

DASV: Ezra**DASV: Ezra 1**

¹ In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout his entire kingdom, and also put it in writing:

² "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says, 'The LORD, God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has charged me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

³ Anyone among you who are from all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel. He is the God who is in Jerusalem.

⁴ Let any of the survivors, in any place where they are living, be assisted by his neighbors with silver, gold, goods and with animals, including the freewill offerings for the temple of God that is in Jerusalem."

⁵ Then the heads of the families of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and Levites, everyone whose spirit God had roused, prepared to go up to build the temple for the LORD that is in Jerusalem.

⁶ All their neighbors around them supported them with items of silver, gold and with goods and animals, and with valuable gifts, besides all that was freely offered.

⁷ Cyrus the king also brought out the vessels of the temple of the LORD that Nebuchadnezzar had carried off from Jerusalem and had put in the temple of his gods.

⁸ Cyrus king of Persia had them released into the hand of Mithredath the treasurer who in turn counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

⁹ The inventory of these items was: 30 gold basins, 1,000 silver basins, 29 silver censers,

¹⁰ 30 gold bowls, 410 other silver bowls, and 1,000 other items.

¹¹ There were a total of 5,400 items of gold and silver. Sheshbazzar brought all of these with them, when the exiles were brought up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

DASV: Ezra 2

¹ Now these are the people of the province, who went up out of captivity from those who were exiled whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each one to his own town.

² They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel were:

³ the descendants of Parosh, 2,172;

⁴ the descendants of Shephatiah, 372;

⁵ the descendants of Arah, 775;

⁶ the descendants of Pahath-moab, from the descendants of Jeshua and Joab, 2,812;

⁷ the descendants of Elam, 1,254;

⁸ the descendants of Zattu, 945;

⁹ the descendants of Zaccai, 760;

¹⁰ the descendants of Bani, 642;

¹¹ the descendants of Bebai, 623;

¹² the descendants of Azgad, 1,222;

¹³ the descendants of Adonikam, 666;

¹⁴ the descendants of Bigvai, 2,056;

¹⁵ the descendants of Adin, 454;

¹⁶ the descendants of Ater, from Hezekiah, 98;

¹⁷ the descendants of Bezai, 323;

¹⁸ the descendants of Jorah, 112;

¹⁹ the descendants of Hashum, 223;

²⁰ the descendants of Gibbar, 95;

²¹ the descendants of Bethlehem, 123;

²² the men of Netophah, 56;

²³ the men of Anathoth, 128;

²⁴ the descendants of Azmaveth, 42;

²⁵ the men of Kiriath-jearim, Kephirah and Beeroh, 743;

²⁶ the men of Ramah and Geba, 621;

²⁷ the men of Michmash, 122;

²⁸ the men of Bethel and Ai, 223;

²⁹ the descendants of Nebo, 52;

³⁰ the descendants of Magbish, 156;

³¹ the descendants of the other Elam, 1,254;

³² the descendants of Harim, 320;

³³ the men of Lod, Hadid and Ono, 725;

³⁴ the men of Jericho, 345;

³⁵ the descendants of Senaah, 3,630.

³⁶ The priests:

the descendants of Jedaiah, from the house of Jeshua, 973;

³⁷ the descendants of Immer, 1,052;

³⁸ the descendants of Pashhur, 1,247;

³⁹ the descendants of Harim, 1,017.

⁴⁰ The Levites:

the descendants of Jeshua and Kadmiel, from the descendants of Hodaviah, 74;

⁴¹ the singers from the descendants of Asaph, 128.

⁴² The gatekeepers were the descendants of Shallum, Ater, Talmon, Akkub, Hatita, and Shobai, 139.

⁴³ The temple servants:

the descendants of Ziha, Hasupha, Tabbaoth,

⁴⁴ Keros, Siaha, Padon,

⁴⁵ Lebanah, Hagabah, Akkub,

⁴⁶ Hagab, Shamlai, Hanan,

⁴⁷ Giddel, Gahar, Reaiah,

⁴⁸ Rezin, Nekoda, Gazzam,

⁴⁹ Uzza, Paseah, Besai,

⁵⁰ Asnah, Meunim, Nephisim,

⁵¹ Bakbuk, Hakupha, Harhur,

⁵² Bazluth, Mehida, Harsha,

⁵³ Barkos, Sisera, Temah,

⁵⁴ Neziah and Hatipha.

⁵⁵ The descendants of Solomon's servants:

the descendants of Sotai, Hassophereth, Peruda,

⁵⁶ Jaalah, Darkon, Giddel,

⁵⁷ Shephatiah, Hattil, Pokereth-hazzebaim and Ami.

⁵⁸ All the temple servants and the descendants of Solomon's servants, were 392.

⁵⁹ These were those who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Kerub, Addan, and Immer; although they could not prove their families were descendants from Israel:

⁶⁰ the descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah, Nekoda, 652.

⁶¹ Some of the priests were the descendants of Habaiah, Hakkoz, Barzillai, who married the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name.

⁶² These searched for their family records in the genealogical records, but they were not found. As a result they were deemed to be unclean and excluded from the priesthood.

⁶³ The governor told them that they were not allowed to eat of the most holy food, until there was a priest who could inquire using the Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁴ The whole assembly together totaled 42,360,

⁶⁵ besides their male and female servants, of whom there were 7,337. There were also 200 male and female singers.

⁶⁶ They had 736 horses, 245 mules,

⁶⁷ 435 camels and 6,720 donkeys.

⁶⁸ When they came to the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, some of the family leaders made freewill offerings for the rebuilding of the temple of God on its original site.

⁶⁹ They gave according to their ability into the treasury for this project 61,000 gold coins, and 6,250 pounds of silver, and 100 priestly garments.

⁷⁰ So the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, the temple servants and some of the regular people lived in their towns, and all the rest of Israel in their towns.

DASV: Ezra 3

¹ When the seventh month had come, and the Israelites were settled in their towns, the people gathered together as one to Jerusalem.

² Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak along with his fellow priests, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his family built the altar of the God of Israel, so that they could offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.

³ They set the altar on its base, even though they were afraid of the local residents from other countries. They offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, in the morning and evening.

⁴ They kept the Feast of Tabernacles, just as it was written, and offered the set number of the daily burnt offerings according to the requirement for each day.

⁵ Afterward they offered the regular burnt offerings, and the offerings for the new moons, and all the prescribed sacred feasts of the LORD, including all those who willingly offered a freewill offering to the LORD.

⁶ From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD had not yet been laid.

⁷ So they gave money to the masons and carpenters, and food, drink and olive oil to those from Sidon and Tyre for them to bring cedar trees from Lebanon by sea to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

⁸ Now in the second year after their arrival at the temple of God in Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the rest of their fellow priests and Levites, and all those who had come out of captivity to Jerusalem, began the rebuilding work having appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and older to oversee the work of the temple of the LORD.

⁹ Then Jeshua with his sons and his brothers, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, began their oversight of the workmen in the temple of God along with the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brothers the Levites.

¹⁰ When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their vestments with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, took their positions in order to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel.

¹¹ They sang antiphonally to one another praising and giving thanks to the LORD: "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel." Then all the people shouted loudly as they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the temple of the LORD had been laid.

¹² But many of the older priests, Levites and heads of families who had seen the first temple, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept aloud while many of the others were shouting for joy.

¹³ People could not distinguish the sound of the shout for joy from the sound of the people weeping, for the people were shouting so loudly that the sound could be heard a long way away.

DASV: Ezra 4

¹ When the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the former exiles were building a temple for the LORD, the God of Israel;

² they approached Zerubbabel, and the heads of families and said to them, "Let us help you build it, for we seek your God, just like you do. We have been sacrificing to him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here."

³ But Zerubbabel, Jeshua and the rest of the heads of families of Israel, replied to them, "You will have nothing to do with helping us rebuild a temple to our God; but we will build it by ourselves alone for the LORD, the God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia commanded us."

⁴ Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah, and made them afraid to continue building.

⁵ They bribed consultants against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

⁶ Later in the reign of Ahasuerus [also called Xerxes], in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

⁷ Then in the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of his associates, wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia. The letter was written in Aramaic, and then translated for the king.

⁸ Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king as follows:

⁹ Then wrote Rehum the commander, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their associates, the judges, the officials, the secretaries, the Persians, the Erechites, the Babylonians, the people of Shusha, that is, the Elamites,

¹⁰ and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Ashurbanipal deported, and settled in the city of Samaria, and in the rest of the region west of the Euphrates River.

¹¹ This is the copy of the letter that they sent: "To King Artaxerxes, from your servants the people of the province west of the Euphrates:

¹² The king should be aware, that the Jews who came up from you to us have gone to Jerusalem. They are rebuilding this rebellious and wicked city. They are finishing the walls, and have repaired its foundations.

¹³ The king should be aware that if this city is rebuilt, and the walls completed, they will refuse to pay any more taxes, customs, or tolls, and in the end it will be detrimental to the royal revenue.

¹⁴ Now because we loyally eat the salt of the palace, and it is not appropriate for us to witness the king being dishonored, therefore we have sent and informed the king,

¹⁵ so that a search may be made in the records of your fathers. You will discover in the records, and realize that this city is a rebellious city, and harmful to kings and provinces, and that they have instigated sedition from long ago which is why this city was destroyed.

¹⁶ We are informing the king that if this city is rebuilt, and the walls finished, you will have no portion in the province west of the Euphrates River."

¹⁷ Then the king sent a reply: "To Rehum the commander and to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their associates who dwell in Samaria, and in the rest of region west of the Euphrates River. Greetings.

¹⁸ The letter you sent to us has been translated and read before me.

¹⁹ I have given orders and a search has been made. It was found that this city from long ago has made insurrection against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made in it.

²⁰ There have been mighty kings over Jerusalem, who have ruled over the entire province to the west of the Euphrates River. Taxes, customs and tolls have been paid to them.

²¹ Therefore give the order to force these men to stop, that this city must not be rebuilt, until further orders come from me.

²² Take care not to be slack in this matter. Why should damage accrue to the harm of the king?"

²³ Then when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, Shimshai the scribe, and their associates, they quickly went to Jerusalem to the Jews, and forced them to stop.

²⁴ Then the work of the temple of God in Jerusalem ceased. It was put on hold until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

DASV: Ezra 5

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

² Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, got up and began to rebuild the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the prophets of God were with them helping them.

³ At the same time Tattenai, the governor of the region west of the Euphrates River, and Shethar-bozenai and their associates came to them and asked them, "Who gave you permission to rebuild this temple, and to finish this structure?"

⁴ They also asked, "What are the names of the men building this building?"

⁵ But their God was watching over the elders of the Jews, and they would not stop until a report came to Darius, and then the response was returned by letter concerning it.

⁶ This is a copy of the letter that Tattenai, the governor of the province west of the Euphrates River and Shethar-bozenai, and his associates the officials of the region west of the Euphrates River, sent to Darius the king.

⁷ They sent a letter to him as follows: "To Darius the king, all peace.

⁸ Let it be known to the king, that we went into the province of Judah, to the temple of the great God. It is being rebuilt with large stones and with timber laid in its walls. This work is proceeding with diligence and success in their hands.

⁹ We asked those elders, 'Who gave you permission to build this temple, and to finish this structure?'

¹⁰ We also asked for their names, so that we might write down the names of their leaders in order to inform you.

¹¹ This was their response, 'We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth. We are rebuilding the temple that was built so many years ago by a great king of Israel who built and finished it.

¹² But after that our forefathers provoked the God of heaven to wrath, so he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this temple, and exiled the people to Babylon.

¹³ But in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, Cyrus the king made a decree to rebuild this temple of God.

¹⁴ Even the gold and silver vessels of the temple of God which Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem and brought into the temple of Babylon, these items Cyrus the king took out of the temple of Babylon, and delivered to a man by the name of Sheshbazzar, whom he had appointed as governor.

¹⁵ Cyrus told him, "Take these vessels, go, put them in the temple in Jerusalem, and let the temple of God be rebuilt on its original site."

¹⁶ Then this same Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundations of the temple of God in Jerusalem. Since that time even until now it has been under construction although it has not been completed yet.'

¹⁷ Now therefore, if it seems good to the king, let a search be made in the king's royal archives that are there in Babylon whether this is so, that a decree was made by Cyrus the king to rebuild this temple of God in Jerusalem. Then let the king send us what he wishes us to do concerning this matter."

DASV: Ezra 6

¹ Then Darius the king made a decree and a search was made in the treasury archives that were stored in Babylon.

² A scroll was found in the palace at Ecbatana that is in the province of Media. In it was written: "A record:

³ In the first year of king Cyrus, he made a decree concerning the temple of God at Jerusalem: 'Let the temple be rebuilt as a place where they may offer sacrifices. Let its foundations be laid 90 feet high and 90 feet wide,

⁴ with three courses of large stones and one course of timber. Let its cost be paid for out of the royal treasury.

⁵ Also let the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple at Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be restored and brought back to the temple at Jerusalem. Let everyone of them be put back in their place in the temple of God."

⁶ Darius ordered: "Now Tattenai, governor of the province west of the Euphrates River, Shethar-bozenai, and your associates the officials who are also in the province west of the Euphrates River should get away from there.

⁷ Leave the work on this temple of God alone. Let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this temple of God on its original site.

⁸ Moreover I make a decree that you are to assist the elders of the Jews in the rebuilding of this temple of God. The cost is to be paid in full without delay from the royal treasury and from the taxes collected in the province west of the Euphrates River so that their work will not be delayed.

⁹ Whatever is needed, whether young bulls, rams, or lambs for burnt offerings to the God of heaven, along with wheat, salt, wine, and oil, as required by the priests in Jerusalem, let it be given to them daily without fail,

¹⁰ so that they may offer pleasing sacrifices to the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king and his sons.

¹¹ Also I have made a decree, that whoever alters this edict, let a beam be pulled out of his house, and let him be lifted up and impaled on it. Let his house be turned into a pile of rubble.

¹² May God who has made his name to dwell there overthrow any king or people that puts out their hand to alter this decree, to destroy this temple of God at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree. Let it be done with all diligence."

¹³ Then Tattenai, the governor of the province west of the Euphrates River, Shethar-bozenai, and their associates, because Darius the king had sent it, implemented it with all diligence.

¹⁴ So the elders of the Jews continued building and prospered, accompanied by the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They built and finished

it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel and the decree of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia.

¹⁵ The temple was finished on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of king Darius.

¹⁶ The people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the exiles, celebrated the dedication of this temple of God with joy.

¹⁷ They offered at the dedication of this temple of God 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs, along with a sin offering for all Israel of 12 male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

¹⁸ They appointed the priests by their divisions, and the Levites by their divisions, for the service of God in Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses.

¹⁹ The exiles kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.

²⁰ For the priests and Levites had purified themselves and all of them were clean. They killed the Passover lamb for all the returned exiles, for their fellow priests, and for themselves.

²¹ The Israelites who had come back from captivity, along with those who had separated themselves from the uncleanness of the nations of the land to seek the LORD, the God of Israel ate

²² and kept the feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy; for the LORD had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria favorably toward them, to assist them in the work of the temple of God, the God of Israel.

DASV: Ezra 7

¹ Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,

² the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,

³ the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth,

⁴ the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,

⁵ the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest;

⁶ this Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses, that the LORD, the God of Israel, had given. The king granted him everything he requested, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him.

⁷ Some of the Israelites, and some of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers and temple servants also went up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.

⁸ Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, in the seventh year of the king.

⁹ On the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylon. On the first day of the fifth month he arrived at Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on him.

¹⁰ For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD, to do it and to teach its statutes and regulations in Israel.

¹¹ This is the copy of the letter that king Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest and scribe. He was a man trained in matters concerning the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes for Israel:

¹² "Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the perfect law of the God of heaven.

¹³ I now make a decree, that any of the people of Israel in my kingdom, along with their priests and Levites, who wants to go to Jerusalem may go with you.

¹⁴ You are sent by the king and his seven advisers, to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of your God which is in your hand.

¹⁵ Also you are to take the silver and gold the king and his advisers have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem,

¹⁶ and all the silver and gold that you may find in all the province of Babylon along with the freewill offerings of the people and the priests for the temple of their God in Jerusalem.

¹⁷ With this money be sure to buy bulls, rams, lambs, along with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and sacrifice them on the altar at the temple of your God in Jerusalem.

¹⁸ Whatever seems good to you and your brethren to do with the rest of the silver and gold, do it according to the will of your God.

¹⁹ The vessels that are given to you for the service of the temple of your God, deliver to the God of Jerusalem.

²⁰ Whatever else you need for the temple of your God, which you have to supply, you may take it from the royal treasury.

²¹ I, Artaxerxes the king, make a decree to all the treasurers in the province west of the Euphrates River, that whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, requests of you, let it be done with all diligence,

²² up to 7,500 pounds of silver, 500 bushels of wheat, and to 550 gallons of wine, and 550 gallons of olive oil, and an unlimited amount of salt.

²³ Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be done exactly for the temple of the God of heaven. Why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

²⁴ Also we are notifying you, that it is not lawful to impose a tax, custom or toll on any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, temple servants, or attendants of this temple of God.

²⁵ Now you, Ezra, in accordance with the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges, who may judge all the people that are in the province west of the Euphrates River, all who know the laws of your God, and instruct anyone who does not know them.

²⁶ Anyone who does not obey the law of your God and the law of the king, let punishment be executed on him, whether it be death, banishment, confiscation of goods or imprisonment."

²⁷ Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem,

²⁸ and has extended steadfast love to me before the king, his advisers and all the king's mighty nobles. I was strengthened because the hand of the LORD my God was on me, and I gathered together the chief leaders of Israel to go up with me.

DASV: Ezra 8

¹ These are the heads of their families, and this is the genealogy of those who went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king:

² from the descendants of Phinehas, Gershom;

from the descendants of Ithamar, Daniel; from the descendants of David, Hattush,
³ the son of Shecaniah;

from the descendants of Parosh, Zechariah, and with him were registered 150 men;

⁴ from the descendants of Pahath-moab, Eliehoenai son of Zerahiah,
and with him 200 men;

⁵ from the descendants of Zattu, Shecaniah the son of Jahaziel,
and with him 300 men;

⁶ from the descendants of Adin, Ebed the son of Jonathan,
and with him 50 men;

⁷ from the descendants of Elam, Jeshaiiah the son of Athaliah,
and with him 70 men;

⁸ from the descendants of Shephatiah, Zebadiah the son of Michael,
and with him 80 men;

⁹ from the descendants of Joab, Obadiah the son of Jehiel,
and with him 218 men.

¹⁰ from the descendants of Shelomith, the son of Josiphiah,
and with him 160 men;

¹¹ from the sons of Bebai, Zechariah the son of Bebai,
and with him 28 men;

¹² from the descendants of Azgad, Johanan the son of Hakkatan,
and with him 110 men;

¹³ from the descendants of Adonikam, who came later, and these are their names:
Eliphelet, Jeuel and Shemaiah,
and with them 60 men.

¹⁴ from the descendants of Bigvai, Uthai and Zaccur,
and with them 70 men.

¹⁵ I gathered them together at the canal that runs to Ahava, and we camped there three days. I reviewed the people and the priests, and discovered there were no descendants of Levi.

¹⁶ So I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah and Meshullam, who were leaders and also for Joiarib and Elnathan, who were wise.

¹⁷ I sent them to Iddo the leader in the place Casiphia. I told them what they should say to Iddo, and his brothers the servants of the temple at Casiphia, that they should bring to us ministers for the temple of our God.

¹⁸ Since the good hand of our God was on us, they brought us Sherebiah, a man of discretion, from the descendants of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel; along with his sons and his brothers, 18 men;

¹⁹ and Hashabiah and with him Jeshaiiah from the descendants of Merari, his brothers and their sons, 20 men;

²⁰ besides 220 temple servants, whom David and the officials had appointed to assist the Levites. All of them were mentioned by name.

²¹ Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the Ahava canal, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our little ones and all our goods.

²² For I was ashamed to ask the king for a platoon of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on the way, because we had told the king, "The hand of our God is gracious on all those who seek him, but his power and his wrath is against all those who forsake him."

²³ So we fasted and prayed to our God about this, and he answered our prayer.

²⁴ Then I set apart twelve of the leading priests: Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brothers with them,

²⁵ and I weighed out to them the silver, gold and vessels, the offering for the temple of our God, that the king, his advisers, his princes and all Israel who were present there had offered.

²⁶ I weighed into their hand 24 tons of silver, and 7,500 pounds of silver vessels and 7,500 pounds of gold,

²⁷ 20 gold bowls, worth 1,000 gold coins, and two vessels of fine bright bronze, as valuable as gold.

²⁸ I said to them, "You are holy to the LORD, and the vessels are holy. The silver and the gold are a freewill offering to the LORD, the God of your forefathers.

²⁹ Guard and protect them, until you weigh them before the chief priests, Levites and the family leaders of Israel at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the temple of the LORD."

³⁰ So the priests and Levites received the silver, gold and the vessels as they were weighed out, in order to bring them to Jerusalem to the temple of our God.

³¹ Then we left from the Ahava canal on the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem. The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and from bandits by the way.

³² So we came to Jerusalem, and stayed there three days.

³³ Then on the fourth day, the silver, gold and vessels were weighed in the house of our God into the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest, and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas; along with Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, the Levites.

³⁴ Everything was accounted for by number and weight, and all the weight was recorded at that time.

³⁵ The exiles who were returning from exile, offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel, 12 bulls for all Israel, 96 rams, 77 lambs, 12 male goats for a sin offering. All this was a burnt offering to the LORD.

³⁶ They delivered the king's edicts to the king's satraps, and to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River who then helped support the people and the temple of God.

DASV: Ezra 9

¹ Now after these things had been done, the leaders approached me, saying, "The people of Israel, the priests and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands who are practicing their abominations, from the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Ammonites, Moabites, Egyptians and Amorites.

² They have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed has been mixed with the peoples of the lands and even worse the leaders and officials have led the way in this unfaithfulness."

³ When I heard this, I tore my tunic and my robe, and pulled out the hair of my head and beard, and sat down in shock.

⁴ Then all who trembled at the words of the God of Israel because of the unfaithfulness of the exiles assembled around while I sat devastated until the evening sacrifice.

⁵ At the evening sacrifice I got up from my humiliation, with my tunic and my robe torn. I fell on my knees and spread out my hands to the LORD my God.

⁶ I said, "O my God, I am too ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face to you, my God; for our iniquities have risen over our heads, and our guiltiness has reached up to the heavens.

⁷ From the days of our forefathers we have been very guilty to this day. Because of our iniquities we, our kings and our priests, have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the foreign lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder and to open shame, as it is this day.

⁸ But now for a brief moment of grace shown by the LORD our God, he has left us an escaped remnant and given us a secure stake in his holy place, so that our God has brightened our eyes, and given us a little respite from our bondage.

⁹ For although we are slaves yet our God has not forsaken us in our bondage, but has shown us kindness in the sight of the kings of Persia. He has revived us in order to set up the temple of our God, and to repair its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem.

¹⁰ Now, what can we say after this, O our God? For we have forsaken your commandments

¹¹ which you have commanded by your servants the prophets, 'The land which you are entering to possess is defiled from the pollutions of the peoples of the lands, through their abominations. They have filled it from one end to another with their filthiness.

¹² Therefore do not give your daughters to their sons in marriage, or take their daughters for your sons in marriage. Do not ever seek their peace or their prosperity so that you may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.'

¹³ After all that has come on us for our evil deeds and our great guilt, seeing that you, our God, have punished us less than our iniquities deserve and have permitted such a remnant of us to survive.

¹⁴ Should we again break your commandments and intermarry with the peoples who do these abominations? Would you not be angry with us until you had consumed us, so that there would not be any remnant or survivor?

¹⁵ O LORD, the God of Israel, you are righteous for we are left just a remnant who have escaped this day. Here we are before you in our guilt, though no one can stand before you because of this."

DASV: Ezra 10

¹ While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and throwing himself down before the temple of God, there was a great gathering of men, women and children with him from Israel. The people wept bitterly.

² Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the descendants of Elam, addressed Ezra, "We have been unfaithful to our God, and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land, but even now there is hope for Israel in spite of this issue.

³ Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives with their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God. Let it be done according to the law.

⁴ Get up, for the issue is yours to deal with, and we are with you. Be strong and do it."

⁵ Then Ezra got up and made the leaders of the priests and Levites and all Israel swear that they would do as they had proposed. So they all swore to it.

⁶ Then Ezra got up from before the temple of God, and went into the room of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib. While there he did not eat bread or drink water because he was grieving over the unfaithfulness of the exiles.

⁷ They made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the exiles, that they should assemble themselves at Jerusalem.

⁸ Whoever did not come within three days, all his property would be forfeited according to the counsel of the officials and the elders, and he himself would be banned from the assembly of exiles.

⁹ Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem within the three days. It was the twentieth day of the ninth month and all the people sat in the open square before the temple of God, trembling because of this matter and because it was raining hard.

¹⁰ Ezra the priest stood up, and said to them, "You have been unfaithful and have married foreign women, and so increased the guilt of Israel.

¹¹ Now therefore make confession to the LORD, the God of your fathers, and do his will. Separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives.

¹² Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, "Yes, we must do what you have told us to.

¹³ But the people are many, and it is the rainy season, and we are not able to stand outside. This is not a situation that can be resolved in a day or two; for we have sinned greatly in this matter.

¹⁴ Let our leaders represent the entire assembly. Let everyone who has married a foreign woman in our cities come at appointed times, and with them the elders and the judges of every town, until the fierce wrath of our God because of this issue is turned away from us."

¹⁵ Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahzeiah the son of Tikvah opposed this solution supported by Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite.

¹⁶ So the returned exiles did this. Ezra the priest, selected certain family leaders, according to their families, each of them designated by their name. These were set apart and they sat down on the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter.

¹⁷ On the first day of the first month they finished dealing with all the men who had married foreign women.

¹⁸ Among the sons of the priests there were found those who had married foreign women: from the descendants of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and his brothers: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib and Gedaliah.

¹⁹ They promised that they would put away their wives, and their guilt offering was a ram of the flock for their guilt.

²⁰ From the descendants of Immer:

Hanani and Zebadiah.

²¹ From the descendants of Harim:

Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel and Uziah.

²² From the descendants of Pashhur:

Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad and Elasa.

²³ From the Levites:

Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (that is Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah and Eliezer.

²⁴ From the singers: Eliashib.

From the gatekeepers: Shallum, Telem and Uri.

²⁵ From Israel:

From the descendants of Parosh:

Ramiah, Izziah, Malkijah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Malkijah and Benaiah.

²⁶ From the descendants of Elam:

Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth and Elijah.

²⁷ From the descendants of Zattu:

Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad and Aziza.

²⁸ From the descendants of Bebai:

Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai and Athlai.

²⁹ From the descendants of Bani:

Meshullam, Malluch, Adai, Jashub, Sheal and Jeremoth.

³⁰ From the descendants of Pahath-moab:

Adna, Kelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui and Manasseh.

³¹ From the descendants of Harim:

Eliezer, Ishijah, Malkijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon,

³² Benjamin, Malluch and Shemariah.

³³ From the descendants of Hashum:

Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh and Shimei.

³⁴ From the descendants of Bani:

Maadai, Amram, Uel,

³⁵ Benaiah, Bedeiah, Keluhi,

³⁶ Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,

³⁷ Mattaniah, Mattenai and Jaasu,

- ³⁸ From the descendants of Binnui: Shimei,
³⁹ Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiah,
⁴⁰ Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai,
⁴¹ Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah,
⁴² Shallum, Amariah and Joseph.
⁴³ From the descendants of Nebo:
Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jaddai, Joel and Benaiah.
⁴⁴ All these had married foreign wives; and some of them also had children by these women.