26 I even weighed unto their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels an hundred talents, *and* of gold an hundred talents;

27 Also twenty basons of gold, of a thousand drams; and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold.

28 And I said unto them, *Ye are* holy unto the LORD; the vessels *are* holy also; and the silver and the gold *are* a freewill offering unto the LORD God of your fathers.

29 Watch ye, and keep *them*, until ye weigh *them* before the chief of the priests and the Lē'vītes, and chief of the fathers of Īś-rā-ēl, at Jě-rû'sā-lēm, in the chambers of the house of the LORD.

30 So took the priests and the Lē'vītes the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring *them* to Jě-rû'sā-lēm unto the house of our God.

31 ¶ Then we departed from the river of Ā-hā'vā on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jě-rû'sā-lēm: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way.

32 And we came to Jě-rû'sā-lēm, and abode there three days.

33 ¶ Now on the fourth day was the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our God by

the hand of Měr'ě-mōth the son of Ū-rī'āh the priest; and with him was Ēl-ē-ā'zār the son of Phīn'ě-hās; and with them was Jō'zā-bād the son of Jěsh-ū-ā, and Nō-ā-dī'āh the son of Bīn-nū-ī, Lē'vītes;

34 By number *and* by weight of every one: and all the weight was written at that time.

35 Also the children of those that had been carried away, which were come out of the captivity, offered burnt offerings unto the God of Īś-rā-ēl, twelve bullocks for all Īś-rā-ēl, ninety and six rams, seventy and seven lambs, twelve he goats *for* a sin offering: all *this* was a burnt offering unto the LORD.

36 ¶ And they delivered the king's commissions unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors on this side the river: and they furthered the people, and the house of God.

CHAPTER 9

NOW when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Īś-rā-ēl, and the priests, and the Lē'vītes, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, *doing* according to their abominations, *even* of the Cā'nā-ān-ītes, the Hīt-tītes, the Pě-rīz-zītes, the Jěb-ū-sītes, the Ām'mōn-ītes, the Mō'āb-ītes, the Ē-gŷp-tīāns, and the Ām-ō-rītes.

2 For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of *those* lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.

3 And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and

plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished.

4 Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Īś-rā-ēl, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.

5 ¶ And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God,

6 And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over *our* head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

7 Since the days of our fathers *have been* in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, *and* our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as *it is* this day.

8 And now for a little space grace hath been *shewed* from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.

9 For we *were* bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Pĕr-siā, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Jûd-āh and in Jĕ-rû-sā-lĕm.

10 And now, O our God, what shall we

say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments,

11 Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness.

12 Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave *it* for an inheritance to your children for ever.

13 And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities *deserve*, and hast given us *such* deliverance as this;

14 Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that *there should be* no remnant nor escaping?

15 O LORD God of Īś-rā-ēl, thou *art* righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as *it is* this day: behold, we *are* before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this.

CHAPTER 10

NOW when Ěz-řā had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Īś-rā-ēl a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very

sore.

2 And Shěch-ă-nî-ăh the son of Jě-hî-ěl, *one* of the sons of Ē-lām, answered and said unto Ěz-ră, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Īs-ră-ěl concerning this thing.

3 Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

4 Arise; for *this matter* *belongeth* unto thee: we also *will be* with thee: be of good courage, and do *it*.

5 Then arose Ěz-ră, and made the chief priests, the Lē-vītes, and all Īs-ră-ěl, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they sware.

6 ¶ Then Ěz-ră rose up from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Jō-hā-nān the son of Ē-lī-ăsh-īb: and *when* he came thither, he did eat no bread, nor drink water: for he mourned because of the transgression of them that had been carried away.

7 And they made proclamation throughout Jûd-ăh and Jě-rû-să-lēm unto all the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together unto Jě-rû-să-lēm;

8 And that whosoever would not come within three days, according to the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his substance should be forfeited, and himself separated from the congregation of those that had been carried away.

9 ¶ Then all the men of Jûd-ăh and

Běn-jă-mīn gathered themselves together unto Jě-rû-să-lēm within three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth *day* of the month; and all the people sat in the street of the house of God, trembling because of *this* matter, and for the great rain.

10 And Ěz-ră the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Īs-ră-ěl.

11 Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.

12 Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do.

13 But the people *are* many, and *it is* a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand without, neither *is this* a work of one day or two: for we are many that have transgressed in this thing.

14 Let now our rulers of all the congregation stand, and let all them which have taken strange wives in our cities come at appointed times, and with them the elders of every city, and the judges thereof, until the fierce wrath of our God for this matter be turned from us.

15 ¶ Only Jōn-ă-thān the son of Ās-ă-hěl and Jā-hă-zī-ăh the son of Tīk-văh were employed about this *matter*: and Mě-shūl-lām and Shăb-bě-thāi the Lē-vīte helped them.

16 And the children of the captivity did so. And Ěz-ră the priest, *with* certain chief of the fathers, after the house of their fathers, and all of them by *their* names, were separated, and sat down in the first day of the tenth

month to examine the matter.

17 And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first day of the first month.

18 ¶ And among the sons of the priests there were found that had taken strange wives: *namely*, of the sons of Jěsh-ū-ā the son of Jō-zā-dāk, and his brethren; Mā-ā-sei-āh, and Ěl-ī-ē-zēr, and Jār-īb, and Gěd-ā-lī-āh.

19 And they gave their hands that they would put away their wives; and *being* guilty, *they offered* a ram of the flock for their trespass.

20 And of the sons of Ĭm-mēr; Hā-nā-nī, and Zěb-ā-dī-āh.

21 And of the sons of Hār-ĭm; Mā-ā-sei-āh, and Ě-lī-jāh, and Shēm-ai-āh, and Jě-hī-ěl, and Ūz-zī-āh.

22 And of the sons of Pāsh-ūr; Ěl-ī-ō-ē-nai, Mā-ā-sei-āh, Ĭsh-mā-ěl, Něth-ā-neel, Jō-zā-bād, and Ěl-ā-sāh.

23 Also of the Lē-vītes; Jō-zā-bād, and Shīm-ē-ī, and Kě-lāi-āh, (the same is Kě-lī-tā,) Pěth-ā-hī-āh, Jūd-āh, and Ěl-ī-ē-zēr.

24 Of the singers also; Ě-lī-āsh-īb: and of the porters; Shāl-lūm, and Tē-lēm, and Ū-rī.

25 Moreover of Ĭs-rā-ěl: of the sons of Pār-ōsh; Rā-mī-āh, and Jě-zī-āh, and Māl-chī-āh, and Mī-ā-mīn, and Ěl-ē-ā-zār, and Māl-chī-jāh, and Bě-nai-āh.

26 And of the sons of Ě-lām; Māt-tā-nī-āh, Zěch-ā-rī-āh, and Jě-hī-ěl, and Āb-dī, and Jěr-ě-mōth, and Ě-lī-āh.

27 And of the sons of Zāt-tū; Ěl-ī-ō-ē-nai, Ě-lī-āsh-īb, Māt-tā-nī-āh,

and Jěr-ě-mōth, and Zā-bād, and Ā-zī-zā.

28 Of the sons also of Bē-bā-ī; Jē-hō-hā-nān, Hān-ā-nī-āh, Zāb-bā-ī, and Āth-lā-ī.

29 And of the sons of Bā-nī; Mě-shūl-lām, Māl-lūch, and Ā-dai-āh, Jāsh-ūb, and Shē-āl, and Rā-mōth.

30 And of the sons of Pā-hāth-mō-āb; Ād-nā, and Chē-lāl, Bě-nai-āh, Mā-ā-sei-āh, Māt-tā-nī-āh, Bě-zā-leel, and Bīn-nū-ī, and Mā-nās-sēh.

31 And of the sons of Hār-ĭm; Ěl-ī-ē-zēr, Ĭsh-ī-jāh, Māl-chī-āh, Shēm-ai-āh, Shīm-ē-on,

32 Běn-jā-mīn, Māl-lūch, and Shēm-ā-rī-āh.

33 Of the sons of Hāsh-ūm; Māt-tē-nai, Māt-tā-thāh, Zā-bād, Ě-līph-ē-lēt, Jěr-ē-mā-ī, Mā-nās-sēh, and Shīm-ē-ī.

34 Of the sons of Bā-nī; Mā-ā-dā-ī, Ām-rām, and Ū-ěl,

35 Bě-nai-āh, Bě-dei-āh, Chěl-lūh,

36 Vā-nī-āh, Měr-ě-mōth, Ě-lī-āsh-īb,

37 Māt-tā-nī-āh, Māt-tē-nai, and Jā-ā-sau,

38 And Bā-nī, and Bīn-nū-ī, Shīm-ē-ī,

39 And Shěl-ē-mī-āh, and Nā-thān, and Ā-dai-āh,

40 Māch-nād-ě-bai, Shā-shai, Shār-ā-ī,

41 Āz-ā-reel, and Shěl-ē-mī-āh, Shēm-ā-rī-āh,

42 Shāl-lūm, Ām-ā-rī-āh, and Jō-sēph.

43 Of the sons of Nē-bō; Jē-ī-ěl, Māt-tī-thī-āh, Zā-bād, Zě-bī-nā, Jā-dau, and Jō-ěl, Bě-nai-āh.

44 All these had taken strange wives: and *some* of them had wives by whom they had children.