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Ezra

Introduction

The account of Ezra, is like a continuation of *The Chronicles*—it tells us about the returning home of other Yehudim who had been taken to Bavel as captives, and the restoration of daily life in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and of worshipping at the temple.
It's divided into three main sections: 1. The declaration of King Koresh (Cyrus) of Paras/Persia to allow a group of exiled Yehudim to return to Yerushalem from Bavel. 2. The rebuilding of the temple and its dedication, and the return to worshipping Yahweh there in Yerushalem. 3. The return of a different group of Jewish descendants to Yerushalem under the leadership of Ezra—the one knowledgeable about God's instructions. He assisted the Israelis to return to their beliefs and customs, so that their worshipping of the true God wouldn't be forgotten.

Main components of this account

The first group of exiled Yehudim return home *1:1–2:70*
The rebuilding of the temple and its dedication *3:1–6:22*
Ezra leads other exiles to return to Yehudah (Judah) *7:1–10:44*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

Koresh returns some Yehudim

1:1 In the first year that Koresh (Cyrus) was king of Paras (Persia), Yahweh stirred up his spirit in order to fulfil what he'd spoken through the prophet Yirmiyah (Jeremiah).[1] So the king distributed an official written notice throughout his kingdom, saying, **2** "Koresh, king of Paras, declares this: Yahweh, the god of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms in the world, and he's appointed me to build a residence for him in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) in Yehudah (Judah).[2] **3** Anyone among you who's one of his followers is free to go to Yerushalem (in Yehudah) to help build a temple there for Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh—the god of Yerushalem. May God go with you. **4** Those who live near these people but who are not going themselves, should donate gold and silver, and goods and livestock, plus cash as a voluntary offering for God's temple in Yerushalem.

5 Then some of the leaders of Benyamin and Yehudah, and some priests and Levites—all of whom had had their spirits stirred up by God—left to go and build Yahweh's residence in Yerushalem. **6** Their neighbours had helped them by donating gold and silver utensils, goods and livestock, and expensive gifts, as well as the voluntary offerings of cash.

7 Then King Koresh brought out the equipment from Yahweh's temple that Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) had brought all the way from Yerushalem and had put in the house of his gods. **8** He put the treasurer Mitredat in charge of bringing them out and Sheshebatsar, the ruler of Yehudah, in charge of accepting them and listing them. **9** There were: thirty gold basins, one thousand silver basins, twenty-nine knives, **10** thirty gold bowls, 410 silver bowls, and a thousand other utensils, **11** coming to a total of 5,400 gold and silver utensils. Sheshebatsar took all of that with the group of exiles going from Bavel (Babylon) to Yerushalem.

The list of returning exiles[5]

2:1 Out of the captives that Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) had brought as slaves to Bavel (Babylon), these are their descendants who returned to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) in Yehudah (Judah)—each person returning to their own ancestral town. **2** The ones who went with Zerubavel were: Yeshua, Nehemyah (Ne-

Literal Version

1:1 And_in_year_of one to/for_Kōresh/(Coresh/Cyrus) the_ _king_of Pāraṣ to_fulfill the_message_of **YHWH** from_the_ _mouth_of Yirmə^{yāh}/(Jeremiah) **YHWH** he_stirred_up ÐØM the_ _spirit_of Kōresh/(Cyrus/Kōresh) the_king_of Pāraṣ and_he_ _caused_to_pass a_proclamation in_all his/its_kingdom and_ _also in_writing to_say. **2** Thus Kōresh the_king_of Pāraṣ he_ _says all_of the_kingdoms_of the_earth/land he_has_given to_ _me **YHWH** the_god_of the_heavens and_he he_has_appointed (on)_me to_build to_him/it a_house in_ _Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) which is_in_Yəhūdāh/(Judah). **3** Who is_among_you(pl) from_all people_of_his may_he_be his/its_god with_him/it and_let_him_go_up to_ _Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) which is_in_Yəhūdāh and_let_him_ _build ÐØM the_house_of **YHWH** the_god_of Yisrā'^{ēl}/(Israel) he the_'Elohīm who is_in_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem). **4** And_all (the)_one_who_remains from_all the_places where he is_ _sojourning there let_them_support_him the_people_of his_ _place_of_his with_silver and_with_gold and_with_property and_with_cattle with the_freewill_offering for_the_house_of the_'Elohīm which is_in_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem). **5** And_ the_ _heads_of the_fathers of_Yəhūdāh and_Binyāmīn and_the_ _priests and_the_Lēviyyiy _they_arose to_all/each/any/every the_'Elohīm one_whom_he_had_stirred_up ÐØM his/its_ _breath/wind/spirit to_go_up to_build ÐØM the_house_of **YHWH** which is_in_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem). **6** And_all around_of_them they_strengthened (in)_hands_of_their with_ _vessels_of silver with_gold with_property and_on/over_ _cattle/livestock and_with_(the)_gifts besides_addition_to (on) all_of offering_of_freewill_offerings. **7** And_the_king Kōresh/(Cyrus/Kōresh/(Coresh/Cyrus)) he_brought_out ÐØM the_vessels_of the_house_of **YHWH** which Nəvūkadnetstsar he_ _had_brought_out from_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) and_he_had_ _put_them in_house_of his/its_god. **8** And_he_brought_them_ _out[34] Kōresh the_king_of Pāraṣ on the_hand_of Mitrədāt the_ _treasurer and_he_counted_them_out to_Shēshəbatstsar the_ _prince of_Yəhūdāh/(Judah). **9** And_these number_of_were_ _their basins_of gold thirty basins_of silver one_thousand knives nine and_twenty. **10** Bowls_of gold thirty bowls_of silver second_order four hundred(s) and_ten vessels other one_ _thousand. **11** All_of vessels of_gold and_of_silver five_of thousand(s) and_four hundred(s) (the)_everything Shēshəbatstsar he_brought_up with the_exile[s] were_led_up from_Bāvel to_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem).

2:1 And_these are_the_children_of the_province who_came_up from_the_captivity_of the_exile whom he_had_taken_into_exile Nəvūkadnetstsar[8] the_king_of Bāvel to_Bāvel and_they_ _returned to_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) and_ _Yəhūdāh/(Yihudah) each to_his_own_of_city. **2** Who they_ _came with Zərubāvel Yēshū'a/(Jeshua) Nəḥem^{yāh} Sərā^{yāh} Rə'ēlā^{yāh} Mordəkay Bilshān Mişpār Bigvay Rəḥūm Ba'ₐnāh the_

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1 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** Jer 25:11; 29:10.

2 **RV 1:2 · Cross-ref.** Isa 44:28.

3 **LV 1:8 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

4 **LV 1:8 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more vowels in L differently from BHS.

5 **RV 2:1 · Parallel** Neh. 7:4-73

8 **LV 2:1 · Note** OSHB variant note: רוצנדכובנ: (x-qere) 'רֶצָּנְדַכוּבְנ': lemma_5020 morph_HNp id_15PGK רֶצָּנְדַכוּבְנ

Literal Version

_number_of the_men_of the_people_of Yisrā'^{ēl}/(Israel). **3** The_ _descendants_of Par'osh/(Parosh) two_thousand one_hundred seventy and_two. **4** The_descendants_of Shəfaṭ^{yāh} three hundred(s) seventy and_two. **5** The_descendants_of 'Āraḥ seven hundred(s) five and_seventy. **6** The_descendants_of Paḥat-Mō'āv of_the_descendants_of of_Yēshū'a Yō'āv/(Joab) two_ _thousand eight hundred(s) and_two_plus ten. **7** The_ _descendants_of 'Ēylām one_thousand two_hundred fifty and_ _four. **8** The_descendants_of Zattū' nine hundred(s) and_forty and_five. **9** The_descendants_of Zakkay seven hundred(s) and_ _sixty. **10** The_descendants_of Bānī six hundred(s) forty and_ _two. **11** The_descendants_of Bēvay six hundred(s) twenty and_ _three. **12** The_descendants_of 'Azgād one_thousand two_ _hundred twenty and_two. **13** The_descendants_of 'Adonīqām six hundred(s) sixty and_six. **14** The_descendants_of Bigvay two_thousand fifty and_six. **15** The_descendants_of 'Ādīn four hundred(s) fifty and_four. **16** The_descendants_of 'Āṭēr of_ _Ḥizqiy^{yāh} ninety and_eight. **17** The_descendants_of Bētsay three hundred(s) twenty and_three. **18** The_descendants_of Yōrāh/(Jorah) one_hundred and_two_plus ten. **19** The_ _descendants_of Ḥāshum two_hundred twenty and_three. **20** The_descendants_of Givar ninety and_five. **21** The_ _descendants_of Bēyt- leḥem one_hundred twenty and_three. **22** The_men_of Nəṭofāh fifty and_six. **23** The_men_of 'Anātōt one_hundred twenty and_eight. **24** The_descendants_of 'Azmāvet forty and_two. **25** The_descendants_of Qiryat Kephirah and_Beeroth seven hundred(s) and_forty and_three. **26** The_descendants_of (the)_Rāmāh and_Geva' six hundred(s) twenty and_one. **27** The_men_of Mikmāṣ one_hundred twenty and_two. **28** The_men_of Bēyt- 'ēl and_(the)_'Ay two_hundred twenty and_three. **29** The_descendants_of Nəvō fifty and_two. **30** The_descendants_of Magbiysh one_hundred fifty and_six. **31** The_descendants_of 'Ēylām the_other one_thousand two_ _hundred fifty and_four. **32** The_descendants_of Ḥārim three hundred(s) and_twenty. **33** The_descendants_of Lod Ḥādīd and_ _Ono seven hundred(s) twenty and_five. **34** The_descendants_of Yərīḥō/(Jericho) three hundred(s) forty and_five. **35** The_ _descendants_of Ṣənā'āh three_of thousand(s) and_six hundred(s) and_thirty. **36** The_priests the_descendants_of Yəda'^{yāh}/(Jedaiah) of_the_house_of of_Yēshū'a/(Jeshua) nine hundred(s) seventy and_three. **37** The_descendants_of 'Immēr one_thousand fifty and_two. **38** The_descendants_of Pashḥūr one_thousand two_hundred forty and_seven. **39** The_ _descendants_of Ḥārim one_thousand and_seven teen. **40** The_ _Lēviyyiy the_descendants_of Yēshū'a and_Qadmī'^{ēl} of_the_ _sons_of of_Hōdav^{yāh} seventy and_four. **41** The_singers the_ _descendants_of 'Āṣāf one_hundred twenty and_eight. **42** The_ _descendants_of the_gatekeepers the_descendants_of Shallūm the_descendants_of 'Āṭēr the_descendants_of Ṭalmōn the_ _descendants_of 'Aqqūv the_descendants_of Ḥ$_a$ṭīṭā' the_ _descendants_of Shovāy (the)_everyone was_one_hundred thirty and_nine. **43** The_temple_servants the_descendants_of Tsīḥā'/(Ziha) the_descendants_of Ḥ$_a$sūfā' the_descendants_of Ṭabā'ōt. **44** The_descendants_of Qēyroṣ the_descendants_of Ṣī'ā' the_descendants_of Pādōn. **45** The_descendants_of Ləvānā' the_descendants_of Ḥ$_a$gāvā' the_descendants_of 'Aqqūv.

Readers' Version

hemiah), Serayah, Re'elayah, Mordekai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvay, Rehum, and Ba'anah.

Their numbers were:

3 2,172 descendants of Par'osh,

4 372 descendants of Shefatyah,

5 775 descendants of Arah,

6 2,812 descendants of Pahat-Moav, from the families of Yeshua and Yoav (Joab),

7 1,254 descendants of Eylam,

8 945 descendants of Zatu,

9 760 descendants of Zakay,

10 642 descendants of Bani,

11 623 descendants of Bevay,

12 1,222 descendants of Azgad,

13 666 descendants of Adonikam,

14 2,056 descendants of Bigvay,

15 454 descendants of Adin,

16 98 descendants of Ater, who descended from Hizkiyah (Hezekiah),

17 323 descendants of Betsay,

18 112 descendants of Yorah,

19 223 descendants of Hashum,

20 95 descendants of Givar.

21 And from these towns:

123 from Beyt-Lehem (Bethlehem),

22 56 from Netofah,

23 128 from Anatot,

24 42 from Azmavet,

25 743 from Kiryat-Yearim, Kefirah, and Be'erot,

26 621 from Ramah and Geva,

27 122 from Mikmas,

28 223 from Beyt-El (Bethel) and Ay,

29 52 from Nevo,

30 156 from Magbish,

31 1,254 from the other Eylam,

32 320 from Harim,

33 725 from Lod, Hadid, and Ono,

34 345 from Yeriho (Jericho),

35 3,630 from Sena'ah.

36 The priests who returned:

973 descendants of Yedayah (descendants of Yeshua),

37 1,052 descendants of Imer,

38 1,247 descendants of Pashhur,

39 1,017 descendants of Harim.

40 The Levites who returned:

74 descendants of Yeshua and Kadmiel, who were from the family of Hodavyah,

41 128 musicians who were descendants of Asaf,

42 139 gatekeepers who were descendants of the gatekeepers Shalum, Ater, Talmon, Akuv, Hatita, and Shovay,

Readers' Version

43 The temple servants who returned:
The descendants of Tsiha, Hasufa, and Tabaeot,
44 the descendants of Keyros, Siea, and Padon,
45 the descendants of Levana, Hagava, and Akuv,
46 the descendants of Hagav, Shalmay, and Hanan,
47 the descendants of Gidel, Gahar, and Reayah,
48 the descendants of Retsin, Nekoda, and Gazam,
49 the descendants of Uza, Paseah, and Besay,
50 the descendants of Asnah, Meunim, and Nefushesim,
51 the descendants of Bakbuk, Hakufa, and Harhur,
52 the descendants of Batslut, Mehida, and Harsha,
53 the descendants of Barkos, Sisera, and Temah,
54 and the descendants of Netsiah and Hatifa.
55 The descendants of Shelomoh's (Solomon's) servants who returned:
the descendants Sotay, Soferet, Peruda,
56 the descendants of Ya'alah, Darkon, and Gidel,
57 the descendants of Shefatyah, Hatil, Pokeret Tsevayim, and Ami.
58 Altogether there were 392 descendants of temple workers and Shelomoh's servants who returned.
59 Another group went from the towns of Tel-Melah, Tel-Harsha, Keruv, Adan, and Imer, but they didn't know their ancestry from before they were taken as captives.
60 There were 652 people who were descendants of Delayah, Toviyah, and Nekoda, **61** and from the sons of the priests: the descendants of Havayah; the descendants of Hakots; and the descendants of Barzilay, who took a wife from the daughters of Barzilay the Giladi, so he was called by their name. **62** They had searched for their records among the genealogies, but couldn't find their families listed, so they were disqualified to serve as priests. **63** Also the governor told them that they mustn't eat any of the holiest food until a priest could use the Urim and Tumim to determine their status.[6]
64 Altogether in this group, 42,360 people returned to Yehudah (Judah). **65** not counting their 7,337 male and female servants, plus 200 male and female musicians. **66** They also took 736 horses and 245 mules, **67** 435 camels and 6,720 donkeys.
68 When some of the heads of families got to Yahweh's temple in Yerushalem (Jerusalem), they freely donated so that it could be rebuilt. **69** They each donated to the treasury according to their individual resources—a total of sixty-one thousand gold coins, five thousand silver bars, and a hundred sets of clothing for the priests.
70 So the priests and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the gatekeepers and the temple servants returned to live in their ancestral cities, and so all the Israeli cities

Literal Version

46 The_descendants_of Ḥāgāv the_descendants_of Salmay[9] the_descendants_of Ḥānān. **47** The_descendants_of Giddēl the_ _descendants_of Gaḥar the_descendants_of Rə'āyāh. **48** The_ _descendants_of Rətsīn the_descendants_of Nəqōdā' the_ _descendants_of Gazzām. **49** The_descendants_of ʻUzzā' the_ _descendants_of Pāṣēaḥ the_descendants_of Bēṣay. **50** The_ _descendants_of 'Aṣnāhh the_descendants_of Mə'ūnāy[10] the_ _descendants_of Nephussim[11]. **51** The_descendants_of Baqbūq the_descendants_of Ḥaqūfā' the_descendants_of Ḥarḥūr. **52** The_descendants_of Batslūt the_descendants_of Məḥīdā' the_descendants_of Ḥarshā'. **53** The_descendants_of Barqōṣ the_descendants_of Ṣīṣərā' the_descendants_of Temaḥ. **54** The_ _descendants_of Nətsīaḥ the_descendants_of Ḥaṭīfā'. **55** The_ _descendants_of the_servants_of Shəlomoh/(Solomon) the_ _descendants_of Ṣōṭay the_descendants_of Ṣoferet the_ _descendants_of Pərūdā'. **56** The_descendants_of Jaala the_ _descendants_of Darkon the_descendants_of Giddēl. **57** The_ _descendants_of Shəfaṭyāh the_descendants_of Ḥaṭṭil the_ _descendants_of Pokeret- Tsəvāyīm the_descendants_of 'Āmī. **58** All_of the_temple_servants and_the_sons of_the_servants_of of_Shəlomoh three hundred(s) ninety and_two. **59** And_these are_the_ones_who_came_up from_Tēl- melaḥ Tēl Harsha Kərūv Addon 'Immēr and_not they_were_able to_announce the_ _house_of their_ancestors_of_their and_offspring_of_their if were_from_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they. **60** The_descendants_of Dəlāyāh the_descendants_of Ṭōviyāh the_descendants_of Nəqōdā' six hundred(s) fifty and_two. **61** And_of_the_descendants_of the_ _priests the_descendants_of Ḥavayāh the_descendants_of Haqqōṣ the_descendants_of Barzillay who he_had_taken one_ _of_the_daughters_of Barzillay the_Gil'ādite a_wife and_he_ _was_called on their_name. **62** These they_sought document_ _of_their those_who_had_had_themselves_enrolled and_not they_were_found and_they_were_defiled from the_priesthood. **63** And_ the_governor _he/it_said to/for_them which/who not they_will_eat any_of_the_holy_thing_of the_holy_things until a_priest will_arise to_Urim and_to_Thummim. **64** All_of the_ _assembly as_one four ten_thousand two_thousand three hundred(s) sixty. **65** (From)_besides_of servants_of_their_male and_their_female_of_servants these were_seven_of thousand(s) three hundred(s) thirty and_seven and_belonged_to_them male_singers and_female_singers two_hundred. **66** Horses_of_ _their seven hundred(s) thirty and_six mules_of_their two_ _hundred forty and_five. **67** Camels_of_their four hundred(s) thirty and_five donkeys six_of thousand(s) seven hundred(s) and_twenty. **68** And_some_of_the_heads_of the_fathers when_ _came_they to_the_house_of **YHWH** which is_in_ _Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) they_offered_freewill_offerings for_ _the_house_of the_'Elohīm to_erect_it on place_of_its. **69** According_to_of_their_ability they_gave to_the_treasury_of the_work gold drachmas six ten_thousands and_one_thousand and_silver minas five_of thousand(s) and_tunics_of priests one_ _hundred. **70** And_ the_priests and_the_Lēviyyiy and_from the_

6 **RV 2:63 · Cross-ref.** Num 27:21.
9 **LV 2:46 · Note** OSHB variant note: **ילמש**: (x-qere) **יְמֶלַשׁ**: lemma_8014 n_0.0 morph_HNp id_15Sjh יְמֶלַשׁ
10 **LV 2:50 · Note** OSHB variant note: **מיניעמ**: (x-qere) **מְעוּנִים**: lemma_4586 n_0.0 morph_HNgmpa id_15Abd מְעוּנִים
11 **LV 2:50 · Note** OSHB variant note: **מיסיפנ**: (x-qere) **מְסוּפִים**: lemma_5304 n_0 morph_HNgmpa id_15gMU מְסוּפִים

Literal Version

_people and_the_singers and_the_gatekeepers and_the_temple_
_servants _they_lived in_their_own_of_cities and_all
Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) was_in_their_own_of_cities.

3:1 And_ the_month the_seventh _it_arrived and_the_sons of_
_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) were_in_cities and_ the_people _they_gathered
like_a_man one to Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem). **2** And_
Yēshū'a/(Jeshua) the_son_of Yōtsādāq/(Jozadak) and_brothers_
_of_his the_priests and_Zərubāvel the_son_of Shə'altiy'ēl and_
_brothers_of_his _he/it_rose_up and_they_rebuilt ÐOM the_
_altar_of the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) to_offer_up
on/upon/above_him/it burnt_offerings according_what_is_
_written in_the_law_of Mosheh the_man_of the_'Elohīm.
3 They_established the_altar on foundations_of_its if/because
(in)_terror was_on_them from_the_peoples_of the_lands
and[16][17] on/upon/above_him/it burnt_offerings to/for_**YHWH**
burnt_offerings of_morning and_of_evening. **4** And_they_made
ÐOM the_festival_of (the)_booths according_what_is_written
and_a_burnt_offering_of a_day in/on_day by_number
according_to_the_ordinance_of the_matter_of a_day in_its_day.
5 And_after afterwards[18] a_burnt_offering_of continuity and_
_for_moons and_to/for_all the_appointed_times_of **YHWH**
(the)_consecrated and_to/for_all one_who_offered a_freewill_
offering to/for**YHWH**. **6** From_day one of_month the_seventh
they_began to_offer_up burnt_offerings to/for_**YHWH** and_
_the_temple_of **YHWH** not it_was_founded.

7 And_people_gave money to_stonemasons and_to_craftsmen
and_food and_drink and_oil to_Tsīdonī/(Sidonians) and_to_
_Tsorī/(Tyrians) to_bring wood(s)_of cedar(s) from (the)_
_Ləvānōn to the_sea_of Yāfō/(Joppa) according_to_the_
_permission_of Kōresh/(Cyrus/Kōresh/(Coresh/Cyrus)) the_
_king_of Pāraş to_them. **8** And_in_year the_second(fs) of_
_coming_their to the_house_of the_'Elohīm to_
_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) in_month the_second they_began
Zərubāvel the_son_of Shə'altiy'ēl and_Yēshū'a/(Jeshua) the_
_son_of Yōtsādāq/(Jozadak) and_the_rest_of their_brothers_of_
_their the_priests and_the_Lēviyyiy and_all the_(ones_who)_
_went from_the_captivity Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) and_they_
_appointed ÐOM the_Lēviyyiy from_a_son_of twenty year[s]
and_upward_upwards to_act_as_overseers over the_work_of
the_house_of **YHWH**. **9** And_ Yēshū'a sons_of_his and_brothers_
_of_his Qadmī'ēl and_sons_of_his the_sons_of Yəhūdāh/(Judah)
_he_stood as_one to_act_as_overseers over the_doer[s]_of the_
_work in_house_of the_'Elohīm the_sons_of Ḥēnādād sons_of_
_their and_brothers_of_their the_Lēviyyiy. **10** And_ the_builders
_they_founded ÐOM the_temple_of **YHWH** and_they_appointed
the_priests fully_clothed with_trumpets and_the_Lēviyyiy the_
_sons_of 'Āşāf with_cymbals to_praise ÐOM **YHWH** on the_

Readers' Version

had returnees living in them.[7]

Rebuilding the altar

3:1 In the seventh month, the Israelis from their various cities, gathered together in unity in Yerushalem (Jerusalem). **2** Then Yotsadak's son Yeshua and his brothers the priests, and Shealtiyel's son Zerubavel and his brothers, and they built the altar to offer up burnt offerings to Yisrael's (Israel's) god on it[12] as is written in the law of Mosheh (Moses), the man of God. **3** They set the altar up on its foundation because they were worried about trouble from some of the other people groups in the region. Then they offered burnt offerings to Yahweh on it as well as the regular morning and evening burnt offerings.[13] **4** Then they observed the Celebration in Shelters as per the written instructions[14] with a burnt offering each day as required. **5** After that was over, they kept up the regular burnt offerings, plus those for the new moons and other times that Yahweh required,[15] as well as any free-will offerings to Yahweh. **6** Even though the temple foundation rebuilding hadn't started yet, the people started sacrificing burnt offerings to Yahweh from the beginning of October.

Rebuilding the temple

7 They donated cash to the stone-workers and carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the workers from Tsidon (Sidon) and Tsor (Tyre) to float cedar logs along the coast from Levanon into Port Yafo (Joppa) with the permission of Persian King Koresh (Cyrus).

8 In the second month of second year since their return to Yerushalem (Jerusalem), Shealtiyel's son Zerubavel and Yotsadak's son Yeshua, and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and everyone except who'd returned to Yerushalem from captivity, began work on God's residence, and they appointed the Levites who were twenty and over to act as overseers for the work of rebuilding Yahweh's temple. **9** And Yeshua with his brothers and their sons, Kadmiel and his sons, (all descendants of Yehudah (Judah)) cooperated to act as overseers for those doing the work at the temple together with Henadad's sons and grandsons, and their brothers the Levites.

10 When the builders had laid the foundation of Yahweh's temple, they got the priests to stand there in their robes with their trumpets, and Asaf's descendants (who were Levites) with their

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7 **RV 2:70 · Cross-ref.** 1Ch 9:2; Neh 11:3.

12 **RV 3:2 · Cross-ref.** Exo 27:1.

13 **RV 3:3 · Cross-ref.** Num 28:1-8.

14 **RV 3:4 · Cross-ref.** Num 29:12-38.

15 **RV 3:5 · Cross-ref.** Num 28:11–29:39.

16 **LV 3:3 · Note** OSHB variant note: לעי/ו: (x-qere) וּלְעֵי/ו: lemma_c/5927 morph_HC/Vhw3mp id_156Tj וּלְעֵי/ו

17 **LV 3:3 · Note** OSHB note: Adaptations to a Qere which L and BHS, by their design, do not indicate.

18 **LV 3:5 · Note** OSHB exegesis note: A single word in the text has been divided for exegesis.

Readers' Version

cymbals, to praise Yahweh using the rhythms composed by David, the former Israeli king.[19] **11** Then they sang in response—praising and thanking Yahweh: "Yes, he is good, because his loyal commitment to Yisrael (Israel) will continue forever."[20]

Then all the people shouted a great shout in praise to Yahweh because the foundation of Yahweh's temple had been laid. **12** Many of the older priests and Levites, and clan leaders who'd seen the first temple, wept loudly when they witnessed the founding of this one, but others were shouting happily with loud voices. **13** So the people couldn't differentiate the happy sounds from the sound of the people weeping, because the people were shouting very loudly and it could be heard from far away.

Opposition to rebuilding the temple

4:1 Now the enemies of Yehudah (Judah) and Benyamin heard that the Israelis who'd come back from exile were building a temple for Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh. **2** so they went to Zerubavel and to the other clan leaders and they said to them, "Let us help you with the building work, because like you, we worship your god and we've been sacrificing to him since the days of the Assyrian king Esar-Hadon—the one who sent us here."[22]

3 But Zerubavel, and Yeshua, and the rest of the Israelis clan leaders said to them, "It's not for you and for us to build a house for our god, but we ourselves together will build for Yisrael's god Yahweh, just as the Persian King Koresh (Cyrus) has commanded us."

4 Those local people had been discouraging the people of Yehudah and trying to stop them from building. **5** They'd also hired influencers to work against them throughout the reigns of the Persian kings Koresh and Dareyavesh (Darius).

The opposition of replacement of Yerushalem

6 Now at the beginning of the reign of Ahashverosh (Ahasuerus), they forwarded an accusation against those who lived in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and throughout Yehudah (Judah).

7 And in the days of Persian King Artahshashta (Artaxerxes), Bishlam, Mitredat, Teve'el and the rest of their companions wrote to the king. (The letter was written in Aramit (Syrian) and using that alphabet).

8 Rehum the high commissioner and Shimshay the provincial

Literal Version

_hands_of Dāvid the_king_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **11** And_they_sang with_praising and_with_giving_thanks to/for_**YHWH** if/because he_is_good if/because forever_perpetuity loyalty_ _of_his_covenant is_towards Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_all the_people they_shouted a_shout_of_joy[21] great with_praising to/for_ _**YHWH** because the_house_of **YHWH** it_was_founded. **12** And_ _many of_the_priests and_the_Lēviyyiy and_the_heads_of the_ _fathers (the)_old who they_had_seen ~~DOM~~ the_house (the)_ _first when_founded_it this the_house in_eyes_of_their were_ _weeping with_a_voice great and_many_people with_a_shout_ _of_joy with_gladness to_lift_up a_voice. **13** And_not the_people were_recognizing the_sound_of the_shout_of (the)_joy to_ _sound/voice of_the_weeping_of of_the_people if/because the_ _people were_shouting a_shout_of_joy great and_the_sound it_ _was_heard to (to)_from_a_distance.

4:1 And_ the_foes_of Yəhūdāh/(Judah) and_Binyāmīn _they_ _heard if/because_that the_children_of the_exile were_building a_temple to/for_**YHWH** the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **2** And_ _they_approached (to) Zərubāvel and_near/to the_heads_of the_fathers and_they_said to/for_them let_us_build with if/because like we_seek (to)_god_of_your(pl) and[23] we have_ _been_sacrificing since_the_days_of 'Ēşar- ḥaddōn the_king_of 'Ashshūr who_brought_up us here. **3** And_he/it_said to/for_ _them Zərubāvel and_Yēshū'a/(Jeshua) and_the_rest_of the_ _heads_of the_fathers of_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) not to/for_you(pl) and_for to_build a_house for_god_of if/because we together we_will_build_it to/for_**YHWH** the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) just_ _as he_commanded_us the_king Kōresh/(Cyrus/Kōresh/(Coresh/Cyrus)) the_king_of Pāraş. **4** And_he/it_was the_people_of the_earth/land were_making_ _drop the_hands_of the_people_of Yəhūdāh and[24] them to_ _build. **5** And_they_were_hiring on_them counsellors to_ _frustrate purpose_of_their all_of the_days_of Kōresh the_king_ _of Pāraş and_unto the_reign_of Dārəyāvesh the_king_of Pāraş.

6 And_in_the_reign_of 'Aḥashvērōsh at_the_beginning_of his/its_kingdom they_wrote an_accusation on the_inhabitants_ _of Yəhūdāh/(Judah) and_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem). **7** And_in_ _the_days_of 'Artaḥshashtā' he_wrote Bishlām Mitrədāt Ṭ֫ᵉvə'ēl and_the_rest_of mmm[26] to 'Artaḥshashtā'[27] the_king_of Pāraş and_the_writing_of[28] of_the_letter was_written 'Arāmīt and_it_ _was_translated 'Arāmīt. **8** Rəḥūm master_of command and_ _Shimshay the_scribe they_wrote a_letter one concerning Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) to_'Artaḥshashtā' Oh/the_king as_ _follows. **9** Then Rəḥūm master_of command and_Shimshay

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19 **RV 3:10 · Cross-ref.** 1Ch 25:1.

20 **RV 3:11 · Cross-ref.** 1Ch 16:34; 2Ch 5:13; 7:3; Psa 100:5; 106:1; 107:1; 118:1; 136:1; Jer 33:11.

21 **LV 3:11 · Note** OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

22 **RV 4:2 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 17:24-41.

23 **LV 4:2 · Note** OSHB variant note: **אל/ו**: (x-qere) 'וְ/לְ/וֹ': lemma_c/l n_0.1.2.0 morph_HC/R/Sp3ms id_15ozy וְ/לְ/וֹ

24 **LV 4:4 · Note** OSHB variant note: **סיהלבמ/ו**: (x-qere) 'סִיְלַהַבְמְ/וֹ': lemma_c/926 morph_HC/Vprmpa id_15Atm סִיְלַהַבְמְ/וֹ

26 **LV 4:7 · Note** OSHB variant note: **ו/תונכ**: (x-qere) 'וְ/יִתֹּנֶךְ': lemma_3674 n_1.1 morph_HNcmpc/Pp3ms id_15to2 וְ/יִתֹּנֶךְ

27 **LV 4:7 · Note** OSHB variant note: **אתששחתרא**: (x-qere) 'תְּשֶׁשְׁחַתְּרַא': lemma_783 a n_1.0 morph_HNp id_15dPn תְּשֶׁשְׁחַתְּרַא

28 **LV 4:7 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

Literal Version

the_scribe and_the_rest_of their_associates the_Dinay[29] and_ _the_officials the_Tarpelites the_Sipparites the_Erechites[30] the_ _Bāvelians the_Susanchites mmm[31] the_ʼĒylāmites. **10** And_ _the_rest_of the_nations which ʼOşnappar (the)_great and_ _(the)_honourable he_took_into_exile and_he_caused_to_dwell them in_the_city of Shomrōn and_the_rest_of the_region_ _beyond the_river and_now. **11** This is_(the)_copy_of the_letter which they_sent to_him to ʼArtaḥshashtāʼ Oh/the_king servants_of_your[3233] the_man_of the_region_beyond the_river and_now. **12** Known let_it_be to_the_king that the_ _Yəhūdī/(Jews) who they_came_up from beside_you to_us they_have_come to_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) the_city (the)_ _rebellious and[3435] they_are_building and[36] they_have_ _finished[37] the_foundations they_are_repairing. **13** Now known let_it_be to_the_king that if the_city this it_will_be_built and_ _the_walls they_will_be_finished tribute tax and_toll not they_ _will_give and_eventually kings it_will_injure. **14** Now as_to because that the_salt_of the_palace we_eat_salt and_the_ _dishonour_of Oh/the_king not is_proper for_us to_see concerning this we_have_sent and_we_have_made_known to_ _the_king. **15** That he_will_search in_the_book_of the_records of fathers_of_your and_you_will_find in_the_book_of the_ _records and_you_will_know that the_city this is_a_city rebellious and_injuring_of (of)_kings and_provinces and_a_ _revolt it_was_making in_midst_of_its from the_days_of the_ _ages on this the_city this it_was_laid_waste. **16** We are_ _making_known to_the_king that if the_city this it_will_be_ _built and_the_walls they_will_be_finished (to)_before this possession in_the_region_beyond the_river not there to/for_ _you(fs). **17** The_message Oh/the_king he_sent to Rəḥūm master_of command and_Shimshay the_scribe and_the_rest_of their_associates who were_dwelling in_Shomrōn and_the_rest_ _of the_region_beyond the_river peace and_now. **18** The_letter which you(pl)_sent to_us was_made_distinct it_was_read_aloud before_me. **19** And_from_me a_decree it_was_made and_they_ _searched and_they_found that the_city this from the_days_of the_ages against kings was_rising_up and_rebellion and_revolt have_been_done by_it. **20** And_kings strong they_were over Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) and_having_mastery over_all_of the_ _region_beyond the_river and_tribute tax and_toll was_being_ _paid to_them. **21** Now make a_decree[38] to_make_to_cease the_ _men these and_the_city this not it_will_be_built until from_me the_decree it_will_be_made. **22** And_cautious be negligence_of to_do concerning this why the_damage will_it_grow_great to_ _injury_of kings. **23** Then from that the_copy_of the_letter of

Readers' Version

secretary wrote a letter to King Artahshashta against Yerushalem as follows:

9 From Rehum the high commissioner and Shimshay the provincial secretary, and the our companions, the judges and the rulers, the officials, the Persians, the Erekites, the Babylonians, the Susaites (that is, the Eylamites), **10** and the rest of the nations that the famous and powerful King Asenapar exiled from other nations and forced them to live in the cities of Shomron (Samaria), and the province went of the Perat (Euphrates) river.

And now **11** this is what the letter said that they sent to him:

To Artahshashta the king from your servants on this side of the river.

And now **12** let it be known to the king that the Yehudim (Jews) who left your region have come to us at Yerushalem to rebuild that rebellious and evil city—they're currently finishing the walls and repairing the building foundations. **13** Now let it be known to the king that if that city is built and the walls are completed, those people won't pay taxes, or send tributes, and your royal treasury will lose out. **14** Now, because we've had the favour of the palace, and because we don't want to see the king dishonoured, that's why we've sent this letter to update the king, **15** so that he can search in the official records of the kingdom. You'll discover and learn that that city of Yerushalem is a rebellious city and one that has caused harm to kings and provinces, and has harboured rebellion there for decades past—that's why that city was destroyed. **16** We are letting the king know that if that city is rebuilt and its walls are completed, then you'll lose control of this province on this side of the Perat."

17 The king sent this reply:

"To Rehum the high commissioner and Shimshay the provincial secretary, and the rest of their companions who live in Shomron (Samaria), and the rest of the people in the province west of the Perat: Peace.

And now **18** the letter that you all sent to us has been carefully read aloud to me. **19** I ordered my officials to search the records and discovered that it's true that that city has been rebellious and seditious since ancient times. **20** Powerful kings have reigned from Yerushalem and ruled the entire region that side

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29 **LV 4:9 · Note** OSHB exegesis note: WLC has this word divided as אֱנָ֣ינָּה

30 **LV 4:9 · Note** OSHB variant note: **יוכרא**: (x-qere) ʼ**אָ/וְיוֹכְרָא**ʼ: lemma_756 morph_ANgmpd/Td id_15mQU **אָ/וְיוֹכְרָא**

31 **LV 4:9 · Note** OSHB variant note: **אוה/ד**: (x-qere) ʼ**אָ/יְהֵוֵד**ʼ: lemma_1723 n_0.0 morph_ANgmpd/Td id_15QHV **אָ/יְהֵוֵד**

32 **LV 4:11 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

33 **LV 4:11 · Note** OSHB note: We have abandoned or added a ketib/qere relative to BHS. In doing this we agree with L against BHS.

34 **LV 4:12 · Note** OSHB variant note: **א/תשיאב/ו**: (x-qere) ʼ**אָ/תְּשִׁיב/ו**ʼ: lemma_c/873 n_0.2.0 morph_AC/Aafsd/Td id_15DK9 **אָ/תְּשִׁיב/ו**

35 **LV 4:12 · Note** OSHB note: Yathir readings in L which we have designated as Qeres when both Dothan and BHS list a Qere.

36 **LV 4:12 · Note** OSHB variant note: **ירוש/ו**: (x-qere) ʼ**אָ/יְרוֹשׁ/ו**ʼ: lemma_c/7792 morph_AC/Ncmpd/Td id_15Zzg **אָ/יְרוֹשׁ/ו**

37 **LV 4:12 · Note** OSHB variant note: **וללכשא**: (x-qere) ʼ**וּלְלַכָּשׁ**ʼ: lemma_3635 a n_0.1 morph_AVep3mp id_15Q2N **וּלְלַכָּשׁ**

38 **LV 4:21 · Note** OSHB note: We read the punctuation in L differently from BHQ.

Readers' Version

of the river, and had taxes and tributes paid to them. **21** So command those Yehudim to stop rebuilding the city until such time as I make a decree. **22** Don't be negligent in doing that or the damage to this kingdom might get worse."

23 When King Artahshashta's (Artaxerxes') letter reached Rehum, Shimshay the secretary, and their companions, and was read aloud to them all, they immediately went to Yerushalem and used force to stop the Yehudim (Jews) from their rebuilding.

24 So there was a period when the rebuilding of the temple in Yerushalem stopped, and it remained paused until the second year of King Dareyavesh's (Darius') reign in Paras (Persia).[25]

The temple rebuilding continues

5:1 Then the prophet Hagay and Ido's son Zekaryah (Zechariah)[40] prophesied to the Yehudim (Jews) in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and across Yehudah (Judah) in the name of Yisrael's (Israel's) god who they served. **2** Then Shealtiyel's son Zerubavel and Yotsadak's son Yeshua took action and began to rebuild God's temple in Yerushalem, and the prophets who served God were there with them, supporting them.[41]

3 At that time, Tatenay, the governor of the province west of the Perat (Euphrates), and Shetar-Bozenay, and their companions came to them and demanded, "Who gave you all permission to rebuild this temple?" **4** They also asked the Yehudim to tell them the names of the men who were working on the building. **5** However, God was watching over the Jewish leaders, and they weren't actually stopped. A report was sent to King Dareyavesh (Darius), then they waited for a response. **6** Tatenay, the governor of the province west of the river, and Shetar-Bozenay and his companions, the provincial officials, sent the letter to King Dareyavesh— **7** this is what was written in their report:

"To King Dareyavesh. All peace. **8** Let it be known to the king that we went to the province of Yehudah (Judea), to the temple of the great God, and it is being built with large stones, and timber is being placed in the walls. This work is being done to a high standard and they're making good progress.

9 "Then we asked those elders, 'Who gave you all permission to rebuild this temple?' **10** We also asked them their names, so that we could write down the names of their leaders to inform you.

11 "This is the answer they gave us, 'We are servants of the god of the heavens and earth, and we are rebuilding the temple that

Literal Version

'Artaḫshashtā'[39] Oh/the_king it_was_read_aloud before Rəḫūm and_Shimshay the_scribe and_associates_of_their they_went in_haste to_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) to the_Yəhūdī/(Jews) and_they_made_to_cease them with_force and_power. **24** In_ _then the_work_of the_house_of the_god which is_in_ _Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) it_ceased and_it_was ceasing until year_of two of_(the)_reign of_Dārəyāvesh the_king_of Pāraṣ.

5:1 And_he_prophesied Ḫaggay mmm[44] and_Zəkar^{yāh} the_son_ _of ʿIddō mmm[45] to the_Yəhūdī who were_in_Yəhūdāh/(Judah) and_in_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) in_the_name_of the_god_of Yisrā'^{ēl}/(Israel) who_was_over_them. **2** In_then Zərubāvel the_ _son_of Shə'altiy'^{ēl} and_Yēshūʿa/(Jeshua) the_son_of Yōtsādāq/(Jozadak) they_arose and_they_began to_build the_ _house_of the_god which is_in_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) and_ _were_with_them mmm[46] of the_god supporting ~~DOM~~_them. **3** At_it the_time he_came to_them Tattənay the_governor_of the_region_beyond the_river Shətar- bōzənay and_associates_ _of_their and_thus/so/as_follows they_were_saying to_them who did_he_make for_you(pl) a_decree the_house this to_build and_the_structure this to_finish. **4** Then as_follows we_said to_ _them what are_they the_names_of the_men who this the_ _building are_building. **5** And_the_eye_of their_god it_was on the_elders_of the_Yəhūdī/(Jews) and_not they_made_cease them until the_report to_Dārəyāvesh it_will_go and_then they_ _will_send_back the_letter concerning this. **6** (The)_copy_of the_letter which he_sent Tattənay the_governor_of the_region_ _beyond the_river Shətar- bōzənay and_associates_of_his the_ _officials who were_in_the_region_beyond the_river to Dārəyāvesh Oh/the_king. **7** The_message they_sent to_him and_according_to_this it_was_written in_midst_of_its to_ _Dārəyāvesh Oh/the_king the_peace (the)_all. **8** Known let_it_ _be to_the_king that we_went to_Judea the_province to_the_ _house_of the_god (the)_great and_he is_being_built stone_of rolling and_timber is_being_set in_the_walls and_the_work this diligently is_being_done and_is_prospering in_hand_of_their. **9** Then we_asked to_the_elders these as_follows we_said to_ _them[47][48] who did_he_make for_you(pl) a_decree the_house this to_build and_the_structure this to_finish. **10** And_also names_of_their we_asked to_them[49][50] to_make_known_to_you that we_will_write the_name_of the_men who are_at_heads_of_

25 **RV 4:24 · Cross-ref.** Hag 1:1; Zech 1:1.

39 **LV 4:23 · Note** OSHB variant note: **אתששחתרא**: (x-qere) **'תְּשַׁשְׁחַתְּרַא'**; lemma_783 b morph_ANp id_155hr **תְּשַׁשְׁחַתְּרַא**

40 **RV 5:1 · Cross-ref.** Hag 1:1; Zech 1:1.

41 **RV 5:2 · Cross-ref.** Hag 1:12; Zech 4:6-9.

44 **LV 5:1 · Note** OSHB variant note: **ה/אירבנ**: (x-qere) **'אִיְּרְבְנ'**: lemma_5029 n_1.2.1 morph_ANcmsd/Td id_15KNH **אִיְּרְבְנ**

45 **LV 5:1 · Note** OSHB variant note: **א/יירבנ**: (x-qere) **'אִיְּרְיִבְנ'**: lemma_5029 n_1.2 morph_ANcmpd/Td id_15nkE **אִיְּרְיִבְנ**

46 **LV 5:2 · Note** OSHB variant note: **א/יירבנ**: (x-qere) **'אִיְּרְיִבְנ'**: lemma_5029 morph_ANcmpd/Td id_15MWU **אִיְּרְיִבְנ**

47 **LV 5:9 · Note** OSHB note: We read the punctuation in L differently from BHQ.

48 **LV 5:9 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

49 **LV 5:10 · Note** OSHB note: We read the punctuation in L differently from BHQ.

50 **LV 5:10 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

Literal Version

_their. **11** And_as_follows the_message they_sent_back_to_us to_say we they are_his_of_servants of the_god_of the_heavens and_the_earth and_we_are_building the_house which it_was built from_the_former_time_of this years many and_a_king of_ _Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) great he_built_it and_he_finished_it. **12** But from that fathers_of_our they_enraged to_god the_heavens he_ _gave them in_the_hand_of Nəvūkadnetstsar the_king_of Bāvel mmm[51] and_the_house this he_destroyed_it and_the_people he_took_into_exile to_Bāvel. **13** Nevertheless in_year one to/for_Kōresh/(Coresh/Cyrus) Oh/the_king of Bāvel Kōresh/(Cyrus/Kōresh) Oh/the_king he_made a_decree the_ _house_of the_god this to_build. **14** And_also the_vessels of the_ _house_of the_god of (the)_gold and_(the)_silver which Nəvūkadnetstsar he_had_brought_out from the_temple which was_in_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) and_he_carried them to_the_ _temple of Bāvel Kōresh Oh/the_king he_brought_out them from the_temple of Bāvel and_they_were_given to_ _Sheshbazzar his/its_name whom governor he_had_made_him. **15** And_he/it_said to_him/it these[52] the_vessels take go deposit them in_the_temple which is_in_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) and_ _the_house_of the_god let_it_be_built on place_of_its. **16** Then Sheshbazzar this he_came he_laid the_foundations of the_ _house_of the_god which is_in_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) and_ _from then and_unto now it_is_being_built and_not it_is_ _finished. **17** And_now if to Oh/the_king it_is_good let_it_be_ _searched in_house_of the_treasures of Oh/the_king there which are_in_Bāvel whether there is_that from Kōresh Oh/the_ _king a_decree it_was_made to_build the_house_of the_god this in_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) and_the_will_of Oh/the_king concerning this let_him_send to_us.

6:1 In_then Dārəyāvesh Oh/the_king he_made a_decree and_ _they_searched in_house_of the_books where the_treasures were_deposited there in_Bāvel. **2** And_it_was_found in_ _'Aḥmətā' in_the_citadel which is_in_Māday the_province a_ _scroll one and_thus/so/as_follows it_was_written in_midst_of_ _its (the)_memorandum. **3** In_year one to/for_ _Kōresh/(Coresh/Cyrus) Oh/the_king Kōresh/(Cyrus/Kōresh) Oh/the_king he_made a_decree the_house_of the_god in_ _Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) the_house let_it_be_built a_place which they_were_sacrificing sacrifices and_foundations_of_its be_retained height_of_its cubits sixty width_of_its cubits sixty. **4** Rows of stone_of rolling three and_a_row of timber new and_ _the_expense from the_house_of Oh/the_king let_it_be_given. **5** And_also the_vessels_of the_house_of the_god of (the)_gold and_(the)_silver which Nəvūkadnetstsar he_brought_out from the_temple which was_in_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) and_he_ _carried to_Bāvel let_them_send_back and_let_it_go to_the_ _temple which is_in_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) to_place_of_its and_you_will_deposit_them in_house_of the_god.

Readers' Version

was constructed and finished many years ago by a famous Israeli king. **12** However, because our ancestors made the god of the heavens angry, he let Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) (Nevukadnetsar, the Chaldean) defeat them, and he destroyed that temple and caused the people to be exiled to Bavel (Babylon).[42] **13** But in the first year of the reign of Babylonian King Koresh (Cyrus), he made a decree to rebuild this house of God.[43] **14** What's more, the gold and silver containers that Nevukadnetsar had taken out from that temple that was in Yerushalem and had brought to the temple in Bavel, King Koresh took them out from the temple in Bavel and they were handed over to the man named Sheshebatsar who he'd appointed as governor over Yehudah. **15** Koresh had told him to take those containers and put them back in the temple in Yerushalem, and to ensure that the temple got rebuilt in the same place where it had been before. **16** So Sheshebatsar came here and laid the foundation of God's house in Yerushalem, and since then, it's been being rebuilt but isn't finished yet.'

17 So now, if it pleases the king, let a search be made in the records in the king's treasure house there in Bavel, if it's correct that a decree was set by King Koresh to rebuild this house of God in Yerushalem (Jerusalem). Then let the king send his decision on this matter back to us."

The former approval is found

6:1 So King Dareyavesh (Darius) ordered that a search be conducted in all the archives where treasures had been deposited there in Bavel (Babylon), **2** and one scroll was found in the fortress at Ahmeta in the province of Maday (Media), and this record had been made:

3 "In year one of Koresh (Cyrus) the king, he made a decree about the house of God in Yerushalem (Jerusalem):
'Let the house be built in the same place where sacrifices were made. Establish its foundations and build it 27m high and 27m wide **4** with three layers of large stones and a layer of new timber. That should all be paid for from the royal treasury. **5** Also, the gold and silver containers from the house of God that Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) had taken out from the Yerushalem temple and had brought to Bavel, must be returned to their places in the temple in Yerushalem. So you must put them in the house of God.' "

42 RV 5:12 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 25:8-12; 2Ch 36:17-20; Jer 52:12-15.

43 RV 5:13 · Cross-ref. Ezr 1:2-11.

51 LV 5:12 · Note OSHB variant note: **א/ידסכ**: (x-qere) **הָאֲדַסְּכ'**: lemma_3679 n_1 morph_ANgmsd/Td id_15mxT **הָאֲדַסְּכ**

52 LV 5:15 · Note OSHB variant note: **הלא**: (x-qere) **לֶא'**: lemma_412 n_1.2.0 morph_ANcmsa id_15vkL **לֶא**

Readers' Version

King Dareyavesh orders resumption of work

6 Therefore King Dareyavesh (Darius) wrote: "Now to Governor Tatenay in the province west of the Perat (Euphrates), Shetar-Bozenay, and their companions, the officials who in that province:

Keep away from that place. **7** Leave alone the work on that house of God. Let the Jewish governor and elders build that temple in its place. **8** So here's my decree about what should be done for those Jewish elders to build that house of God: Using the king's treasures that come from the tribute of that west-Euphrates province, let those workers costs be regularly reimbursed so that the work doesn't stop. **9** Whatever is needed (including young bulls, or rams, or lambs for burnt offerings to the god of the heavens, wheat, salt, wine, or oil, according to the command of the priests in Yerushalem (Jerusalem)), let it be given to them day by day (that is, without delay), **10** so that they can be offering sweet-smelling sacrifices to the god of the heavens and praying for the life of the king and his sons. **11** Also I decree that any man who changes this edict should have a beam pulled from his house, and after it's sharpened and set into the ground, then he should be impaled on it. Then his entire house should be made into a rubbish heap because of what he did. **12** May the god who has established his name there overthrow any king or person who makes any attempt to change this decree or to destroy that house of God in Yerushalem. I, Dareyavesh, have made a decree. Let it be done diligently."

The temple dedication

13 Then Tatenay, the governor of the region west of the Perat (Euphrates), Shetar-Bozenay, and their companions worked hard to follow the instructions sent by King Dareyavesh (Darius). **14** So the Jewish elders continued building, and they were encouraged by the prophesying of the prophet Hagay[54] and Ido's son Zekaryah (Zechariah).[55] As a result of the decrees of the Persian kings Koresh (Cyrus) , and Dareyavesh and Artahshashta (Artaxerxes), they were able to fulfil God's decree to rebuild the temple. **15** The rebuilt temple was finished in mid-March in the sixth year of King Dareyavesh's reign.

16 Then the Israeli people, the priests, and the Levites, and the ones that had returned from exile, performed the dedication of this house of God with celebrations. **17** During the dedication, they offered a hundred bulls, two-hundred rams, and four-hundred lambs, as well as twelve male goats for a sin offering for all Yisrael (Israel) (matching the number of the tribes). **18** Then they organised the priests to stand in their divisions and the Levites in their sections to serve the god who resides in Yerushalem (Jerusalem), according to the instructions written by Mosheh (Moses).

Literal Version

6 Now Oh_Tattənay the_governor_of the_region_beyond the_ _river Shətar- Bozenai and_associates_of_their[53] the_officials who are_in_the_region_beyond the_river far be from there. **7** Leave ~~DOM~~_the_work_of the_house_of the_god this the_ _governor_of the_Yəhūdī/(Jews) and_(to)_the_elders_of the_ _Yəhūdī the_house_of the_god this let_them_build on place_of_ _its. **8** And_from_me a_decree it_is_made to_whatever that you(pl)_will_do with the_elders_of the_Yəhūdī these to_build the_house_of the_god this and_from_the_properti(es)_of Oh/the_king which is_the_tribute_of the_region_beyond the_ _river diligently the_expense let_it_be given to_the_men these that not to_make_to_cease. **9** And_whatever things_needed and_the_sons bulls and_rams and_lambs for_burnt_offerings to_god the_heavens wheat(s) salt wine and_oil according_to_ _the_message_of the_priests who are_in_ _Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) it_will_be given to_them day in/on_ _day that not negligence. **10** That they_will_be offering soothing_offerings to_god the_heavens and_praying for_the_ _life(s)_of Oh/the_king and_sons_of_his. **11** And_from_of_me a_ _decree that every_of person who he_will_violate the_ _command this a_beam let_it_be_pulled_away from house_of_ _his and_he_will_be_lifted_up let_him_be_impaled on_it and_ _house_of_his a_refuse-heap let_it_be_made on this it_is_made. **12** And_(the)_god who he_has_caused_to_dwell his/its_name there may_he_overthrow every_of king and_people who he_ _will_stretch_out hand_of_his to_violate to_destroy the_house_ _of the_god this which is_in_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) I Dārəyāvesh I_make a_decree diligently let_it_be_done.

13 Then Tattənay the_governor_of the_region_beyond the_river Shətar- Bozenai and_associates_of_their (to)_before that Dārəyāvesh Oh/the_king he_had_sent accordingly diligently they_did. **14** And_the_elders_of were_building and_prospering by_the_prophesying_of Ḥaggay mmm[56] and_Zəkar^{yāh} the_son_ _of ʼIddō and_they_built and_they_finished according_to the_ _decree_of the_god_of Yisrā^{ʼēl}/(Israel) and_according_to_the_ _decree_of Kōresh/(Cyrus/Kōresh/(Coresh/Cyrus)) and_ _Dārəyāvesh and_'Artaḥshashtā' the_king_of Pāraṣ. **15** And_ the_house this _it_was_finished until day three of_the_month_ _of of_Adar which it was_year_of six of_(the)_reign of_ _Dārəyāvesh Oh/the_king. **16** And_ the_people_of Yisrā^{ʼēl}/(Israel) the_priests and_the_Lēviyyiy and_the_rest_of the_people_of the_exile _they_made the_dedication_of the_ _house_of the_god this with_joy. **17** And_they_offered for_the_ _dedication_of the_house_of the_god this bulls one_hundred rams two_hundred lambs four hundred and_he-goats_of goats mmm[57] on all_of Yisrā^{ʼēl}/(Israel) two_plus_of ten the_number_ _of the_tribes_of Yisrā^{ʼēl}/(Israel). **18** And_they_appointed the_ _priests in_divisions_of_their and_the_Lēviyyiy in_classes_of_ _their over the_service_of the_god which is_in_ _Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) according_to_the_writing_of the_ _book_of Mosheh.

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53 **LV 6:6 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

54 **RV 6:14 · Cross-ref.** Hag 1:1.

55 **RV 6:14 · Cross-ref.** Zech 1:1.

56 **LV 6:14 · Note** OSHB variant note: **אִיבנ/ה**: (x-qere) **'אִיָּבְנִי'**: lemma_5029 n_1.1 morph_ANcmpd/Td id_15xRq **אִיָּבְנִי**

57 **LV 6:17 · Note** OSHB variant note: **איטח/ל**: (x-qere) **'הָאֲטַחְ/לִ'**: lemma_l/2402 morph_AR/Vpc id_15Upn **הָאֲטַחְ/לִ**

Literal Version

19 And_ the_children_of the_exile _they_made ~~DOM~~ the_ _passover on_day_four- teen of_month the_first. **20** If/because the_priests and_the_Lēviyyiy they_had_purified_themselves as_ _one of_them_of_all were_pure and_they_slaughtered the_ _passover to/from_all/each/any/every the_children_of the_ _exile and_for_brothers_of_their the_priests and_for_ _themselves. **21** And_ the_people_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) who_had_ _returned from_the_exile and_all/each/any/every (the)_one_ _who_had_separated_himself from_the_uncleanness_of the_ _nations_of the_earth/land to_them to_seek to/for_**YHWH** the_ _god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) _they_ate. **22** And_they_observed the_ _feast_of unleavened_bread(s) seven_of_days with_joy if/because he_had_made_them_rejoice **YHWH** and_he_had_ _turned the_heart_of the_king_of 'Ashshūr towards_them to_ _strengthen hands_of_their in_the_work_of the_house_of the_ _'Elohīm the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel).

7:1 And_after the_things the_these in_the_reign_of 'Artaḥshashtā' the_king_of Pāraṣ ʹEzrā' the_son_of Sərā^{yāh} the_ _son_of ʹAzar^{yāh} the_son_of Ḥilqiy^{yāh}. **2** The_son_of Shallūm the_son_of Tsādōq/(Zadok) the_son_of 'Aḥīṭūv. **3** The_son_of 'Amar^{yāh} the_son_of ʹAzar^{yāh} the_son_of Mərāyōt. **4** The_son_of Zəraḥ^{yāh} the_son_of ʹUzziy the_son_of Buqqiy. **5** The_son_of 'Avīshūʹa the_son_of Piṇḥāṣ the_son_of 'Elʹāzār the_son_of 'Ah$_a$ron the_priest/officer the_head. **6** That ʹEzrā' he_came_up from_Bāvel and_he was_a_scribe skilled in_the_law_of Mosheh which **YHWH** the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) he_had_given and_he_ _gave to_him/it the_king according_to_the_hand_of **YHWH** his/its_god on/upon/above_him/it all_of request_of_his. **7** And_ from_(the)_sons of_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_from the_ _priests and_the_Lēviyyiy and_the_singers and_the_ _gatekeepers and_the_temple_servants _they_came_up to Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) in_year seven of_'Artaḥshashtā' the_ _king. **8** And_he_came Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) in_month (the)_fifth it was_the_year_of (of)_the_seventh of_king. **9** If/because on_day_one of_month (the)_first it was_the_ _beginning_of the_going_up from_Bāvel and_on_day_one of_ _month (the)_fifth he_came to Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) according_to_the_hand_of his/its_god (the)_good on/upon/above_him/it. **10** If/because ʹEzrā' he_had_directed heart_of_his to_study ~~DOM~~ the_law_of **YHWH** and_to_do_it and_ _to_teach in_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) decree and_judgement.

11 And_this is_(the)_copy_of the_letter which the_king 'Artaḥshashtā' he_gave to_ʹEzrā' the_priest/officer the_scribe the_scribe_of the_matters_of the_commands_of **YHWH** and_ _regulations_of_his on Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **12** 'Artaḥshashtā' the_ _king_of (the)_kings to_ʹEzrā' the_priest the_scribe_of the_law of the_god_of the_heavens perfect and_now. **13** From_me a_ _decree that every_of one_who_volunteers in_kingdom_of_my from the_people Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_priests_of_its and_the_ _Lēviyyiy to_go to_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) with_you he_will_ _go it_is_made. **14** As_to because that from before Oh/the_king and_seven_of counsellors_of_his you_are_sent to_enquire on Yəhūdāh/(Judah) and_to_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) in_the_law_ _of your_god which is_in_hand_of_your. **15** And_to_carry silver and_gold which Oh/the_king and_counsellors_of_his they_

Readers' Version

The Feast of 'pass-over' of Messenger

19 So the people who'd returned from exile celebrated the 'pass-over' in late April.[58] **20** The priests and Levites all had to be individually purified, and they slaughtered the lambs for all the exiles and for their brothers the priests, and for themselves. **21** Then all the Israelis ate the meal—those who'd returned from the exile and every one who'd separated themselves from the uncleanness of the nations of the land in order to search for Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh. **22** Then they happily enjoyed the Flat Bread Celebration for seven days, because Yahweh had made them happy, and had caused the Assyrian king to show favour to them, to assist their work rebuilding the house of God, the god of Yisrael.

Ezra arrives in Yerushalem

7:1 Many years later in the reign of Persian King Artahshashta (Artaxerxes), Ezra (son of Serayah, son of Azaryah, son of Hilkiyah, **2** son of Shalum, son of Tsadok, son of Ahituv, **3** son of Amaryah, son of Azaryah, son of Merayot, **4** son of Zerahyah, son of Uzi, son of Buki, **5** son of Avishua, the son of Pinhas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aharon (Aaron) the head priest) **6** was a skilled expert in the law that Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh had given through Mosheh (Moses). With the favour of his god Yahweh helping Ezra, the king had granted all his requests, and he travelled from Bavel (Babylon) to Yerushalem (Jerusalem). **7** Some Israelis, including some priests and Levites, singers and gatekeepers, and some temple servants travelled to Yerushalem in the seventh year of Artahshashta's reign. **8–9** They left Bavel on New Year's Day (in early April) and with God's favour on the journey, arrived in Yerushalem exactly four months later **10** because Ezra had made a firm resolution to study Yahweh's written instructions, and to carefully follow them, and to teach them in Yisrael.

King Artahshashta's letter to Ezra

11 King Artahshashta (Artaxerxes) had given a letter for Ezra the priest and scribe and expert in Yahweh's commands and instructions to take with him, saying:

12 Artahshashta, the king of kings, to the priest Ezra, the scribe of the law of the god of heavens: Peace.

Now, **13** I hereby decree that anyone in my kingdom from Yisrael (Israel) (including priests and Levites) who freely offers to go to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) with you, may go. **14** You are sent by the king and his seven counsellors to determine whether the people of Yehudah (Judah) and Yerushalem are following the law of your god which you have a copy of. **15** You are also to take the

58 RV 6:19 · Cross-ref. Exo 12:1-20.

Readers' Version

gold and silver that the king and his counsellors have freely offered to the god of Yisrael who lives in Yerushalem, **16** along with all the gold and silver that you collect all across Bavel (Babylon), along with the freewill offerings of the people and the priests who freely give towards the house of God in Yerushalem.

17 So then you should diligently use those funds to buy bulls, rams, lambs, and supplies for their grain offerings and drink offerings, and you should offer them on the altar at the your god's house in Yerushalem. **18** With the remaining funds, you can use them for whatever seems good to you and your brothers, according to the will of your god. **19** Also, make sure that you deliver all those gold and silver containers that were handed over to you for use in your god's house in Yerushalem. **20** Anything else that's needed for the house of your god that you need to supply can be provided from the king's treasuries.

21 And I, King Artahshashta (Artaxerxes) make a decree for all the treasurers in the province west of the river: that you all diligently help with everything that the priest Ezra (the scribe of the law of the god of the heavens) asks from you all— **22** up to three tonnes of silver, five hundred bushels of wheat, two thousand litres of wine and the same amount of olive oil, and as much salt as he needs. **23** Everything that the god of the heavens decreed to be done should be done exactly as he specified because there's no good reason to make him angry at the kingdom of the king and his sons? **24** Also, it should be made clear that there is no authority to extract taxes or tribute from any priests or Levites, singers or the gatekeepers, the temple servants or the servants of that house of God.

25 As for you, Ezra, use the wisdom that your god has given to you to appoint magistrates and judges who can judge all the people who are in that province beyond the river—everyone who know the laws of your god (plus you should teach those who don't know them). **26** Anyone who refuses to obey your god's laws and the king's laws, should receive swift judgement—whether it's confiscation of goods, or banishment, imprisonment, or the death sentence."

Ezra praises Yahweh

27 Blessed be Yahweh, the god of our fathers who put it into the king's heart to honour Yahweh's house in Yerushalem (Jerusalem), **28** and showed me his loyal commitment in dealing with the king and his counsellors, and all the

Literal Version

_have_offered_freely to_god of_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) who is_in_ _Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) abode_of_his. **16** And_ _all/each/any/every the_silver and_the_gold which you_will_ _find in_all_of the_province_of Bāvel with the_freewill_ _offering_of the_people and_the_priests who_have_offered_ _freely for_the_house_of their_god which is_in_ _Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem). **17** As_to because this diligently you_ _will_buy with_the_silver this bulls rams lambs and_their_ _grain_of_offerings and_their_drink_of_offerings and_you_will_ _offer them on the_altar of the_house_of your(pl)_god which is_in_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem). **18** And_whatever that mmm[5960] and_to mmm[6162] it_is_good with_the_rest_of the_silver and_ _the_gold to_do according_to_the_will_of your(pl)_god you(pl)_ _will_do. **19** And_the_vessels which have_been_given to/for_ _you(fs) for_the_worship_of the_house_of your_god make_ _complete before the_god_of Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem). **20** And_ _the_rest_of the_thing[s]_needed_of the_house_of your_god which it_will_fall to/for_you(fs) to_give you_will_give from the_ _house_of the_treasures_of Oh/the_king. **21** And_from_me I 'Artaḫshashtā' Oh/the_king it_is_made a_decree to_ _all/each/any/every the_treasurers who are_in_the_region_ _beyond the_river that all_of that he_will_ask_you(pl)_for ʿEzrā' the_priest the_scribe_of the_law of the_god_of the_heavens diligently let_it_be_done. **22** Up_to silver talents one_hundred and_unto wheat(s) kor_measures one_hundred and_unto wine baths one_hundred and_unto baths oil one_hundred and_salt which not is_writing. **23** All that is_according_to the_decree_of the_god_of the_heavens let_it_be_done exactly for_the_house_ _of the_god_of the_heavens that why will_it_be anger on the_ _kingdom_of Oh/the_king and_sons_of_his. **24** And_to_you(pl) we_are_making_known that all_of the_priests and_the_Lēviyyiy the_singers the_gatekeepers the_temple_servants and_the_ _servants_of the_house_of the_god this tribute tax and_toll not is_authorized to_throw on_them. **25** And_you Oh_ʿEzrā' according_to_the_wisdom_of your_god which is_in_hand_of_ _your appoint judges and_judges that they_will_be judging[63] to/from_all/each/any/every the_people which is_in_the_ _region_beyond the_river to/from_all/each/any/every those_ _who_know_of (of)_the_laws_of your_god and_one_who not he_ _is_knowing you(pl)_will_instruct. **26** And_all who not he_will_ _be doing the_law of god_of_your and_the_decree of Oh/the_ _king diligently (the)_judgement let_it_be done from_him whether to_death or mmm[64] or to_confiscation_of properti(es) and_to_imprisonment(s).

27 **YHWH** the_god_of our_ancestors_of_our who he_has_put like_this in_the_heart_of the_king to_beautify ~~DOM~~ the_house_ _of **YHWH** which is_in_Yərūshelēm/(Jerusalem) be_blessed. **28** And_towards_me he_has_extended covenant_loyalty to_ _(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before the_king and_counsellors_of_

59 **LV 7:18 · Note** OSHB variant note: ד/ילע: (x-qere) דָּ/לָעַ': lemma_5921 a morph_AR/Sp2ms id_15cH4 דָּ/לָע

60 **LV 7:18 · Note** OSHB note: Yathir readings in L which we have designated as Qeres when both Dothan and BHS list a Qere.

61 **LV 7:18 · Note** OSHB variant note: ד/יחא: (x-qere) דָּ/חָא': lemma_252 n_1.0.1.0 morph_ANcmsc/Sp2ms id_15Qs2 דָּ/חָא

62 **LV 7:18 · Note** OSHB note: Yathir readings in L which we have designated as Qeres when both Dothan and BHS list a Qere.

63 **LV 7:25 · Note** OSHB variant note: ונאד: (x-qere) וְ/נְיָאֲדֵ': lemma_1778 n_1.1.2 morph_AVqrmpa id_15kMd וְ/נְיָאֲדֵ

64 **LV 7:26 · Note** OSHB variant note: ושרש/ל: (x-qere) וְ/יִשׁרְשׁ/לֵ': lemma_l/8332 n_0.1 morph_AR/Ncfsa id_15jaw וְ/יִשׁרְשׁ/לֵ

Literal Version

_his and_to/for_all the_officials_of the_king the_
_powerful/mighty(pl) and_I I_strengthened_myself according_
_to_the_hand_of **YHWH** god_of_my on_me and_I_assembled
from_Yisrā'[ēl]/(Israel) leaders to_go_up with_me.

8:1 And_these are_the_heads_of their_fathers_of_their and_
_their_genealogical_enrolment who_came_up with_me in_the_
_reign_of 'Artaḫshashtā' the_king from_Bāvel. **2** From_(the)_
_sons of_Pinḥāṣ Gērəshom from_(the)_sons of_'Ītāmār Dāniyy'[ēl]
from_(the)_sons of_Dāvid Ḥaṭṭūsh. **3** From_(the)_sons of_
Shəkan[yāh] from(the)_sons of_Par'osh/(Parosh) Zəkar[yāh] and_
_with_him a_genealogical_list of_males one_hundred and_fifty.
4 From_(the)_sons of_Paḥat- Mō'āv 'Elyəhō'ēynay the_son_of
Zəraḥ[yāh] and_with_him were_two_hundred the_males. **5** From_
_(the)_sons of_Shəkan[yāh] the_son_of Yaḥ$_a$zī'[ēl]/(Jahaziel) and_
_with_him were_three hundred(s) the_males. **6** And_of_the_
_descendants_of 'Ādīn 'Eved the_son_of
Yōnātān/(Yəhōnātān/(Jonathan)) and_with_him were_fifty
the_males. **7** And_of_the_descendants_of 'Ēylām
Yəsha'[yāh]/(Jeshaiah) the_son_of 'Atal[yāh] and_with_him were_
_seventy the_males. **8** And_of_the_descendants_of Shəfaṭ[yāh]
Zəvad[yāh] the_son_of Mīkā'[ēl] and_with_him were_eighty the_
males. **9** From(the)_sons of_Yō'āv/(Joab) 'Ovad[yāh] the_son_of
Yəḥī'[ēl]/(Jehiel) and_with_him were_two_hundred and_eight-
teen the_males. **10** And_of_the_descendants_of Shəlomīt the_
_son_of Yōşif[yāh]/(Josiphiah) and_with_him were_one_hundred
and_sixty the_males. **11** And_of_the_descendants_of Bēvay
Zəkar[yāh] the_son_of Bēvay and_with_him were_twenty and_
_eight the_males. **12** And_of_the_descendants_of 'Azgād
Yōḥānān/(Johanan) the_son_of Hakkatan and_with_him were_
_one_hundred and_ten the_males. **13** And_of_the_descendants_
_of 'Adonīqām the_last_ones and_these names_of_are_their
'Elīfeleṭ Yə'ī'[ēl]/(Jeiel) and_Shəma'[yāh] and_with_them were_sixty
the_males. **14** And_of_the_descendants_of Bigvay 'Ūtay and[65]
with_him were_seventy the_males.

15 And_I_assembled_them to the_river which_goes to 'Ah$_a$vā'
and_we_encamped there days three and_I_considered (in)_
people and(in)_priests and_any_of_the_descendants_of Lēvī
not I_found there. **16** And_I_sent for_'Elī'ezer for_'Arī'[ēl] for_
_Shəma'[yāh] and_for_'Elnātān and_for_Yārīv/(Jarib) and_for_
_'Elnātān and_for_Nātān and_for_Zəkar[yāh] and_for_Məshullām
leaders and_for_Yōyārīv/(Joiarib) and_for_'Elnātān teachers.
17 And[66] them to 'Iddō the_leader in_Kāşifyā'/(Casiphia) the_
_place I_put in_mouth_of_their words/messages to_speak to
'Iddō his/its_brother the[67] in_Kāşifyā'/(Casiphia) the_place to_
_bring to/for_us servants for_the_house_of our_god_of_our.
18 And_they_brought to/for_us according_to_the_hand_of our_
_god_of_our (the)_good on_us a_man_of insight from_(the)_
_sons of_Maḫlī the_son_of Lēvī the_son_of Yisrā'[ēl]/(Israel) and_

Readers' Version

powerful officials of the king. And as for me, Yahweh my god blessed me with initiative and the strength to carry it out as I gathered some Israeli leaders to go to Yerushalem with me.

The returning exiles

8:1 Now these are the family heads and their descendants by number who went with me from Bavel (Babylon) to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) in the reign of King Artahshashta (Artaxerxes):

2 from the descendants of Pinhas: Gereshom,
from the descendants of Itamar: Daniyel,
from the descendants of David: Hatush,

3 from the descendants of Shekanyah and Par'osh: Zekaryah (Zechariah) and a hundred and fifty other men,

4 from the descendants of Pahat-Moav: Zerahyah's son Elyehoeynay and two hundred other men,

5 from the descendants of Shekanyah: Yahaziel's son and three hundred other men,

6 from the descendants of Adin: Yonatan's (Jonathan's) son Eved and fifty other men,

7 from the descendants of Eylam: Atalyah's (Athaliah's) son Yeshayah (Isaiah) and seventy other men,

8 from the descendants of Shefatyah: Mika'el's (Michael's) son Zevadyah and eighty other men;

9 from the descendants of Yoav (Joab): Yehiel's son Ovadyah (Obadiah) and 218 other men,

10 from the descendants of Shelomit: Yosifyah's son and one hundred and sixty other men,

11 from the descendants of Bevay: his son Zekaryah (Zechariah) and twenty-eight other men,

12 from the descendants of Azgad: Hakatan's son Yohanan and one hundred and ten other men,

13 from the later descendants of Adonikam: Elifelet, Yeiel, and Shemayah, and sixty other men,

14 and from the descendants of Bigvay: Utay and Zakur and seventy other men.

Ezra finds some Levites to take

15 Firstly, I gathered them near the river that goes to Ahava, and we camped there for three days. I interviewed the people and the priests and discovered that we didn't have any Levites included in the group. **16** So I summoned the following leaders: Eliezer, Ariel, Shemayah, Elnatan, Yariv, a second Elnatan, Natan (Nathan), Zekaryah (Zechariah), and Meshulam, as well as the wise men: Yoyariv and a third Elnatan. **17** I commanded them to go to Ido, the leader at Kasifya, and I told them to tell Ido and his relatives (temple servants in Kasifya) to send us some Levites who would go to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) to serve in our god's temple. **18** Then since we had God's favour, they sent us a talented man

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65 LV 8:14 · Note OSHB variant note: דובז/ו: (x-qere) 'רְוֵכַז/ו': lemma_c/2139 n_1 morph_HC/Np id_15mUy רְוֵכַז/ו

66 LV 8:17 · Note OSHB variant note: ה/אצוא/ו: (x-qere) 'הֶוֵצֶא/ו': lemma_c/6680 morph_HC/Vpw1cs id_15D5E הֶוֵצֶא/ו

67 LV 8:17 · Note OSHB variant note: מינותנ/ה: (x-qere) 'מִינְיָתְנֵ/ה': lemma_d/5411 n_0.1.0 morph_HTd/Ncmpa id_15x1h מִינְיָתְנֵ/ה

Readers' Version

(from the sons of Mahli, son of Levi, son of Yisrael (Israel)) and eighteen of his sons and other relatives. **19** They also sent Hashavyah and Yeshayah (Isaiah) (from Merari's sons), and their relatives and sons—some twenty men— **20** plus two hundred and twenty descendants of Levite temple servants that King David and his officials had appointed for service—all designated by name.

Ezra's fasting and praying

21 Then right there by the river Ahava, I proclaimed a fast to humble ourselves in front of our god to request that he'd smooth the way ahead for us, and for our children, and for all our property, **22** because I was ashamed to request an army and horsemen from the king to help us from possible enemies on the way. Also, you see, we had previously told the king, "Our god does good to all those who honour him, but his might and his anger are against all those who abandon him." **23** So we fasted and asked for wisdom from our god concerning this, and he listened to our requests.

The gift and donations for the temple

24 Then I chose twelve of the leaders of the priests along with Shereveyah and Hashavyah and ten of the other Levites, **25** and as they watched, I weighed out the gold and silver, and the valuable utensils—the offering for the house of our god that the king, and his counsellors and officials, and all the exiled Israelis who could be contacted, had offered. **26** It came to three tonnes of gold, twenty-one tonnes of silver, and another three tonnes of silver containers, **27** as well as twenty gold bowls that weighed another eight kilograms, and two polished bronze containers that were as valuable as gold.

28 "You are sacred to Yahweh," I told them all, "and the containers and utensils are sacred, and the gold and silver are a freewill offering to Yahweh, the god of your ancestors. **29** Look after them all carefully until you weigh them out in front of the leaders of the priests and Levites and the leaders of the Israeli elders in the chambers of Yahweh's house in Yerushalem (Jerusalem)." **30** So the priests and the Levites accepted the receipt of the gold and silver, and the containers, to take them to Yerushalem—to the house of our god.

The return to Yerushalem

31 Then in mid-April, we set out from the river Ahava to go to Yerushalem (Jerusalem), and we had God's favour as he kept us safe from any enemies or ambushes on the way. **32** So we arrived at Yerushalem, and rested there for three days. **33** On the fourth day, the gold and silver and the containers and utensils were weighed out in the temple—being handed over to Uriyah's son Meremot, the priest, and with him was Pinhas's son Eleazar (and with them were Yeshua's son Yozavad, and Binuy's son Noadyah, the Levites). **34** They recorded all the items with their weights.

35 The descendants of the former captives who had returned from exile offered burnt offerings to Yisrael's (Israel's) god:

Literal Version

_Shērēvə^{yāh} and_sons_of_his and_brothers_of_his eight- teen. **19** And_ĐOM Ḫashavyāh and_with_him Yəshaʿyāh/(Jeshaiah) from_(the)_sons of_Mərārī brothers_of_his and_sons_of_their twenty. **20** And_from the_temple_servants whom_ Dāvid and_ _the_officials _he_had_appointed for_the_work_of the_Lēviyyiy temple_servants two_hundred and_twenty of_them_of_all they_had_been_designated by_names.

21 And_I_proclaimed there a_fast at the_river ʾAhavā ʾ to_ _humble_ourselves to_(the)_face_of/in_front_of/before god_of_ _our to_seek from_him/it a_journey straight to/for_us and_for_ _our_little_of_one[s] and_to/for_all property_of_our. **22** If/because I_was_ashamed to_ask from the_king a_retinue and_horsemen to_help_us from_an_enemy on_journey if/because we_had_said to/for_the_king to_say the_hand_of our_god_of_our is_on all_of those_of_who_seek_him for_good and_strength_of_his and_anger_of_his are_towards all_of those_of_who_abandon_him. **23** And_we_fasted and_we_sought from_god_of_our on this and_he_was_entreated to/for_us. **24** And_I_set_apart of_the_leaders_of of_the_priests two_plus ten to_Shērēvə^{yāh} Ḫashavyāh and_with_them of_brothers_of_ _their ten. **25** Weighed_out^{6869} to/for_them ĐOM the_silver and_ _ĐOM the_gold and_ĐOM the_vessels the_contribution_of the_ _house_of our_god_of_our which_ the_king and_counsellors_of_ _his and_officials_of_his and_all Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) who_were_ _found _they_had_offered. **26** And_I_weighed_out on hand_of_ _their silver talents six hundred(s) and_fifty and_vessels_of silver one_hundred of_talents gold one_hundred talent[s]. **27** And_bowls_of gold twenty of_darics a_thousand and_vessels_ _of bronze gleaming fine two precious_things like_gold. **28** And_I_said to_them you(pl) are_holy_person[s] to/for_ _**YHWH** and_the_vessels are_holy_thing[s] and_the_silver and_ _the_gold are_a_freewill_offering to/for_**YHWH** the_god_of your(pl)_ancestors_of_your(pl). **29** Watch and_keep_them until you(pl)_will_weigh_them_out to_(the)_face_of/in_front_ _of/before the_leaders_of the_priests and_the_Lēviyyiy and_ _the_leaders_of the_fathers of_Yisrāʾēl/(Israel) in_ _Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) the_rooms_of the_house_of **YHWH**. **30** And_ the_priests and_the_Lēviyyiy _they_took the_weight_of the_silver and_the_gold and_the_vessels to_bring to_ _Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) to_the_house_of our_god_of_our.

31 And_we_set_out from_the_river_of ʾAhavā ʾ on_day_two_plus ten of_month (the)_first to_go Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) and_ _the_hand_of our_god_of_our it_was on_us and_he_delivered_ _us from_the_palm_of an_enemy and_from_an_ambusher on the_journey. **32** And_we_came Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) and_ _we_remained there days three. **33** And_on_day the_fourth it_ _was_weighed_out the_silver and_the_gold and_the_vessels in_ _house_of our_god_of_our on the_hand_of Mərēmōt the_son_of ʾŪriy^{yāh} the_priest/officer and_was_with_him ʾElʿāzār the_son_ _of Piṇḥāṣ and_were_with_them Yōzāvād/(Jozabad) the_son_of Yēshūʿa/(Jeshua) and_Nōʿad^{yāh} the_son_of Binnūy the_Lēviyyiy. **34** By_number by_weight for_everything and_ all_of the_weight _it_was_written_down at_time (the)_that. **35** The_(ones_who)_ _went from_the_captivity the_children_of the_exile they_

68 LV 8:25 · Note OSHB variant note: ה/לוקשא/ו: (x-qere) ה/לָקְשֶׁא/וְ: lemma_c/8254 morph_HC/Vqw1cs/Sh id_15cZW ה/לָקְשֶׁא/וְ

69 LV 8:25 · Note OSHB note: Yathir readings in L which we have designated as Qeres when both Dothan and BHS list a Qere.

Literal Version

_brought_near burnt_offerings to_the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) bulls two_plus ten on all_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) rams ninety and_six lambs seventy and_seven he-goats_of sin_offering two_plus ten (the)_everything was_a_burnt_offering to/for_**YHWH**. **36** And_ _they_gave ÐOM the_decrees_of the_king to_the_satraps_of the_ _king and_the_governors of_the_other_side_of the_river and_ _they_supported ÐOM the_people and_ÐOM the_house_of the_ _'Elohīm.

9:1 And_just_ these_things _as_finished they_drew_near to_me the_leaders to_say not the_people Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_the_ _priests and_the_Lēviyyiy they_have_separated_themselves from_the_peoples_of the_lands according_to_of_their_ _abominations to_Kəna'ₐnī/(Canaanite)[s] the_Ḥittiy[s] the_ _Pərizzī[s] the_Yəvūşī the_'Ammōnī[s] the_Mō'āvite[s] the_ _Miṭsrayim/(Egypt)ian[s] and_the_'Amorī[s]. **2** If/because they_ _have_taken some_of_their_daughters to/for_them and_for_ _sons_of_their and_ the_offspring_of (the)_holiness _they_ _have_mixed_themselves with_the_peoples_of the_lands and_ _the_hand_of the_leaders and_the_officials it_has_been in_ _unfaithfulness the_this first. **3** And_just_as_I_heard ÐOM the_ _matter the_this I_tore ÐOM garment_of_my and_robe_of_my and_I_pulled_out some_of_the_hair_of my_head and_beard_of_ _my and_I_sat_down appalled. **4** And_to_me every person_ _trembling at_the_words/messages_of the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) they_gathered on the_unfaithfulness_of the_ _exile[s] and_I was_sitting appalled until (to)_the_offering_of the_evening.

5 And_at_the_offering_of the_evening I_arose from_ _humiliation_of_my and_in_tearing_my my_garment_of_my and_robe_of_my and_I_bowed_down on knees_of_my and_I_ _spread_out palms_of_my to **YHWH** god_of_my. **6** And_I_said my_god_of_my I_am_ashamed and_I_am_ashamed to_lift_up my_god_of_my face_of_my to_you if/because iniquities_of_our they_have_increased (to)_upwards a_head and_guilt_of_our it_ _is_great to (to)_heavens. **7** From_the_days_of our_ancestors_ _of_our we have_been_in_guilt great until the_day the_this and_in_iniquities_of_our we kings_of_our priests_of_our we_ _have_been_given in_the_hand_of the_kings_of the_lands by_ _sword by_captivity and_by_plunder and_by_shame_of face as_ _the_day (the)_this. **8** And_now like_a_little a_moment favour it_has_come from_with **YHWH** god_of_our to_leave to/for_us an_escaped_remnant and_to_give to/for_us a_tent_peg in_the_ _place_of his_holiness_of_his to_ god_of_our _give_light eyes_ _of_our and_to_give_to_us reviving a_little in_servitude_of_our. **9** If/because are_slaves we and_in_servitude_of_our[717273] not he_has_abandoned_us god_of_our and_he_has_extended towards_us covenant_loyalty to_(the)_face_of/in_front_ _of/before the_kings_of Pāraş by_giving to/for_us reviving to_ _raise_up ÐOM the_house_of our_god_of_our and_to_set_up ÐOM ruins_of_its and_by_giving to/for_us a_wall in_ _Yəhūdāh/(Judah) and_in_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem). **10** And_ _now what will_we_say our_god_of_Oh after this if/because we_

Readers' Version

twelve bulls for all Yisrael, 96 rams, 77 lambs, then twelve male goats for a sin offering. The whole was presented as a burnt offering to Yahweh. **36** They relayed the king's orders to the governors and officials of the province beyond the river, and so they honoured the people and God's house.

Ezra's reaction against mixed marriages

9:1 Now as soon as those things were finished, the leaders came to me, saying, "The people of Yisrael (Israel), and the priests and Levites haven't kept themselves separate from the idolatry of the peoples of the lands: the Kena'anim (Canaanites) , Hitim, Perizim, the Yevusim, Amonim, Moavim, Mitsrim (Egyptians) , and the Amorim. **2** Instead, they've taken women from those peoples as wives for themselves and their sons, so they've diluted their sacred heritage with the anti-God customs of those peoples. But the worst is that it's our leaders and officials that have been at the forefront in this unfaithfulness." **3** As soon as I heard that, I tore my clothes and pulled some of the hair out of my head and beard, and I sat down appalled. **4** Any others who respectfully followed Yisrael's god's instructions and who were concerned about the unfaithfulness of the exiles, joined with me and I sat there appalled until the time of the evening sacrifice.

Ezra's prayer

5 So I got up from my position of humiliation with my torn clothes during the evening sacrifice, then I went down on my knees and spread out my palms to my god Yahweh **6** and prayed, "My god, I'm ashamed and humiliated to raise my face to you, my god, because our sins have multiplied and risen above our heads, and our guilt has mounted up as high as the sky. **7** From back in the time of our ancestors until today, we've been very guilty, and in our disobedience, we ourselves, including our kings and our priests, have been killed by the kings of the surrounding countries, or taken captive, or been plundered, or simply put to shame, which is the case right now. **8** But now for a brief moment, favour has come from our god Yahweh and given us remaining survivors a stake in his holy place—yes, our god has cheered us up and given us a little relief from our slavery. **9** Because we are slaves, yet our god hasn't abandoned us in our slavery, but he's used his loyal commitment to us to influence the Persian king to give to us breathing space to rebuild the house of our god from its ruins, and to give to us a 'wall of protection' in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and across Yehudah (Judah).

10 "So now, our god, what can we say after that? We've abandoned your instructions **11** which you gave us via your servants,

71 **LV 9:9 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

72 **LV 9:9 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

73 **LV 9:9 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently than BHS. Often this notation indicates a typographical error in BHS.

Readers' Version

the prophets, saying, 'The land that you're all entering to occupy is a land of impurity, due to the impurity of the current inhabitants with their evil practices that have filled it from one end to the other with their filth. **12** So now, don't give your daughters to their sons to marry, or vice versa.[70] And don't try to make long-term peace treaties or contracts with them. Then you all will stay in power, and eat the good things of the land, and be able to pass it on to your children for all their future generations.'

13 "Yet after everything that's happened to us as a result our evil actions and our great guilt (even though you, our god, didn't punish us as harshly as you could have, and you've allowed us to survive as we're here now), **14** should we return to disobeying your instructions and to intermarrying with those people groups with their evil practices? You'd rightfully be angry enough with us as to wipe us out completely without leaving any remnant or survivors? **15** Yahweh, the god of Yisrael (Israel), you always do what is right, because here we are as survivors even to this day. So, yes, here we are standing in front of you in our guilt, because none of us are innocent enough to stand in front of you because of what we've done."

The people's acceptance of their sin

10:1 When Ezra prayed and confessed like that, weeping and bowing down low in front of the temple, an extremely large number of Israeli men and women and children gathered around him to join in and weep aloud. **2** Then Yehiel's son Shekanyah (from the sons of Eylam) answered and admitted to Ezra, "We ourselves have behaved unfaithfully towards our god and have married foreign women from the other people groups in this region. But there's still hope for Yisrael (Israel) concerning this. **3** So now, let's make an agreement with our god to send all those women back, along with their children, following the advice of my master and the ones who strive to obey God's instructions, and as per the law. **4** So take action because this is now in your hands, but we're with you. Lead strongly and make a clear decision."

5 So Ezra took action and made the leaders of the priests and Levites, and all Yisrael, to promise to implement this decision, and they did so. **6** Then Ezra left that place there in front of the temple, and he went to Yehohanan's room (Elyashiv's son) and went in. He didn't eat or drink, but continued mourning because of the unfaithfulness of the exiles.

7 Then the leaders sent an official written notice throughout Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and all Yehudah (Judah) to all those

Literal Version

_have_abandoned commands_of_your. **11** Which you_
_commanded by_the_hand_of your_servants the_prophets to_
_say the_earth/land which you(pl) are_going to_take_
_possession_of_it is_a_land_of impurity it by_the_impurity_of
the_peoples_of the_lands by_abominations_of_their which
they_have_filled_it from_mouth to mouth with_uncleanness_
_of_their. **12** And_now daughters_of_your(pl) do_not give to_
_sons_of_their and_daughters_of_their do_not take for_sons_of_
_your(pl) and_not you(pl)_must_seek peace_of_their and_good_
_of_their until perpetuity so_that you(pl)_may_be_strong and_
_you(pl)_will_eat ᴅᴏᴍ the_good_thing[s]_of the_earth/land
and_you(pl)_will_cause_to_inherit_it (to)_sons_of_your(pl) until
perpetuity. **13** And_after every_of (the)_thing_which_has_come
on_us by_deeds_of_our (the)_evil and_by_guilt_of_our the_
_big/large/great(fs) if/because you our_god_of_Oh you_have_
_withheld (to)_downwards from_iniquity_of_our and_you(ms)_
_will_give to/for_ourselves an_escaped_remnant like_this.
14 Will_we_return to_break commands_of_your and_to_
_intermarry with_the_peoples_of the_abominations the_these
am_not will_you_be_angry with_us until make_an_end to_
_there_will_not_be a_remnant and_an_escaped_remnant.
15 Oh_**YHWH** the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) are_righteous you
if/because we_are_left an_escaped_remnant as_the_day the_
_this here_we to_your_face in_guilt_of_our if/because and_
_there_is_not to_stand to_your_face on this.
10:1 And_just_ ʿEzrā' _as_was_praying and_just_as_he_was_
_confessing[7475] weeping and_prostrating_himself to_(the)_
_face_of/in_front_of/before the_house_of the_'Elohīm they_
_gathered to_him/it from_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) a_company great
very men and_women and_children if/because the_people
they_wept great weeping. **2** And_he_answered Shəkanyāh the_
_son_of Yəḥī'ēl/(Jehiel) from_(the)_sons of_ʿĒylām[76] and_he/it_
_said to_ʿEzrā' we we_have_acted_unfaithfully against_god_of_
_our and_we_have_married women foreign from_the_peoples_
_of the_earth/land and_now there_is hope for_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel)
on this. **3** And_now let_us_make a_covenant to_god_of_our to_
_send_out all_of wives and_those_who_were_born from_them
by_the_counsel_of my_master and_the_people_trembling at_
_the_command_of our_god_of_our and_according_the_law let_
_it_be_done. **4** Arise if/because is_on_you the_matter and_we
will_be_with_you be_strong and_act. **5** And_ ʿEzrā' _he/it_rose_
_up and_he_made_to_swear_an_oath ᴅᴏᴍ the_leaders_of the_
_priests the_Lēviyyiy and_all Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) for_doing
according_the_manner the_this and_they_swore_the_oath.
6 And_ ʿEzrā' _he/it_rose_up from_to/for_face/front/presence
the_house_of the_'Elohīm and_he/it_went into the_room_of
Yəhōḥānān/(Jehohanan) the_son_of 'Elyāshiyv and_he/it_went
there food not he_ate and_water not he_drank if/because he_
_was_mourning on the_unfaithfulness_of the_exile[s]. **7** And_
_they_caused_to_pass a_proclamation in_Yəhūdāh/(Judah)
and_Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) to_all/each/any/every the_

70 RV 9:12 · Cross-ref. Exo 34:11-16; Deu 7:1-5.

74 LV 10:1 · Note OSHB note: BHS has been faithful to the Leningrad Codex where there might be a question of the validity of the form and we keep the same form as BHS.

75 LV 10:1 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

76 LV 10:2 · Note OSHB variant note: **מלוע**: (x-qere) 'סָלְיִ֑ע: lemma_5867 b n_1.2.0 morph_HNp id_15GwE סָלְיִ֑ע

Literal Version

_children_of the_exile to_assemble Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem).
8 And_all/each/any/every one_who not he_will_come to_the_
_three_of the_days according_to_the_counsel_of the_leaders
and_the_elders all_of property_of_his it_will_be_forfeited and_
_he he_will_be_separated from_the_assembly_of the_exile[s].
9 And_ all_of the_people_of Yəhūdāh and_Binyāmīn _they_
_assembled Yərūshālaim/(Jerusalem) to_the_three_of the_days
it was_the_month_of (the)_ninth on_day_twenty in_month
and_ all_of the_people _they_lived in_the_open_place_of the_
_house_of the_'Elohīm trembling on the_matter and_from_the_
rains. **10** And ʿEzrā' the_priest/officer _he/it_rose_up and_
_he/it_said to_them you(pl) you(pl)_have_acted_unfaithfully
and_you(pl)_have_married women foreign to_add to the_guilt_
_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **11** And_now give praise to/for_**YHWH** the_
_god_of your(pl)_ancestors_of_your(pl) and_do will_of_his and_
_separate_yourselves from_the_peoples_of the_earth/land and_
_from the_women (the)_foreign. **12** And_ all_of the_assembly _
_they_answered and_they_said a_voice great so mmm[77] on_us
for_doing. **13** But the_people is_numerous and_the_time is_
_rains and_there_is_not ability to_stand on_outside and_the_
_business not belongs_to_a_day one and_not belongs_to_two_
_days if/because we_have_increased to_transgress in_matter
(the)_this. **14** Let_them_stand please leaders_of_our to/from_
_all/each/any/every the_assembly and_all/each/any/every
one_who is_in_cities_of_our who_he_has_married women
foreign let_him_come to_times appointed and_with_them the_
_elders_of a_city and_a_city and_judges_of_its until (to)_turn_
_back the_burning_of the_anger our_god_of_our from_him/it
until to_the_message/thing/matter (the)_this. **15** Only
Yōnātān/(Yəhōnātān/(Jonathan)) the_son_of ʿAsāh'ēl and_
_Yaḥzəyāh/(Jahzeiah) the_son_of Tikvah they_stood on this
and_Məshullām and_Shabtay the_Lēviyyiy they_supported_
_them. **16** And_they_made thus the_children_of the_exile and_
ʿEzrā' the_priest/officer men the_heads_of the_fathers _they_
_separated_themselves for_the_house_of their_ancestors_of_
_their and_all_of_of_them by_names and_they_lived in/on_day
one of_month (the)_tenth to_investigate the_matter. **17** And_
_they_finished with_everything the_men who_they_had_
_married women foreign until day one of_month (the)_first.

18 And_it_was_found from_(the)_sons of_the_priests who they_
_had_married women foreign from_(the)_sons[7879] of_
_Yēshūʿa/(Jeshua) the_son_of Yōtsādāq/(Jozadak) and_
_brothers_of_his Maʿaseyah and_'Elīʿezer and_Yārīv/(Jarib) and_
_Gədalyāh. **19** And_they_gave hand_of_their to_send_out wives_
_of_their and_being_guilty a_ram_of the_flock on guilt_of_their.
20 And_of_the_sons_of 'Immēr Ḥanānī and_Zəvadyāh. **21** And_of_
_the_sons_of Ḥārim Maʿaseyah and_'Ēliyyāh and_Shəmaʿyāh and_
_Yəḥī'ēl/(Jehiel) and_ʿUzziyyāh. **22** And_of_the_sons_of Pashḥūr
'Elyəhōʿēynay Maʿaseyah Ishmael Nətan'ēl Yōzāvād/(Jozabad)
and_'Elʿāsāh. **23** And_from the_Lēviyyiy Yōzāvād and_Shimʿī
and_Qēlāyāh it is_Qəlīṭā' Pətaḥyāh Yəhūdāh/(Judah) and_
_'Elīʿezer. **24** And_from the_singers 'Elyāshiyv and_from the_
_gatekeepers Shallūm and_Ṭelem and_'Ūrī. **25** And_of_

Readers' Version

Yehudim (Jews) who'd returned from captivity, that their men should assemble in Yerushalem. **8** They were told that it was the decision of the leaders and elders that anyone who didn't arrive within three days would then forfeit all their property and would no longer be considered as an Israeli. **9** So on the third day (in mid-December), all the men of Yehudah and Benyamin gathered in Yerushalem, and all the people sat in the courtyard in front of the temple. They were shivering because of the rain, and because of the seriousness of the matter.

10 Then the priest Ezra stood up and announced, "You yourselves have acted unfaithfully and have married foreign women, thus adding to Yisrael's guilt in God's eyes. **11** Now however, praise Yahweh, the god of your ancestors, and do what he's commanded us and separate yourselves from the other religions of the peoples in this region, including not marrying their women."

12 Then all the gathered Israelis answered, "Yes, we do need to do what you've said. **13** However, it's the rainy season now, and there's so many people who can't stand outside for several days while we try to work all this out, because we've done so much wrong. **14** So let's delegate our leaders to make the decisions for all of us. Then we can arrange to meet together by city with our elders and judges to apply the decisions about our foreign wives, until God's anger towards us about these matters cools down. **15** The only ones who were against this plan were Asahel's on Yonatan (Jonathan) and Tikvah's son Yahzeyah, with the support of Meshulam and the Levite Shabtay.

16 So the exiled Israelis agreed to follow that plan, and the names of the men were written down by each clan leader who then stayed behind with the priest Ezra, and a few days later, they sat down to start working through the lists. **17** Some two months later, they had finished considering all the men who had married foreign women.

The men married to foreigners

18 Some of the priests' descendants had married foreign women, i.e., the descendants of Yotsadak's son Yeshua and his brothers, Ma'aseyah, Eliezer, Yariv, and Gedalyah, **19** and they promised to expel their wives, and because of their guilt, each of them sacrificed a ram from their flock. **20** Then, also:

From Imer's descendants: Hanani and Zevadyah,

21 From Harim's descendants: Ma'aseyah, Eliyah (Elijah), Shemayah, Yehiel, and Uziyah,

22 From Pashhur's descendants: Elyehoeynay, Ma'aseyah, Yishmael (Ishmael), Netanel, Yozavad, and Eleasah,

23 Among the other Levites: Yozavad, and Shimei, and Kelayah

77 **LV 10:12 · Note** OSHB variant note: כ/ירבר/ך: (x-qere) כ/רָבַר/הָ֫; lemma_k/1697 morph_HR/Ncmsc/Sp2ms id_15Kbe כ/רָבַר/הָ֫,

78 **LV 10:18 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

79 **LV 10:18 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently than BHS. Often this notation indicates a typographical error in BHS.

Readers' Version

(that is, Kelita), Petahyah, Yehudah (Judah), and Eliezer.
24 Among the singers: Elyashiv.
Among the temple guards: Shalum, Telem, and Uri.
25 From the other Israelis:
From Par'osh's descendants: Rameyah, Yiziyah, Malkiyah, Miyamin, Eleazar, Malkiyah, and Benayah.
26 From Heylam's descendants: Matanyah, Zekaryah (Zechariah), Yehiel, Avdi, Yerimot, and Eliyah (Elijah).
27 From Zatu's descendants: Elyehoeynay, Elyashiv, Matanyah, Yerimot, Zavad, and Aziza.
28 From Bevay's descendants: Yehohanan, Hananyah, Zabay, and Atlay.
29 From Bani's descendants: Meshulam, Maluk, Adayah, Yashuv, and Sheal-Yerimot.
30 From Pahat-Moav's descendants: Adna, Kelal, Benayah, Ma'aseyah, Matanyah, Betsalel, Binuy, and Menasheh (Manasseh).
31 From Harim's descendants: Eliezer, Yishiyah, Malkiyah, Shemayah, Shim'on (Simeon), **32** Benyamin, Maluk, and Shemaryah.
33 From Hashum's descendants: Matenay, Matatah, Zavad, Elifelet, Yeremay, Menasheh, and Shimei.
34 From Bani's descendants: Ma'aday, Amram, Uel, **35** Benayah, Bedeyah, Keluhayo, **36** Vanyah, Meremot, Elyashiv, **37** Matanyah, Matenay, and Ya'asu.
38 From Binuy's descendants: Shimei, **39** Shelemyah, Natan (Nathan), Adayah, **40** Maknadvay, Shashay, Sharay, **41** Azarel, Shelemyah, Shemaryah, **42** Shalum, Amaryah, and Yosef (Joseph).
43 From Nevo's descendants: Yeiel, Matityah, Zavad, Zevina, Yido, Yoel (Joel), and Benayah.
44 All of those had married foreign women and had children from them.

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Literal Version

Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) from(the)_sons of_Par'osh/(Parosh) Ram^{yāh} and_Yizziy^{yāh}/(Izziah) and_Malkīy^{yāh} and_Miyyāmin and_
_'El'āzār and_Malkīy^{yāh} and_Bənā^{yāh}. **26** And_of_the_sons_of 'Ēylām Mattan^{yāh} Zəkar^{yāh} and_Yəḥī'ēl and_'Avdiy and_
Yərīmōt/(Jeremoth) and'Ēliy^{yāh}. **27** And_of_the_sons_of Zattū' 'Elyəhō'ēynay 'Elyāshiyv Mattan^{yāh} and_Yərīmōt and_Zāvād and_'Azīzā'. **28** And_of_the_sons_of Bēvay Yəhōḥānān/(Jehohanan) Ḥ$_a$nan^{yāh} Zabay 'Atlay. **29** And_of_the_
_sons_of Bānī Məshullām Mallūk and_'Adā^{yāh} Yāshūv/(Jashub) and_Shə'āl and_Ramoth[80]. **30** And_of_the_sons_of Paḥat- Mō'āv 'Adnā' and_Kelal Bənā^{yāh} Ma'$_a$sē^{yāh} Mattan^{yāh} Bətsal'ēl and_
_Binnūy and_Mənashsheh. **31** And_the_sons of_Ḥārim 'Elī'ezer Yishshiy^{yāh}/(Isshiah) Malkīy^{yāh} Shəma'^{yāh} Shim'ōn.
32 Binyāmīn[81] Mallūk Shəmar^{yāh}. **33** From_(the)_sons of_
_Ḥāshum Mattənay Mattattah Zāvād 'Elifeleṭ
Yərēmay/(Jeremai) Mənashsheh Shim'ī. **34** From_(the)_sons of_
Bānī Ma'$_a$day 'Amrām and'Ū'ēl. **35** Bənā^{yāh} Bēdə^{yāh} Kəlūhayo[82].
36 Van^{yāh} Mərēmōt 'Elyāshiyv. **37** Mattan^{yāh} Mattənay and[83].
38 And_Bānī and_Binnūy Shim'ī. **39** And_Shelem^{yāh} and_Nātān and_'Adā^{yāh}. **40** Maknadvay Shāshay Shāray. **41** 'Azar'ēl and_
_Shelem^{yāh} Shəmar^{yāh}. **42** Shallūm 'Amar^{yāh} Yōṣēf/(Joseph).
43 From_(the)_sons of_Nəvō Yə'ī'ēl/(Jeiel) Mattit^{yāh} Zāvād Zəvīnā' Yiddō/(Jaddai)[84] and_Yō'ēl/(Joel) Bənā^{yāh}. **44** All_of these mmm[858687] women foreign and_there_were from_them wives and_they(m)_had_made children.

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80 LV 10:29 · Note OSHB variant note: **תומרי**: (x-qere) 'תֻּמָּרֽוּ': lemma_c/3406 n_0 morph_HC/Np id_15SCH תֻּמָּרֽוּ
81 LV 10:32 · Note OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.
82 LV 10:35 · Note OSHB variant note: **יהלכ**: (x-qere) 'וּהוּלְכ': lemma_3622 n_0 morph_HNp id_15wi3 וּהוּלְכ
83 LV 10:37 · Note OSHB variant note: **ושעי/ו**: (x-qere) 'יְשַׁעְיָֽהוּ': lemma_c/3299 n_0 morph_HC/Np id_15ikF יְשַׁעְיָֽהוּ
84 LV 10:43 · Note OSHB variant note: **ודי**: (x-qere) 'יְהֵֽדָי': lemma_3035 morph_HNp id_15Ua5 יְהֵֽדָי
85 LV 10:44 · Note OSHB variant note: **י/אשנ**: (x-qere) 'וְאֶשְׁתָּֽנָ': lemma_5375 n_1.0 morph_HVqp3cp id_15wX7 וְאֶשְׁתָּֽנָ
86 LV 10:44 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more consonants in L differently from BHQ.
87 LV 10:44 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more consonants in L differently from BHS.