

# THE SECOND BOOK OF ESDRAS.



# Contents



## 2 ESDRAS.

1THE second book of the prophet Esdras, the son of Saraias, the son of Azaraias, the son of Helkias, the son of Salemas, the son of Sadoc, the son of Ahitob, <sup>2</sup> the son of Achias, the son of Phinees, the son of Heli, the son of Amarias, the son of Aziei, the son of Marimoth, the son of Arna, the son of Ozias, the son of Borith, the son of Abissei, the son of Phinees, the son of Eleazar, <sup>3</sup> the son of Aaron, of the tribe of Levi; which was captive in the land of the Medes, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of the Persians.

4And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, <sup>5</sup> Go thy way, and shew my people their sinful deeds, and their children their wickedness which they have done against me; that they may tell their children's children: <sup>6</sup> because the sins of their fathers are increased in them: for they have forgotten me, and have done sacrifice unto strange gods. <sup>7</sup> Did I not bring them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage? but they have provoked me unto wrath, and have despised my counsels. <sup>8</sup> Shake thou then the hair of thy head, and cast all evils upon them, for they have not been obedient unto my law, but it is a rebellious people. <sup>9</sup> How long shall I forbear them, unto whom I have done so much good? <sup>10</sup> Many kings have I overthrown for their sakes; Pharoah with his servants and all his host have I smitten down. <sup>11</sup> All the nations have I destroyed before them, and in the east I have scattered the people of two provinces, even of Tyre and Sidon, and have slain all their adversaries. <sup>12</sup> Speak thou therefore unto them, saying,

13Thus saith the Lord, of a truth I brought you through the sea, and where there was no path I made for you highways; I gave you Moses for a leader, and Aaron for a priest. <sup>14</sup> I gave you light in a pillar of fire, and great wonders have I done among you; yet have ye forgotten me, saith the Lord.

15Thus saith the Lord Almighty, The quails were for a token to you; I gave you a camp for your safeguard, nevertheless ye murmured there: <sup>16</sup> and ye triumphed not in my name for the destruction of your enemies, but ever to this day do ye yet murmur. <sup>17</sup> Where are the benefits that I have done for you? when ye were hungry and thirsty in the wilderness, did ye not cry unto me, <sup>18</sup> saying, Why hast thou brought us into this wilderness to kill us? it had been better for us to have served the Egyptians, than to die in this wilderness. <sup>19</sup> I had pity upon your mournings, and gave you manna for food; ye did eat angels' bread. <sup>20</sup> When ye were thirsty, did I not cleave the rock, and waters flowed out to your fill? for the heat I covered you with the leaves of the trees. <sup>21</sup> I divided among you fruitful lands; I cast out the Canaanites, the Pherezites, and the Philistines, before you: what shall I yet do more for you? saith the Lord.

22 Thus saith the Lord Almighty, When ye were in the wilderness, at the bitter river, being athirst, and blaspheming my name, <sup>23</sup> I gave you not fire for your blasphemies, but cast a tree in the water, and made the river sweet. <sup>24</sup> What shall I do unto thee, O Jacob? thou, Judah, wouldst not obey me: I will turn me to other nations, and unto them will I give my name, that they may keep my statutes. <sup>25</sup> Seeing ye have forsaken me, I also will forsake you; when ye ask me to be merciful unto you, I will have no mercy upon you. <sup>26</sup> Whosoever ye shall call upon me, I will not hear you: for ye have defiled your hands with blood, and your feet are swift to commit manslaughter. <sup>27</sup> Ye have not as it were forsaken me, but your own selves, saith the Lord.

28 Thus saith the Lord Almighty, Have I not prayed you as a father his sons, as a mother her daughters, and a nurse her young babes, <sup>29</sup> that ye would be my people, and I should be your God; that ye would be my children, and I should be your father? <sup>30</sup> I gathered you together, as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings: but now, what shall I do unto you? I will cast you out from my presence. <sup>31</sup> When ye offer oblations unto me, I will turn my face from you: for your solemn feast days, your new moons, and your circumcisions of the flesh, have I rejected. <sup>32</sup> I sent unto you my servants the prophets, whom ye have taken and slain, and torn their bodies in pieces, whose blood I will require of your hands, saith the Lord.

33 Thus saith the Lord Almighty, Your house is desolate, I will cast you out as the wind doth stubble. <sup>34</sup> And your children shall not be fruitful; for they have neglected my commandment <sup>1</sup> unto you, and done that which is evil before me. <sup>35</sup> Your houses will I give to a people that shall come; which not having heard of me yet believe me; they to whom I have shewed no signs shall do that which I have commanded. <sup>36</sup> They have seen no prophets, yet they shall call their former estate to remembrance. <sup>37</sup> I take to witness the grace of the people that shall come, whose little ones rejoice with gladness: and though they see me not with bodily eyes, yet in spirit they shall believe the thing that I say.

38 And now, O father, behold with glory; and see the people that come from the east: <sup>39</sup> unto whom I will give for leaders, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Oseas, Amos, and Micheas, Joel, Abdias, and Jonas, <sup>40</sup> Nahum, and Abacuc, Sophonias, Aggaeus, Zachary, and Malachy, which is called also the angel of the Lord.

2 Thus saith the Lord, I brought this people out of bondage, and I gave them my commandments by my servants the prophets; whom they would not hear, but set my counsels at nought. <sup>2</sup> The mother that bare them saith unto them, go your way, O my children; for I am a widow and forsaken. <sup>3</sup> I

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<sup>1</sup> + 1:34 Or, together with you

brought you up with gladness, and with sorrow and heaviness have I lost you: for ye have sinned before the Lord God, and done that which is evil before me. <sup>4</sup> But what shall I now do unto you? for I am a widow and forsaken: go your way, O my children, and ask mercy of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> As for me, O father, I call upon thee for a witness over the mother of these children, because they would not keep my covenant, <sup>6</sup> that thou bring them to confusion, and their mother to a spoil, that there may be no offspring of them. <sup>7</sup> Let them be scattered abroad among the heathen, let their names be blotted out of the earth: for they have despised my <sup>2</sup> covenant. <sup>8</sup> Woe unto thee, Assur, thou that hidest the unrighteous with thee! O thou wicked nation, remember what I did unto Sodom and Gomorrah; <sup>9</sup> whose land lieth in clods of pitch and heaps of ashes: even so also will I do unto them that have not hearkened unto me, saith the Lord Almighty.

10Thus saith the Lord unto Esdras, Tell my people that I will give them the kingdom of Jerusalem, which I would have given unto Israel. <sup>11</sup> Their glory also will I take unto me, and give these the everlasting tabernacles, which I had prepared for them. <sup>12</sup> They shall have the tree of life for an ointment of sweet savour; they shall neither labour, nor be weary. <sup>13</sup> <sup>3</sup> Ask, and ye shall receive: pray for few days unto you, that they may be shortened: the kingdom is already prepared for you: watch. <sup>14</sup> Take heaven and earth to witness, take them to witness; for I have given up the evil, and created the good: for I live, saith the Lord.

15Mother, embrace thy children; I will bring them out with gladness like a dove; stablish their feet; for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord. <sup>16</sup> And those that be dead will I raise up again from their places, and bring them out from their tombs: for I <sup>4</sup> have known my name in them. <sup>17</sup> Fear not, thou mother of the children: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord. <sup>18</sup> For thy help will I send my servants Esaias and Jeremy, after whose counsel I have sanctified and prepared for thee twelve trees laden with divers fruits, <sup>19</sup> and as many fountains flowing with milk and honey, and seven mighty mountains, whereupon there grow roses and lilies, whereby I will fill thy children with joy. <sup>20</sup> Do right to the widow, judge the fatherless, give to the poor, defend the orphan, clothe the naked, <sup>21</sup> heal the broken and the weak, laugh not a lame man to scorn, defend the maimed, and let the blind man come unto the sight of my glory. <sup>22</sup> Keep the old and young within thy walls. <sup>23</sup> Wheresoever thou findest the dead, set a sign upon them and commit them to the grave, and I will give thee the first place in my resurrection. <sup>24</sup> Abide still, O my people, and take thy rest, for thy quietness shall come. <sup>25</sup> Nourish thy children, O thou good nurse, and stablish their feet. <sup>26</sup> As for the servants whom I have given thee, there shall not one of them perish; for I

<sup>2</sup> + 2:7 + Another reading is, sacrament, or, oath

<sup>3</sup> + 2:13 Another reading is, Go.

<sup>4</sup> + 2:16 Or, recognise

will require them from among thy number. <sup>27</sup> Be not careful overmuch: for when the day of tribulation and anguish cometh, others shall weep and be sorrowful, but thou shalt be merry and have abundance. <sup>28</sup> The nations shall envy thee, but they shall be able to do nothing against thee, saith the Lord. <sup>29</sup> My hands shall cover thee, so that thy children see not <sup>5</sup> hell. <sup>30</sup> Be joyful, O thou mother, with thy children; for I will deliver thee, saith the Lord. <sup>31</sup> Remember thy children that sleep, for I shall bring them out of the secret places of the earth, and shew mercy unto them: for I am merciful, saith the Lord Almighty. <sup>32</sup> Embrace thy children until I come, and proclaim mercy unto them: for my wells run over, and my grace shall not fail.

<sup>33</sup> I Esdras received a charge from the Lord upon the mount Horeb, that I should go unto Israel; but when I came unto them, they would none of me, and rejected the commandment of the Lord. <sup>34</sup> And therefore I say unto you, O ye nations, that hear and understand, look for your shepherd, he shall give you everlasting rest; for he is nigh at hand, that shall come in the end of the world. <sup>35</sup> Be ready to the rewards of the kingdom, for the everlasting light shall shine upon you for evermore. <sup>36</sup> Flee the shadow of this world, receive the joyfulness of your glory: I call to witness my saviour openly. <sup>37</sup> O receive that which is given you of the Lord, and be joyful, giving thanks unto him that hath called you to heavenly kingdoms. <sup>38</sup> Arise up and stand, and behold the number of those that be sealed in the feast of the Lord; <sup>39</sup> they that withdrew them from the shadow of the world have received glorious garments of the Lord. <sup>40</sup> <sup>6</sup> Look upon thy number, O Zion, and make up the reckoning of those of thine that are clothed in white, which have fulfilled the law of the Lord. <sup>41</sup> The number of thy children, whom thou longest for, is fulfilled: beseech the power of the Lord, that thy people, which have been called from the beginning, may be hallowed.

<sup>42</sup> I Esdras saw upon the mount Sion a great multitude, whom I could not number, and they all praised the Lord with songs. <sup>43</sup> And in the midst of them there was a young man of a high stature, taller than all the rest, and upon every one of their heads he set crowns, and was more exalted; whereat I marvelled greatly. <sup>44</sup> So I asked the angel, and said, What are these, my Lord? <sup>45</sup> He answered and said unto me, These be they that have put off the mortal clothing, and put on the immortal, and have confessed the name of God: now are they crowned, and receive palms. <sup>46</sup> Then said I unto the angel, What young man is he that setteth crowns upon them, and giveth them palms in their hands? <sup>47</sup> So he answered and said unto me, It is the Son of God, whom they have confessed in the world. Then began I greatly to commend them that stood so stiffly for the name of the Lord. <sup>48</sup> Then the angel said unto me, Go thy way, and tell my people what manner of things, and how great wonders of the Lord God thou hast seen.

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<sup>5</sup> + 2:29 Lat. Gehenna.

<sup>6</sup> + 2:40 Another reading is, Take.