

Ezra and Nehemiah

Contents

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1Now in the first year of Cyrus king of the Persians, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremias might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of the Persians, and he issued a proclamation through all his kingdom, and that in writing, saying,

2Thus said Cyrus king of the Persians, The Lord God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has given me a charge to build him a house in Jerusalem that is in Judea. ³ Who is there among you of all his people? for his God shall be with him, and he shall go up to Jerusalem that is in Judea, and let him build the house of the God of Israel: he is the God that is in Jerusalem. ⁴ And let every Jew that is left go from every place where he sojourns, and the men of his place shall help him with silver, and gold, and goods, and cattle, together with the voluntary offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.

5Then the chiefs of the families of Juda and Benjamin arose, and the priests, and the Levites, all whose spirit the Lord stirred up to go up to build the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem. ⁶ And all that were round about strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with cattle, and with presents, besides the voluntary offerings.

7And king Cyrus brought out the vessels of the house of the Lord, which Nabuchodonosor had brought from Jerusalem, and put in the house of his god. ⁸ And Cyrus king of the Persians brought them out by the hand of Mithradates the treasurer, and he numbered them to Sasabasar, the chief man of Juda. ⁹ And this is their number: thirty gold basons, and a thousand silver basons, nine and twenty changes, thirty golden goblets, ¹⁰ and four hundred and ten double silver vessels, and a thousand other vessels. ¹¹ All the gold and silver vessels were five thousand four hundred, even all that went up with Sasabasar from the place of transportation, from Babylon to Jerusalem.

2And these are the people of the land that went up, of the number of prisoners who were removed, whom Nabuchodonosor king of Babylon carried away to Babylon, and they returned to Juda and Jerusalem, every man to his city; ² who came with Zorobabel: Jesus, Neemias, Saraias, Reelias, Mardocheus, Balasan, Masphar, Baguai, Reum, Baana. The number of the people of Israel:

3The children of Phares, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two.

4The children of Saphatia, three hundred and seventy-two.

- 5The children of Ares, seven hundred and seventy-five.
- 6The children of Phaath Moab, belonging to the sons of Jesue and Joab,
two thousand eight hundred and twelve.
- 7The children of Ælam, a thousand two hundred and fifty-four.
- 8The children of Zathua, nine hundred and forty-five.
- 9The children of Zacchu, seven hundred and sixty.
- 10The children of Banui, six hundred and forty-two.
- 11The children of Babai, six hundred and twenty-three.
- 12The children of Asgad, a thousand two hundred and twenty-two.
- 13The children of Adonicam, six hundred and sixty-six.
- 14The children of Bague, two thousand and fifty-six.
- 15The children of Addin, four hundred and fifty-four.
- 16The children of Ater the son of Ezekias, ninety-eight.
- 17The children of Bassu, three hundred and twenty-three.
- 18The children of Jora, a hundred and twelve.
- 19The children of Asum, two hundred and twenty-three.
- 20The children of Gaber, ninety-five.
- 21The children of Bethlaem, a hundred and twenty-three.
- 22The children of Netopha, fifty-six.
- 23The children of Anathoth, a hundred and twenty-eight.
- 24The children of Azmoth, forty-three.

- 25The children of Cariathiarim, Chaphira, and Beroth, seven hundred and forty-three.
- 26The children of Rama and Gabaa, six hundred and twenty-one.
- 27The men of Machmas, a hundred and twenty-two.
- 28The men of Bæthel and Aia, four hundred and twenty-three.
- 29The children of Nabu, fifty-two.
- 30The children of Magebis, a hundred and fifty-six.
- 31The children of Elamar, a thousand two hundred and fifty-four.
- 32The children of Elam, three hundred and twenty.
- 33The children of Lodadi and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-five.
- 34The children of Jericho, three hundred and forty-five.
- 35The children of Senaa, three thousand six hundred and thirty.
- 36And the priests, the sons of Jedua, belonging to the house of Jesus, were nine hundred and seventy-three. ³⁷ The children of Emmer, a thousand and fifty-two. ³⁸ The children of Phassur, a thousand two hundred and forty-seven. ³⁹ The children of Erem, a thousand and seven.
- 40And the Levites, the sons of Jesus and Cadmiel, belonging to the sons of Oduia, seventy-four.
- 41The sons of Asaph, singers, a hundred and twenty-eight.
- 42The children of the porters, the children of Sellum, the children of Ater, the children of Telmon, the children of Acub, the children of Atita, the children of Sobai, in all a hundred and thirty-nine.

43The Nathinim: the children of Suthia, the children of Asupha, the children of Tabaoth, ⁴⁴ the sons of Cades, the children of Siaa, the children of Phadon, ⁴⁵ the children of Labano, the children of Agaba, the sons of Acub, ⁴⁶ the children of Agab, the children of Selami, the children of Anan, ⁴⁷ the children of Geddel, the children of Gaar, the children of Raia, ⁴⁸ the children of Rason, the children of Necoda, the children of Gazem, ⁴⁹ the children of Azo, the children of Phase, the children of Basi, ⁵⁰ the children of Asena, the children of Moünim, the children of Nephusim, ⁵¹ the children of Bacbuc, the children of Acupha, the children of Arur, ⁵² the children of Basaloth, the children of Mauda, the children of Arsa, ⁵³ the children of Barcos, the children of Sisara, the children of Thema, ⁵⁴ the children of Nasthie, the children of Atupha. ⁵⁵ The children of the servants of Solomon: the children of Sotai, the children of Sephera, the children of Phadura, ⁵⁶ the children of Jeela, the children of Darcon, the children of Gedel, ⁵⁷ the children of Saphatia, the children of Atil, the children of Phacherath, the children of Aseboim, the children of Emei. ⁵⁸ All the Nathanim, and the sons of Abdeselma were three hundred and ninety-two.

59And these are they that went up from Thelmelech, Thelaresa, Cherub, Hedan, Emmer: and they were not able to tell the house of their fathers, and their seed, whether they were of Israel: ⁶⁰ the children of Dalæa, the children of Bua, the children of Tobias, the children of Necoda, six hundred and fifty-two. ⁶¹ And of the children of the priests, the children of Labeia, the children of Akkus, the children of Berzellai, who took a wife of the daughter of Berzellai the Galaadite, and was called by their name. ⁶² These sought their genealogy as though they had been reckoned, but they were not found; and they were removed, as polluted, from the priesthood. ⁶³ And the Athersastha told them that they should not eat of the most holy things, until a priest should arise with Lights and Perfections.

64And all the congregation together were about forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty; ⁶⁵ besides their men-servants and maid-servants, and these were seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven: and among these were two hundred singing men and singing women. ⁶⁶ Their horses were seven hundred and thirty-six, their mules, two hundred and forty-five. ⁶⁷ Their camels, four hundred and thirty-five; their asses, six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

68And some of the chiefs of families, when they went into the house of the Lord that was in Jerusalem, offered willingly for the house of God, to establish it on its prepared place. ⁶⁹ According to their power they gave into the treasury of the work pure gold sixty-one thousand pieces, and five thousand pounds of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

70 So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nathinim, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

3 And the seventh month came on, and the children of Israel were in their cities, and the people assembled as one man at Jerusalem. ² Then stood up Jesus the son of Josedec, and his brethren the priests, and Zorobabel the son of Salathiel, and his brethren, and they built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer upon it whole-burnt-offerings, according to the things that were written in the law of Moses the man of God.

3 And they set up the altar on its place, for there was a terror upon them because of the people of the lands: and the whole-burnt-offering was offered up upon it to the Lord morning and evening. ⁴ And they kept the feast of tabernacles, according to that which was written, and offered whole-burnt-offerings daily in number according to the ordinance, the exact daily rate. ⁵ And after this the perpetual whole-burnt-offering, and offering for the season of new moon, and for all the hallowed feasts to the Lord, and for every one that offered a free-will-offering to the Lord. ⁶ On the first day of the seventh month they began to offer whole-burnt-offerings to the Lord: but the foundation of the house of the Lord was not laid. ⁷ And they gave money to the stone-hewers and carpenters, and meat and drink, and oil, to the Sidonians, and Tyrians, to bring cedar trees from Libanus to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant of Cyrus king of the Persians to them.

8 And in the second year of their coming to the house of God in Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zorobabel the son of Salathiel, and Jesus the son of Josedec, and the rest of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all who came from the captivity to Jerusalem, and they appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, over the workmen in the house of the Lord. ⁹ And Jesus and his sons and his brethren stood, Cadmiel and his sons the sons of Juda, over them that wrought the works in the house of God: the sons of Enadad, their sons and their brethren the Levites.

10 And they laid a foundation for building the house of the Lord: and the priests in their robes stood with trumpets and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the order of David king of Israel. ¹¹ And they answered each other with praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, saying, For it is good, for his mercy to Israel endures for ever. And all the people shouted with a loud voice to praise the Lord at the laying the foundation of the house of the Lord. ¹² But many of the priests and the Levites, and the elder men, heads of families, who had seen the former house on its foundation, and who saw this house with their eyes, wept with a loud voice: but the multitude shouted with joy to raise a song. ¹³ And the people

did not distinguish the voice of the glad shout from the voice of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud voice, and the voice was heard even from afar off.

4And they that afflicted Juda and Benjamin heard, that the children of the captivity were building a house to the Lord God of Israel. ² And they drew near to Zorobabel, and to the heads of families, and said to them, We will build with you; for as ye do, we seek to serve our God, and we do sacrifice to him from the days of Asaradan king of Assur, who brought us hither.

3Then Zorobabel, and Jesus and the rest of the heads of the families of Israel said to them, It is not for us and you to build a house to our God, for we ourselves will build together to the Lord our God, as Cyrus the king of the Persians commanded us. ⁴ And the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Juda, and hindered them in building, ⁵ and continued hiring persons against them, plotting to frustrate their counsel, all the days of Cyrus king of the Persians, and until the reign of Darius king of the Persians.

6And in the reign of Assuerus, even in the beginning of his reign, they wrote a letter against the inhabitants of Juda and Jerusalem. ⁷ And in the days of Arthasastha, Tabeel wrote peaceably to Mithradates and to the rest of his fellow-servants: the tribute-gatherer wrote to Arthasastha king of the Persians a writing in the Syrian tongue, and the same interpreted. ⁸ Reum the chancellor, and Sampsa the scribe wrote an epistle against Jerusalem to king Arthasastha, saying, ⁹ Thus has judged Reum the chancellor, and Sampsa the scribe, and the rest of our fellow-servants, the Dinæans, the Apharsathachæans, the Tarphalæans, the Apharsæans, the Archyæans, the Babylonians, the Susanachæans, Davæans, ¹⁰ and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Assenaphar removed, and settled them in the cities of Somoron, and the rest of them beyond the river. ¹¹ This is the purport of the letter, which they sent to him: Thy servants the men beyond the river to king Arthasastha.

12Be it known to the king, that the Jews who came up from thee to us have come to Jerusalem the rebellious and wicked city, which they are building, and its walls are set in order, and they have established the foundations of it. ¹³ Now then be it known to the king, that if that city be built up, and its walls completed, thou shalt have no tribute, neither will they pay anything, and this injures kings. ¹⁴ And it is not lawful for us to see the dishonour of the king: therefore have we sent and made known the matter to the king; ¹⁵ that examination may be made in thy fathers' book of record; and thou shalt find, and thou shalt know that that city is rebellious, and does harm to kings and countries, and there are in the midst of it from very old time refuges for runaway slaves: therefore this city has been made desolate. ¹⁶ We therefore

declare to the king, that, if that city be built, and its walls be set up, thou shalt not have peace.

17Then the king sent to Reum the chancellor, and Sampsa the scribe, and the rest of their fellow-servants who dwelt in Samaria, and the rest beyond the river, saying, Peace; and he says, ¹⁸ The tribute-gatherer whom ye sent to us, has been called before me. ¹⁹ And a decree has been made by me, and we have examined, and found that that city of old time exalts itself against kings, and that rebellions and desertions take place within it. ²⁰ And there were powerful kings in Jerusalem, and they ruled over all the country beyond the river, and abundant revenues and tribute were given to them. ²¹ Now therefore make a decree to stop the work of those men, and that city shall no more be built. ²² See that ye be careful of the decree, not to be remiss concerning this matter, lest at any time destruction should abound to the harm of kings.

23Then the tribute-gatherer of king Arthasastha read the letter before Reum the chancellor, and Sampsa the scribe, and his fellow-servants: and they went in haste to Jerusalem and through Juda, and caused them to cease with horses and an armed force. ²⁴ Then ceased the work of the house of God in Jerusalem, and it was at a stand until the second year of the reign of Darius king of the Persians.

5And Aggæus the prophet, and Zacharias the son of Addo, prophesied a prophecy to the Jews in Juda and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even to them. ² Then rose up Zorobabel the son of Salathiel, and Jesus the son of Josedec, and began to build the house of God that was in Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God assisting them.

3At the same time came there upon them Thanthanai, the governor on this side the river, and Satharbuzanai, and their fellow-servants, and spoke thus to them, Who has ordained a decree for you to build this house, and to provide this preparation? ⁴ Then they spoke thus to them, What are the names of the men that build this city? ⁵ But the eyes of God were upon the captivity of Juda, and they did not cause them to cease till the decree was brought to Darius; and then was sent by the tribute-gatherer concerning this ⁶ the copy of a letter, which Thanthanai, the governor of the part on this side the river, and Satharbuzanai, and their fellow-servants the Apharsachæans who were on this side of the river, sent to king Darius. ⁷ They sent an account to him, and thus it was written in it:

A ll peace to king Darius. ⁸ Be it known to the king, that we went into the land of Judea, to the house of the great God; and it is building with choice stones, and they are laying timbers in the walls, and that work is prospering,

and goes on favourably in their hands. ⁹ Then we asked those elders, and thus we said to them, Who gave you the order to build this house, and to provide this preparation? ¹⁰ And we asked them their names, in order to declare them to thee, so as to write to thee the names of their leading men. ¹¹ And they answered us thus, saying, We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are building the house which had been built many years before this, and a great king of Israel built it, and established it for them. ¹² But after that our fathers provoked the God of heaven, he gave them into the hands of Nabuchodonosor the Chaldean, king of Babylon, and he destroyed this house, and carried the people captive to Babylon. ¹³ And in the first year of king Cyrus, Cyrus the king made a decree that this house of God should be built. ¹⁴ And the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nabuchodonosor brought out from the house that was in Jerusalem, and carried them into the temple of the king, them did king Cyrus bring out from the temple of the king, and gave them to Sabanasar the treasurer, who was over the treasure; ¹⁵ and said to him, Take all the vessels, and go, put them in the house that is in Jerusalem in their place. ¹⁶ Then that Sabanazar came, and laid the foundations of the house of God in Jerusalem: and from that time even until now it has been building, and has not been finished. ¹⁷ And now, if it seem good to the king, let search be made in the treasure-house of the king at Babylon, that thou mayest know if it be that a decree was made by king Cyrus to build that house of God that was in Jerusalem, and let the king send to us when he has learnt concerning this matter.

6Then Darius the king made a decree, and caused a search to be made in the record-offices, where the treasure is stored in Babylon. ² And there was found in the city, in the palace, a volume, and this was the record written in it.

3In the first year of king Cyrus, Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the holy house of God that was in Jerusalem, saying, Let the house be built, and the place where they sacrifice the sacrifices. (Also he appointed its elevation, in height sixty cubits; its breadth was of sixty cubits.) ⁴ And let there be three strong layers of stone, and one layer of timber; and the expense shall be paid out of the house of the king. ⁵ And the silver and the gold vessels of the house of God, which Nabuchodonosor carried off from the house that was in Jerusalem, and carried to Babylon, let them even be given, and be carried to the temple that is in Jerusalem, and put in the place where they were set in the house of God.

6Now, ye rulers beyond the river, Satharbuzanai, and their fellow-servants the Apharsachæans, who are on the other side of the river, give these things, keeping far from that place. ⁷ Now let alone the work of the house of God: let the rulers of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build that house of God on its place. ⁸ Also a decree has been made by me, if haply ye may do

somewhat in concert with the elders of the Jews for the building of that house of God: to wit, out of the king's property, even the tributes beyond the river, let there be money to defray the expenses carefully granted to those men, so that they be not hindered. ⁹ And whatever need there may be, ye shall give both the young of bulls and rams, and lambs for whole-burnt-offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, oil:—let it be given them according to the word of the priests that are in Jerusalem, day by day whatsoever they shall ask; ¹⁰ that they may offer sweet savours to the God of heaven, and that they may pray for the life of the king and his sons. ¹¹ And a decree has been made by me, that every man who shall alter this word, timber shall be pulled down from his house, and let him be lifted up and slain upon it, and his house shall be confiscated. ¹² And may the God whose name dwells there, overthrow every king and people who shall stretch out his hand to alter or destroy the house of God which is in Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be diligently attended to.

¹³Then Thanthanai the governor on this side beyond the river, Satharbazanai, and his fellow-servants, according to that which king Darius sent, so they did diligently. ¹⁴ And the elders of the Jews and the Levites built, at the prophecy of Aggæus the prophet, and Zacharias the son of Addo: and they built up, and finished it, by the decree of the God of Israel, and by the decree of Cyrus, and Darius, and Arthasastha, kings of the Persians.

¹⁵And they finished this house by the third day of the month Adar, which is the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

¹⁶And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of the house of God with gladness. ¹⁷ And they offered for the dedication of the house of God a hundred calves, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, twelve kids of the goats for a sin-offering for all Israel, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. ¹⁸ And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their separate orders, for the services of God in Jerusalem, according to the writing of the book of Moses.

¹⁹And the children of the captivity kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. ²⁰ For the priests and Levites were purified, all were clean to a man, and they slew the passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. ²¹ And the children of Israel ate the passover, even they that were of the captivity, and every one who separated himself to them from the uncleanness of the nations of the land, to seek the Lord God of Israel. ²² And they kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with gladness, because the Lord made them glad, and he turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, to strengthen their hands in the works of the house of the God of Israel.

7 Now after these things, in the reign of Arthasastha king of the Persians, came up Esdras the son of Saraias, the son of Azarias, the son of Chelcias, ² the son of Selum, the son of Sadduc, the son of Achitob, ³ the son of Samarias, the son of Esria, the son of Mareoth, ⁴ the son of Zaraia, the son of Ozias, the son of Bokki, ⁵ the son of Abisue, the son of Phinees, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the first priest. ⁶ This Esdras went up out of Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel gave: and the king gave him leave, for the hand of the Lord his God was upon him in all things which he sought. ⁷ And some of the children of Israel went up, and some of the priests, and of the Levites, and the singers, and the door-keepers, and the Nathinim, to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Arthasastha the king. ⁸ And they came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, this was the seventh year of the king. ⁹ For in the first day of the first month he began the going up from Babylon, and in the first day of the fifth month they came to Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was upon him. ¹⁰ For Esdras had determined in his heart to seek the law, and to do and teach the ordinances and judgments in Israel.

11 And this is the copy of the order which Arthasastha gave to Esdras the priest, the scribe of the book of the words of the commandments of the Lord, and of his ordinances to Israel.

12 Arthasastha, king of kings, to Esdras, the scribe of the law of the Lord God of heaven, Let the order and the answer be accomplished. ¹³ A decree is made by me, that every one who is willing in my kingdom of the people of Israel, and of the priests and Levites, to go to Jerusalem, be permitted to go with thee. ¹⁴ One has been sent from the king and the seven councillors, to visit Judea and Jerusalem, according to the law of their God that is in thine hand. ¹⁵ And for the house of the Lord there have been sent silver and gold, which the king and the councillors have freely given to the God of Israel, who dwells in Jerusalem. ¹⁶ And all the silver and gold, whatsoever thou shalt find in all the land of Babylon, with the freewill-offering of the people, and the priests that offer freely for the house of God which is in Jerusalem. ¹⁷ And as for every one that arrives there, speedily order him by this letter to bring calves, rams, lambs, and their meat-offerings, and their drink-offerings; and thou shalt offer them on the altar of the house of your God which is in Jerusalem. ¹⁸ And whatever it shall seem good to thee and to thy brethren to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, do as it is pleasing to your God. ¹⁹ And deliver the vessels that are given thee for the service of the house of God, before God in Jerusalem. ²⁰ And as to the rest of the need of the house of thy God, thou shalt give from the king's treasure-houses, ²¹ and from me, whatever it shall seem good to thee to give.

I king Arthasastha have made a decree for all the treasuries that are in the country beyond the river, that whatever Esdras the priest and scribe of the

God of heaven may ask you, it shall be done speedily, ²² to the amount of a hundred talents of silver, and a hundred measures of wheat, and a hundred baths of wine, and a hundred baths of oil, and salt without reckoning. ²³ Let whatever is in the decree of the God of heaven, be done: take heed lest any one make an attack on the house of the God of heaven, lest at any time there should be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons. ²⁴ Also this has been declared to you, with respect to all the priests, and Levites, the singers, porters, Nathinim and ministers of the house of God, let no tribute be paid to thee; thou shalt not have power to oppress them. ²⁵ And thou, Esdras, as the wisdom of God is in thy hand, appoint scribes and judges, that they may judge for all the people beyond the river, all that know the law of the Lord thy God; and ye shall make it known to him that knows not.

26And whosoever shall not do the law of God, and the law of the king readily, judgment shall be taken upon him, whether for death or for chastisement, or for a fine of his property, or casting into prison.

27Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, who has put it thus into the heart of the king, to glorify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem; ²⁸ and has given me favour in the eyes of the king, and of his councillors, and all the rulers of the king, the exalted ones. And I was strengthened according to the good hand of God upon me, and I gathered chief men of Israel to go up with me.

8And these are the heads of their families, the leaders that went up with me in the reign of Arthasatha the king of Babylon. ² Of the sons of Phinees; Gerson: of the sons of Ithamar; Daniel: of the sons of David; Attus. ³ Of the sons of Sachania, and of the sons of Phoros; Zacharias: and with him a company of a hundred and fifty. ⁴ Of the sons of Phaath-Moab; Eliana the son of Saraia, and with him two hundred that were males. ⁵ And of the sons of Zathoes; Sechenias the son of Aziel, and with him three hundred males. ⁶ And of the sons of Adin; Obeth the son of Jonathan, and with him fifty males. ⁷ And of the sons of Elam; Isæas the son of Athelia, and with him seventy males. ⁸ And of the sons of Saphatia; Zabadias the son of Michael, and with him eighty males. ⁹ And of the sons of Joab; Abadia the son of Jeiel, and with him two hundred and eighteen males. ¹⁰ And of the sons of Baani; Selimuth the son of Josephia, and with him a hundred and sixty males. ¹¹ And of the sons of Babi; Zacharias the son of Babi, and with him twenty-eight males. ¹² And of the sons of Asgad; Joanan the son of Accatan, and with him a hundred and ten males. ¹³ And of the sons of Adonicam were the last, and these were their names, Eliphalat, Jeel, and Samæa, and with them sixty males. ¹⁴ And of the sons of Baguæ, Uthai, and Zabud, and with him seventy males.

15And I gathered them to the river that comes to Evi, and we encamped there three days: and I reviewed the people and the priests, and found none of the sons of Levi there. ¹⁶ And I sent men of understanding to Eleazar, to Ariel, to Semeias, and to Alonam, and to Jarib, and to Elnatham, and to Nathan, and to Zacharias, and to Mesollam, and to Joarim, and to Elnathan. ¹⁷ And I forwarded them to the rulers with the money of the place, and I put words in their mouth to speak to their brethren the Athinim with the money of the place, that they should bring us singers for the house of our God. ¹⁸ And they came to us, as the good hand of our God was upon us, even a man of understanding of the sons of Mooli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel, and at the commencement came his sons and his brethren, eighteen. ¹⁹ And Asebia, and Isaia of the sons of Merari, his brethren and his sons, twenty. ²⁰ And of the Nathinim, whom David and the princes had appointed for the service of the Levites there were two hundred and twenty Nathinim; all were gathered by their names.

21And I proclaimed there a fast, at the river Aüe, that we should humble ourselves before our God, to seek of him a straight way for us, and for our children, and for all our property. ²² For I was ashamed to ask of the king a guard and horsemen to save us from the enemy in the way: for we had spoken to the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all that seek him, for good; but his power and his wrath are upon all that forsake him. ²³ So we fasted, and asked of our God concerning this; and he hearkened to us.

24And I gave charge to twelve of the chiefs of the priests, to Saraia, to Asabia, and ten of their brethren with them. ²⁵ And I weighed to them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of the first-fruits of the house of our God, which the king, and his councillors, and his princes, and all Israel that were found, had dedicated. ²⁶ I even weighed into their hands six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and a hundred silver vessels, and a hundred talents of gold; ²⁷ and twenty golden bowls, weighing about a thousand drachms, and superior vessels of fine shining brass, precious as gold. ²⁸ And I said to them, Ye are holy to the Lord; and the vessels are holy; and the silver and the gold are freewill-offerings to the Lord God of our fathers. ²⁹ Be watchful and keep them, until ye weigh them before the chief priests and the Levites, and the chiefs of families in Jerusalem, at the chambers of the house of the Lord. ³⁰ So the priests and the Levites took the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring to Jerusalem into the house of our God.

31And we departed from the river of Aüe on the twelfth day of the first month, to come to Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and delivered us from the hand of the enemy and adversary in the way. ³² And we came to Jerusalem, and abode there three days. ³³ And it came to pass on the fourth day that we weighed the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, in the house of our God, into the hand of Merimoth the son of Uria the priest;

and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinees, and with them Jozabad the son of Jesus, and Noadia the son of Banaia, the Levites. ³⁴ All things were reckoned by number and weight, and the whole weight was written down.

35At that time the children of the banishment that came from the captivity offered whole-burnt-offerings to the God of Israel, twelve calves for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, twelve goats for a sin-offering: all whole-burnt-offerings to the Lord. ³⁶ And they gave the king's mandate to the king's lieutenants, and the governors beyond the river: and they honoured the people and the house of God.

9And when these things were finished, the princes drew near to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands in their abominations, even the Chananite, the Ethite, the Pherezite, the Jebusite, the Ammonite, the Moabite, and the Moserite and the Amorite. ² For they have taken of their daughters for themselves and their sons; and the holy seed has passed among the nations of the lands, and the hand of the rulers has been first in this transgression. ³ And when I heard this thing, I rent my garments, and trembled, and plucked some of the hairs of my head and of my beard, and sat down mourning. ⁴ Then there assembled to me all that followed the word of the God of Israel, on account of the transgression of the captivity; and I remained mourning until the evening sacrifice.

5And at the evening sacrifice I rose up from my humiliation; and when I had rent my garments, then I trembled, and I bow myself on my knees, and spread out my hands to the Lord God, ⁶ and I said, O Lord, I am ashamed and confounded, O my God, to lift up my face to thee: for our transgressions have abounded over our head, and our trespasses have increased even to heaven. ⁷ From the days of our fathers we have been in a great trespass until this day: and because of our iniquities we, and our kings, and our children, have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the Gentiles by the sword, and by captivity, and by spoil, and with shame of our face, as at this day. ⁸ And now our God has dealt mercifully with us, so as to leave us to escape, and to give us an establishment in the place of his sanctuary, to enlighten our eyes, and to give a little quickening in our servitude. ⁹ For we are slaves, yet in our servitude the Lord our God has not deserted us; and he has extended favour to us in the sight of the kings of the Persians, to give us a quickening, that they should raise up the house of our God, and restore the desolate places of it, and to give us a fence in Juda and Jerusalem. ¹⁰ What shall we say, our God, after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments, ¹¹ which thou hast given us by the hand of thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, into which ye go to inherit it, is a land subject to disturbance by the removal of the people of the nations for their abominations, wherewith they have filled it from one end to the other by their uncleanness.

12And now give not your daughters to their sons, and take not of their daughters for your sons, neither shall ye seek their peace or their good for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and transmit it as an inheritance to your children for ever. ¹³ And after all that is come upon us because of our evil deeds, and our great trespass, it is clear that there is none such as our God, for thou hast lightly visited our iniquities, and given us deliverance; ¹⁴ whereas we have repeatedly broken thy commandments, and intermarried with the people of the lands: be not very angry with us to our utter destruction, so that there should be no remnant or escaping one. ¹⁵ O Lord God of Israel, thou art righteous; for we remain yet escaped, as at this day: behold, we are before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee on this account.

10So when Esdras had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and praying before the house of God, a very great assembly of Israel came together to him, men and women and youths; for the people wept, and wept aloud. ² And Sechenias the son of Jeel, of the sons of Elam, answered and said to Esdras, We have broken covenant with our God, and have taken strange wives of the nations of the land: yet now there is patience of hope to Israel concerning this thing. ³ Now then let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and their offspring, as thou shalt advise: ⁴ arise, and alarm them with the commands of our God; and let it be done according to the law. Rise up, for the matter is upon thee; and we are with thee: be strong and do.

5Then Esdras arose, and caused the rulers, the priests, and Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they would do according to this word: and they swore. ⁶ And Esdras rose up from before the house of God, and went to the treasury of Joanan the son of Elisub; he even went thither: he ate no bread, and drank no water; for he mourned over the unfaithfulness of them of the captivity. ⁷ And they made proclamation throughout Juda and Jerusalem to all the children of the captivity, that they should assemble at Jerusalem, saying, ⁸ Every one who shall not arrive within three days, as is the counsel of the rulers and the elders, all his substance shall be forfeited, and he shall be separated from the congregation of the captivity.

9So all the men of Juda and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem within the three days. This was the ninth month: on the twentieth day of the month all the people sat down in the street of the house of the Lord, because of their alarm concerning the word, and because of the storm. ¹⁰ And Esdras the priest arose, and said to them, Ye have broken covenant, and have taken strange wives, to add to the trespass of Israel. ¹¹ Now therefore give praise to the Lord God of our fathers, and do that which is pleasing in his sight: and separate yourselves from the peoples of the land, and from the strange wives.

12 Then all the congregation answered and said, This thy word is powerful upon us to do it. ¹³ But the people is numerous, and the season is stormy, and there is no power to stand without, and the work is more than enough for one day or for two; for we have greatly sinned in this matter. ¹⁴ Let now our rulers stand, and for all those in our cities who have taken strange wives, let them come at appointed times, and with them elders from every several city, and judges, to turn away the fierce wrath of our God from us concerning this matter. ¹⁵ Only Jonathan the son of Asael, and Jazias the son of Thecoe were with me concerning this; and Mesollam, and Sabbathai the Levite helped them.

16 And the children of the captivity did thus: and Esdras the priest, and heads of families according to their house were separated, and all by their names, for they returned in the first day of the tenth month to search out the matter. ¹⁷ And they made an end with all the men who had taken strange wives by the first day of the first month.

18 And there were found some of the sons of the priests who had taken strange wives: of the sons of Jesus the son of Josedec, and his brethren; Maasia, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gadalia. ¹⁹ And they pledged themselves to put away their wives, and offered a ram of the flock for a trespass-offering because of their trespass. ²⁰ And of the sons of Emmer; Anani, and Zabdia. ²¹ And of the sons of Eram; Masael, and Elia, and Samaia, and Jeel, and Ozia. ²² And of the sons of Phasur; Elionai, Maasia, and Ismael, and Nathanael, and Jozabad, and Elasa. ²³ And of the Levites; Jozabad, and Samu, and Colia (he is Colitas,) and Phetheia, and Judas, and Eliezer. ²⁴ And of the singers; Elisab: and of the porters; Solmen, and Telmen, and Oduth. ²⁵ Also of Israel: of the sons of Phoros; Ramia, and Azia, and Melchia, and Meamin, and Eleazar, and Asabia, and Banaia. ²⁶ And of the sons of Helam; Matthania, and Zacharia, and Jaïel, and Abdia, and Jarimoth, and Elia. ²⁷ And of the sons of Zathua; Elionai, Elisub, Matthanai, and Armoth, and Zabad, and Oziza. ²⁸ And of the sons of Babei; Joanan, Anania, and Zabub, and Thali. ²⁹ And of the sons of Banui; Mosollam, Maluch, Adaias, Jasub, and Saluia, and Remoth. ³⁰ And of the sons of Phaath Moab; Edne, and Chalel, and Banaia, Maasia, Matthania, Beseleel, and Banui, and Manasse. ³¹ And of the sons of Eram; Eliezer, Jesia, Melchia, Samaias, Semeon, ³² Benjamin, Baluch, Samaria. ³³ And of the sons of Asem; Metthania, Matthatha, Zadab, Eliphalet, Jerami, Manasse, Semei. ³⁴ And of the sons of Bani; Moodia, Amram, Uel, ³⁵ Banaia, Badaia, Chelkia, ³⁶ Uvania, Marimoth, Eliasiph, ³⁷ Matthania, Matthanai: ³⁸ and so did the children of Banui, and the children of Semei, ³⁹ and Selemia, and Nathan, and Adaia, ⁴⁰ Machadnabu, Sesei, Sariu, ⁴¹ Ezriel, and Selemia, and Samaria, ⁴² and Sellum, Amaria, Joseph. ⁴³ Of the sons of Nabu; Jael, Matthanias, Zabad, Zebennas, Jadai, and Joel, and Banaia.

44All these had taken strange wives, and had begotten sons of them.

11The words of Neemias the son of Chelcia. And it came to pass in the month Cheseleu, of the twentieth year, that I was in Susan the palace. ² And Anani, one of my brethren, came, he and some men of Juda; and I asked them concerning those that had escaped, who had been left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, The remnant, even those that are left of the captivity, are there in the land, in great distress and reproach: and the walls of Jerusalem are thrown down, and its gates are burnt with fire.

4And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for several days, and continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ⁵ And I said, Nay, I pray thee, O Lord God of heaven, the mighty, the great and terrible, keeping thy covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to those that keep his commandments: ⁶ let now thine ear be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee at this time, this day both day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and make confession for the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and the house of my father have sinned. ⁷ We have altogether broken covenant with thee, and we have not kept the commandments, and the ordinances, and the judgments, which thou didst command thy servant Moses. ⁸ Remember, I pray thee, the word wherewith thou didst charge thy servant Moses, saying, If ye break covenant with me, I will disperse you among the nations. ⁹ But if ye turn again to me, and keep my commandments, and do them; if ye should be scattered under the utmost bound of heaven, thence will I gather them, and I will bring them into the place which I have chosen to cause my name to dwell there. ¹⁰ Now they are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy great power, and with thy strong hand.

11Turn not away, I pray thee, O Lord, but let thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and cause him to find mercy in the sight of this man. Now I was the king's cup-bearer.

12And it came to pass in the month Nisan of the twentieth year of king Arthasastha, that the wine was before me: and I took the wine, and gave it to the king: and there was not another before him.

2And the king said to me, Why is thy countenance sad, and dost thou not control thyself? and now this is nothing but sorrow of heart. Then I was very much alarmed, ³ and I said to the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, forasmuch as the city, even the home of

the sepulchres of my fathers, has been laid waste, and her gates have been devoured with fire? ⁴ And the king said to me, For what dost thou ask thus? So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ And I said to the king, If it seem good to the king, and if thy servant shall have found favour in thy sight, I ask that thou wouldest send him into Juda, to the city of the sepulchres of my fathers; then will I rebuild it.

⁶And the king, and his concubine that sat next to him, said to me, For how long will thy journey be, and when wilt thou return? and the proposal was pleasing before the king, and he sent me away, and I appointed him a time. ⁷ And I said to the king, If it seem good to the king, let him give me letters to the governors beyond the river, so as to forward me till I come to Juda; ⁸ and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the garden which belongs to the king, that he may give me timber to cover the gates, and for the wall of the city, and for the house into which I shall enter. And the king gave to me, according as the good hand of God was upon me.

⁹And I came to the governors beyond the river, and I gave them the king's letters. (Now the king had sent with me captains of the army and horsemen.) ¹⁰ And Sanaballat the Aronite heard it, and Tobia the servant, the Ammonite, and it was grievous to them that a man was come to seek good for the children of Israel.

¹¹So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days. ¹² And I rose up by night, I and a few men with me; and I told no man what God put into my heart to do with Israel; and there was no beast with me, except the beast which I rode upon. ¹³ And I went forth by the gate of the valley by night, and to the mouth of the well of fig trees, and to the dung-gate: and I mourned over the wall of Jerusalem which they were destroying, and her gates were devoured with fire. ¹⁴ And I passed on to the fountain gate, and to the king's pool; and there was no room for the beast to pass under me. ¹⁵ And I went up by the wall of the brook by night, and mourned over the wall, and passed through the gate of the valley, and returned.

¹⁶And the sentinels knew not why I went, nor what I was doing; and until that time I told it not to the Jews, or to the priests, or to the nobles, or to the captains, or to the rest of the men who wrought the works. ¹⁷ Then I said to them, Ye see this evil, in which we are, how Jerusalem is desolate, and her gates have been set on fire: come, and let us build throughout the wall of Jerusalem, and we shall be no longer a reproach. ¹⁸ And I told them of the hand of God which was good upon me, also about the words of the king which he spoke to me: and I said, Let us arise and build. And their hands were strengthened for the good work.

19And Sanaballat the Aronite, and Tobia the servant, the Ammonite, and Gesam the Arabian, heard it, and they laughed us to scorn, and came to us, and said, What is this thing that ye are doing? are ye revolting against the king? ²⁰ And I answered them, and said to them, The God of heaven, he shall prosper us, and we his servants are pure, and we will build: but ye have no part, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

13Then Eliasub the high priest, and his brethren the priests, rose up, and built the sheep-gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even to the tower of the hundred they sanctified it, to the tower of Anameel. ² And they builded by the side of the men of Jericho, and by the side of the sons of Zacchur, the son of Amari.

3And the sons of Asana built the fish-gate; they roofed it, and covered in its doors, and bolts, and bars. ⁴ And next to them the order reached to Ramoth the son of Uria, the son of Accos, and next to them Mosollam son of Barachias the son of Mazebel took his place: and next to them Sadoc the son of Baana took his place. ⁵ And next to them the Thecoim took their place; but the Adorim applied not their neck to their service.

6And Joida the son of Phasec, and Mesulam son of Basodia, repaired the old gate; they covered it in, and set up its doors, and its bolts, and its bars. ^{6a} And next to them repaired Maltias the Gabaonite, and Evaron the Meronothite, the men of Gabaon and Maspha, to the throne of the governor on this side the river. ⁸ And next to him Oziel the son of Arachias of the smiths, carried on the repairs: and next to them Ananias the son of one of the apothecaries repaired, and they finished Jerusalem to the broad wall. ⁹ And next to them repaired Raphæa the son of Sur, the ruler of half the district round about Jerusalem. ¹⁰ And next to them repaired Jedaia the son of Eromaph, and that in front of his house: and next to him repaired Attuth son of Asabania. ¹¹ And next to him repaired Melchias son of Heram, and Asub son of Phaath Moab, even to the tower of the furnaces. ¹² And next to him repaired Sallum the son of Alloes, the ruler of half the district round about Jerusalem, he and his daughters.

13Anun and the inhabitants of Zano repaired the gate of the valley: they built it, and set up its doors, and its bolts, and its bars, and a thousand cubits of the wall as far as the dung-gate.

14And Melchia the son of Rechab, the ruler of the district round about Bethaccharim, repaired the dung-gate, he and his sons; and they covered it, and set up its doors, and its bolts, and its bars.

15But Solomon the son of Choleze repaired the gate of the fountain, the ruler of part of Maspha; he built it, and covered it, and set up its doors and its bars, and the wall of the pool of the skins by the meadow of the king, and as far as the steps that lead down from the city of David. ¹⁶ After him repaired Neemias son of Azabuch, ruler of half the district round about Bethsur, as far as the garden of David's sepulchre, and as far as the artificial pool, and as far as the house of the mighty men. ¹⁷ After him repaired the Levites, even Raum the son of Bani: next to him repaired Asabia, ruler of half the district round about Keila, in his district. ¹⁸ And after him repaired his brethren, Benei son of Enadad, ruler of half the district round about Keila. ¹⁹ And next to him repaired Azur the son of Joshua, ruler of Masphai, another portion of the tower of ascent, where it meets the corner. ²⁰ After him repaired Baruch the son of Zabub, a second portion, from the corner as far as the door of the house of Eliasub the high priest. ²¹ After him repaired Meremoth the son of Uria the son of Accos, a second part from the door of the house of Eliasub to the end of the house of Eliasub. ²² And after him repaired the priests, the men of Ecchechar. ²³ And after him repaired Benjamin and Asub over against their house: and after him repaired Azarias son of Maasias the son of Ananias, the parts near to his house. ²⁴ After him repaired Bani the son of Adad, another portion from the house of Azaria as far as the corner and to the turning, ²⁵ of Phalach the son of Uzai, opposite the corner, and where is also the tower that projects from the king's house, even the upper one of the prison-house: and after him repaired Phadæa the son of Phoros. ²⁶ And the Nathinim dwelt in Ophal, as far as the garden of the water-gate eastward, and there is the projecting tower.

27And after them the Thecoim repaired, another portion opposite the great projecting tower, even as far as the wall of Ophla.

28The priests repaired above the horse-gate, every man over against his own house. ²⁹ And after him Sadduc the son of Emmer repaired opposite his own house: and after him repaired Samæa son of Sechenia, guard of the east-gate. ³⁰ After him repaired Anania son of Selemia, and Anom, the sixth son of Seleph, another portion: after him Mesulam the son of Barachia repaired over against his treasury. ³¹ After him repaired Melchia the son of Sarephi as far as the house of the Nathinim, and the chapmen over against the gate of Maphecad, and as far as the steps of the corner. ³² And between that and the sheep-gate the smiths and chapmen repaired.

33Now it came to pass, when Sanaballat heard that we were building the wall, that it was grievous to him, and he was very angry, and railed against the Jews. ³⁴ And he said before his brethren (that is the army of the Samaritans) Is it true that these Jews are building their city? do they indeed offer sacrifices? will they prevail? and will they this day restore the stones, after they have been burnt and made a heap of rubbish? ³⁵ And Tobias the

Ammanite came near to him, and said to them, Do they sacrifice or eat in their place? shall not a fox go up and pull down their wall of stones?

36Hear, O our God, for we have become a scorn; and return thou their reproach upon their head, and make them a scorn in a land of captivity, ³⁷ and do not cover their iniquity.

14But it came to pass, when Sanaballat and Tobia, and the Arabians, and the Ammanites, heard that the building of the walls of Jerusalem was advancing, and that the breaches began to be stopped, that it appeared very grievous to them. ² And all of them assembled together, to come to fight against Jerusalem, and to destroy it utterly. ³ So we prayed to our God and set watchmen against them day and night, because of them. ⁴ And Juda said, The strength of the enemies is broken, yet there is much rubbish, and we shall not be able to build the wall. ⁵ And they that afflicted us said, They shall not know, and they shall not see, until we come into the midst of them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.

6And it came to pass, when the Jews who lived near them came, that they said to us, They are coming up against us from every quarter. ⁷ So I set men in the lowest part of the place behind the wall in the lurking-places, I even set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. ⁸ And I looked, and arose, and said to the nobles, and to the captains, and to the rest of the people, Be not afraid of them: remember our great and terrible God, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

9And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was made known to us, and God had frustrated their counsel, that we all returned to the wall, every man to his work. ¹⁰ And it came to pass from that day that half of them that had been driven forth, wrought the work, and half of them kept guard; and there were spears, and shields, and bows, and breast-plates, and rulers behind the whole house of Juda, ¹¹ even of them that were building the wall:—and those who carried the burdens were under arms: each with one hand wrought his work, and with the other held his dart. ¹² And the builders wrought each man having his sword girt upon his loins, and so they built: and the trumpeter with his trumpet next to him. ¹³ And I said to the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and abundant, and we are dispersed upon the wall, each at a great distance from his brother. ¹⁴ In whatsoever place ye shall hear the sound of the cornet, thither gather yourselves together to us; and our God shall fight for us.

15So we continued labouring at the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning until the stars appeared. ¹⁶ And at that time I

said to the people, Lodge ye every man with his servant in the midst of Jerusalem, and let the night be a watch-time to you, and the day a work-time.

¹⁷ And I was there, and the watchmen behind me, and there was not a man of us that put off his garments.

¹⁵ And the cry of the people and their wives was great against their brethren the Jews. ² And some said, We are numerous with our sons and our daughters; so we will take corn, and eat, and live. ³ And some said, As to our fields and vineyards and houses, let us pledge them, and we will take corn, and eat. ⁴ And some said, We have borrowed money for the king's tributes:—our fields, and our vineyards, and houses are pledged. ⁵ And now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children are as their children: yet, behold, we are reducing our sons and our daughters to slavery, and some of our daughters are enslaved: and there is no power of our hands, for our fields and our vineyards belong to the nobles.

⁶ And I was much grieved as I heard their cry and these words. ⁷ And my heart took counsel within me, and I contended against the nobles, and the princes, and I said to them, Should every man demand of his brother what ye demand? And I appointed against them a great assembly, ⁸ and I said to them, We of our free-will have redeemed our brethren the Jews that were sold to the Gentiles; and do ye sell your brethren? and shall they be delivered to us? And they were silent, and found no answer. ⁹ And I said, The thing which ye do is not good; ye will not so walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the Gentiles our enemies. ¹⁰ Both my brethren, and my acquaintances, and I, have lent them money and corn: let us now leave off this exaction. ¹¹ Restore to them, I pray, as at this day, their fields, and their vineyards, and their olive-yards, and their houses, and bring forth to them corn and wine and oil of the money. ¹² And they said, We will restore, and we will not exact of them; we will do thus as thou sayest. Then I called the priests, and bound them by oath to do according to this word.

¹³ And I shook out my garment, and said, So may God shake out every man who shall not keep to this word, from his house, and from his labours, he shall be even thus shaken out, as an outcast and empty. And all the congregation said, Amen, and they praised the Lord: and the people did this thing.

¹⁴ From the day that he charged me to be their ruler in the land of Juda, from the twentieth year even to the thirty-second year of Arthasastha, twelve years, I and my brethren ate not provision extorted from them. ¹⁵ But as for the former acts of extortion wherein those who were before me oppressed them, they even took of them their last money, forty didrachms for bread and wine; and the very outcasts of them exercised authority over the people: but I did not so, because of the fear of God. ¹⁶ Also in the work of the wall I

treated them not with rigour, I bought not land: and all that were gathered together came thither to the work. ¹⁷ And the Jews, to the number of a hundred and fifty men, besides those coming to us from the nations round about, were at my table. ¹⁸ And there came to me for one day one calf, and I had six choice sheep and a goat; and every ten days wine in abundance of all sorts: yet with these I required not the bread of extortion, because the bondage was heavy upon this people.

19Remember me, O God, for good, in all that I have done to this people.

16Now it came to pass, when Sanaballat, and Tobias, and Gesam the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had built the wall, and that there was no opening left therein; (but hitherto I had not set up the doors on the gates;) ² that Sanaballat and Gesam sent to me, saying, Come and let us meet together in the villages in the plain of Ono. But they were plotting to do me mischief. ³ So I sent messengers to them, saying, I am doing a great work, and I shall not be able to come down, lest the work should cease: as soon as I shall have finished it, I will come down to you. ⁴ And they sent to me again to this effect; and I sent them word accordingly.

5Then Sanaballat sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. ⁶ And in it was written, It has been reported among the Gentiles that thou and the Jews are planning to revolt: therefore thou art building the wall, and thou wilt be a king to them. ⁷ And moreover thou hast appointed prophets to thyself, that thou mightest dwell in Jerusalem as a king over Juda: and now these words will be reported to the king. Now then, come, let us take counsel together. ⁸ And I sent to him, saying, It has not happened according to these words, even as thou sayest, for thou framest them falsely out of thy heart. ⁹ For all were trying to alarm us, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from this work, and it shall not be done. Now therefore I have strengthened my hands.

10And I came into the house of Semei the son of Dalaia the son of Metabeel, and he was shut up; and he said, Let us assemble together in the house of God, in the midst of it, and let us shut the doors of it; for they are coming by night to slay thee. ¹¹ And I said, Who is the man that shall enter into the house, that he may live? ¹² And I observed, and, behold, God had not sent him, for the prophecy was a fable devised against me: ¹³ and Tobias and Sanaballat had hired against me a multitude, that I might be frightened, and do this, and sin, and become to them an ill name, that they might reproach me.

14Remember, O God, Tobias and Sanaballat, according to these their deeds, and the prophetess Noadia, and the rest of the prophets who tried to alarm me.

15So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ And it came to pass, when all our enemies heard of it, that all the nations round about us feared, and great alarm fell upon them, and they knew that it was of our God that this work should be finished.

17And in those days letters came to Tobias from many nobles of Juda, and those of Tobias came to them. ¹⁸ For many in Juda were bound to him by oath, because he was son-in-law of Sechenias the son of Herae; and Jonan his son had taken the daughter of Mesulam the son of Barachia to wife. ¹⁹ And they reported his words to me, and carried out my words to him: and Tobias sent letters to terrify me.

17And it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed, ² that I gave charge to Ananias my brother, and Ananias the ruler of the palace, over Jerusalem: for he was a true man, and one that feared God beyond many. ³ And I said to them, The gates of Jerusalem shall not be opened till sunrise; and while they are still watching, let the doors be shut, and bolted; and set watches of them that dwell in Jerusalem, every man at his post, and every man over against his house.

4Now the city was wide and large; and the people were few in it, and the houses were not built. ⁵ And God put it into my heart, and I gathered the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, into companies: and I found a register of the company that came up first, and I found written in it as follows:

6Now these are the children of the country, that came up from captivity, of the number which Nabuchodonosor king of Babylon carried away, and they returned to Jerusalem and to Juda, every man to his city; ⁷ with Zorobabel, and Jesus, and Neemia, Azaria, and Reelma, Naemani, Mardochæus, Balsan, Maspharath, Esdra, Boguia, Inaum, Baana, Masphar, men of the people of Israel.

8The children of Phoros, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two.

9The children of Saphatia, three hundred and seventy-two.

10The children of Era, six hundred and fifty-two.

- 11The children of Phaath Moab, with the children of Jesus and Joab, two thousand six hundred and eighteen.
- 12The children of Ælam, a thousand two hundred and fifty-four.
- 13The children of Zathuia, eight hundred and forty-five.
- 14The children of Zacchu, seven hundred and sixty.
- 15The children of Banui, six hundred and forty-eight.
- 16The children of Bebi, six hundred and twenty-eight.
- 17The children of Asgad, two thousand three hundred and twenty-two.
- 18The children of Adonicam, six hundred and sixty-seven.
- 19The children of Bagoi, two thousand and sixty-seven.
- 20The children of Edin, six hundred and fifty-five.
- 21The children of Ater, the son of Ezekias, ninety-eight.
- 22The children of Esam, three hundred and twenty-eight.
- 23The children of Besei, three hundred and twenty-four.
- 24The children of Arip, a hundred and twelve: the children of Asen, two hundred and twenty-three.
- 25The children of Gabaon, ninety-five.
- 26The children of Bæthalem, a hundred and twenty-three: the children of Atopha, fifty-six.
- 27The children of Anathoth, a hundred and twenty-eight.
- 28The men of Bethasmoth, forty-two.

- 29The men of Cariatharim, Caphira, and Beroth, seven hundred and forty-three.
- 30The men of Arama and Gabaa, six hundred and twenty.
- 31The men of Machemas, a hundred and twenty-two.
- 32The men of Bæthel and Ai, a hundred and twenty-three.
- 33The men of Nabia, a hundred and fifty-two.
- 34The men of Elamaar, one thousand two hundred and fifty-two.
- 35The children of Eram, three hundred and twenty.
- 36The children of Jericho, three hundred and forty-five.
- 37The children of Lodadid and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-one.
- 38The children of Sanana, three thousand nine hundred and thirty.
- 39The priests; the sons of Jodae, pertaining to the house of Jesus, nine hundred and seventy-three.
- 40The children of Emmer, one thousand and fifty-two.
- 41The children of Phaseur, one thousand two hundred and forty-seven.
- 42The children of Eram, a thousand and seventeen.
- 43The Levites; the children of Jesus the son of Cadmiel, with the children of Uduia, seventy-four.
- 44The singers; the children of Asaph, a hundred and forty-eight.
- 45The porters; the children of Salum, the children of Ater, the children of Telmon, the children of Acub, the children of Atita, the children of Sabi, a hundred and thirty-eight.

46The Nathinim; the children of Sea, the children of Aspha, the children of Tabaoth, ⁴⁷ the children of Kiras, the children of Asuia, the children of Phadon, ⁴⁸ the children of Labana, the children of Agaba, the children of Selmei, ⁴⁹ the children of Anan, the children of Gadel, the children of Gaar, ⁵⁰ the children of Raaia, the children of Rasson, the children of Necoda, ⁵¹ the children of Gezam, the children of Ozi, the children of Phese, ⁵² the children of Besi, the children of Meinon, the children of Nephosasi, ⁵³ the children of Bacbuc, the children of Achipha, the children of Arur, ⁵⁴ the children of Basaloth, the children of Mida, the children of Adasan, ⁵⁵ the children of Barcue, the children of Sisarath, the children of Thema, ⁵⁶ the children of Nisia, the children of Atipha. ⁵⁷ The children of the servants of Solomon; the children of Sutei, the children of Sapharat, the children of Pherida, ⁵⁸ the children of Jelel, the children of Dorcon, the children of Gadael, ⁵⁹ the children of Saphatia, the children of Ettel, the children of Phacarath, the children of Sabaim, the children of Emim. ⁶⁰ All the Nathinim, and children of the servants of Solomon, were three hundred and ninety-two.

61And these went up from Thelmeleth, Thelaresa, Charub, Eron, Jemer: but they could not declare the houses of their families, or their seed, whether they were of Israel. ⁶² The children of Dalaia, the children of Tobia, the children of Necoda, six hundred and forty-two.

63And of the priests; the children of Ebia, the children of Acos, the children of Berzelli, for they took wives of the daughters of Berzelli the Galaadite, and they were called by their name. ⁶⁴ These sought the pedigree of their company, and it was not found, and they were removed as polluted from the priesthood. ⁶⁵ And the Athersastha said, that they should not eat of the most holy things, until a priest should stand up to give light.

66And all the congregation was about forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty, ⁶⁷ besides their men-servants and their maid-servants: these were seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven: and the singing-men and singing-women, two hundred and forty-five. ⁶⁹ Two thousand seven hundred asses.

70And part of the heads of families gave into the treasury to Neemias for the work a thousand pieces of gold, fifty bowls, and thirty priests' garments. ⁷¹ And some of the heads of families gave into the treasuries of the work, twenty thousand pieces of gold, and two thousand three hundred pounds of silver. ⁷² And the rest of the people gave twenty thousand pieces of gold, and two thousand two hundred pounds of silver, and sixty-seven priests' garments.

73And the priests, and Levites, and porters, and singers, and some of the people, and the Nathinim, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities.

18And the seventh month arrived, and the children of Israel were settled in their cities; and all the people were gathered as one man to the broad place before the water-gate, and they told Esdras the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord commanded Israel. ² So Esdras the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and every one who had understanding was present to hearken, on the first day of the seventh month. ³ And he read in it from the time of sun-rise to the middle of the day, before the men and the women; and they understood it, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁴ And Esdras the scribe stood on a wooden stage, and there stood next to him Mattathias, and Samæas, and Ananias, and Urias, and Chelcia, and Maasia, on his right hand; and on his left Phadæas, and Misael, and Melchias, and Asom, and Asabadma, and Zacharias, and Mesollam. ⁵ And Esdras opened the book before all the people, for he was above the people; and it came to pass when he had opened it, that all the people stood. ⁶ And Esdras blessed the Lord, the great God: and all the people answered, and said, Amen, lifting up their hands: and they bowed down and worshipped the Lord with their face to the ground. ⁷ And Jesus and Banaïas and Sarabias instructed the people in the law, and the people stood in their place. ⁸ And they read in the book of the law of God, and Esdras taught, and instructed them distinctly in the knowledge of the Lord, and the people understood the law in the reading.

9And Neemias, and Esdras the priest and scribe, and the Levites, and they that instructed the people, spoke and said to all the people, It is a holy day to the Lord our God; do not mourn, nor weep. For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ And the governor said to them, Go, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions to them that have nothing; for the day is holy to our Lord: and faint not, for the Lord is our strength. ¹¹ And the Levites caused all the people to be silent, saying, Be silent, for it is a holy day, and despond not. ¹² So all the people departed to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, for they understood the words which he made known to them.

13And on the second day the heads of families assembled with all the people, also the priests and Levites, to Esdras the scribe, to attend to all the words of the law. ¹⁴ And they found written in the law which the Lord commanded Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths, in the feast in the seventh month: ¹⁵ and that they should sound with trumpets in all their cities, and in Jerusalem. And Esdras said, Go forth to the mountain, and bring branches of olive, and branches of cypress trees, and branches of myrtle, and branches of palm trees, and branches of every thick tree, to make booths, according to that which was written. ¹⁶ And the people went forth,

and brought them, and made booths for themselves, each one upon his roof, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the streets of the city, and as far as the gate of Ephraim. ¹⁷ And all the congregation who had returned from the captivity, made booths, and dwelt in booths: for the children of Israel had not done so from the days of Jesus the son of Naue until that day: and there was great joy.

18And Esdras read in the book of the law of God daily, from the first day even to the last day: and they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day a solemn assembly, according to the ordinance.

19Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel assembled with fasting, and in sackcloths, and with ashes on their head. ² And the children of Israel separated themselves from every stranger, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers. ³ And they stood in their place, and read in the book of the law of the Lord their God: and they confessed their sins to the Lord, and worshipped the Lord their God. ⁴ And there stood upon the stairs, of the Levites, Jesus, and the sons of Cadmiel, Sechenia the son of Sarabia, sons of Choneni; and they cried with a loud voice to the Lord their God. ⁵ And the Levites, Jesus and Cadmiel, said, Rise up, bless the Lord our God for ever and ever: and let them bless thy glorious name, and exalt it with all blessing and praise.

6And Esdras said, Thou art the only true Lord; thou madest the heaven, and the heaven of heavens, and all their array, the earth, and all things that are in it, the seas, and all things in them; and thou quickenest all things, and the hosts of heaven worship thee.

7Thou art the Lord God, thou didst choose Abram, and broughtest him out of the land of the Chaldeans, and gavest him the name of Abraam: ⁸ and thou foundest his heart faithful before thee, and didst make a covenant with him to give to him and to his seed the land of the Chananites, and the Chettites, and Amorites, and Pherezites, and Jebusites, and Gergesites; and thou hast confirmed thy words, for thou art righteous.

9And thou sawest the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and thou heardest their cry at the Red Sea. ¹⁰ And thou shewedst signs and wonders in Egypt, on Pharao and all his servants, and on all the people of his land: for thou knowest that they behaved insolently against them: and thou madest thyself a name, as at this day. ¹¹ And thou didst cleave the sea before them, and they passed through the midst of the sea on dry land; and thou didst cast into the deep them that were about to pursue them, as a stone in the mighty water.

12And thou guidedst them by day by a pillar of cloud, and by night by a pillar of fire, to enlighten for them the way wherein they should walk. ¹³ Also thou camest down upon mount Sina, and thou spakest to them out of heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and laws of truth, ordinances, and good commandments. ¹⁴ And thou didst make known to them thy holy sabbath; thou didst enjoin upon them commandments, and ordinances, and a law, by the hand of thy servant Moses. ¹⁵ And thou gavest them bread from heaven for their food, and thou broughtest them forth water from a rock for their thirst; and thou badest them go in to inherit the land over which thou stretchedst out thy hand to give it them.

16But they and our fathers behaved proudly, and hardened their neck, and did not hearken to thy commandments, ¹⁷ and refused to listen, and remembered not thy wonders which thou wroughtest with them; and they hardened their neck, and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt: but thou, O God, art merciful and compassionate, long-suffering, and abundant in mercy, and thou didst not forsake them. ¹⁸ And still farther they even made to themselves a molten calf, and said, These are the gods that brought us up out of Egypt: and they wrought great provocations.

19Yet thou in thy great compassions didst not forsake them in the wilderness: thou didst not turn away from them the pillar of the cloud by day, to guide them in the way, nor the pillar of fire by night, to enlighten for them the way wherein they should walk. ²⁰ And thou gavest thy good Spirit to instruct them, and thou didst not withhold thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water in their thirst. ²¹ And thou didst sustain them forty years in the wilderness; thou didst not allow anything to fail them: their garments did not wax old, and their feet were not bruised.

22Moreover thou gavest them kingdoms, and didst divide nations to them: and they inherited the land of Seon king of Esebon, and the land of Og king of Basan. ²³ And thou didst multiply their children as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land of which thou spokest to their fathers; ²⁴ and they inherited it: and thou didst destroy from before them the dwellers in the land of the Chananites, and thou gavest into their hands them and their kings, and the nations of the land, to do unto them as it pleased them. ²⁵ And they took lofty cities, and inherited houses full of all good things, wells dug, vineyards, and oliveyards, and every fruit tree in abundance: so they ate, and were filled, and grew fat, and rioted in thy great goodness.

26But they turned, and revolted from thee, and cast thy law behind their backs; and they slew thy prophets, who testified against them to turn them back to thee, and they wrought great provocations. ²⁷ Then thou gavest them into the hand of them that afflicted them, and they did afflict them: and

they cried to thee in the time of their affliction, and thou didst hear them from thy heaven, and in thy great compassions gavest them deliverers, and didst save them from the hand of them that afflicted them.

28But when they rested, they did evil again before thee: so thou leftest them in the hands of their enemies, and they ruled over them: and they cried again to thee, and thou heardest them from heaven, and didst deliver them in thy great compassions. ²⁹ And thou didst testify against them, to bring them back to thy law: but they hearkened not, but sinned against thy commandments and thy judgments, which if a man do, he shall live in them; and they turned their back, and hardened their neck, and heard not. ³⁰ Yet thou didst bear long with them many years, and didst testify to them by thy Spirit by the hand of thy prophets: but they hearkened not; so thou gavest them into the hand of the nations of the land. ³¹ But thou in thy many mercies didst not appoint them to destruction, and didst not forsake them; for thou art strong, and merciful, and pitiful.

32And now, O our God, the powerful, the great, the mighty, and the terrible, keeping thy covenant and thy mercy, let not all the trouble seem little in thy sight which has come upon us, and our kings, and our princes, and our priests, and our prophets, and our fathers, and upon all thy people, from the days of the kings of Assur even to this day. ³³ But thou art righteous in all the things that come upon us; for thou hast wrought faithfully, but we have greatly sinned. ³⁴ And our kings, and our princes, and our priests, and our fathers, have not performed thy law, and have not given heed to thy commandments, and have not kept thy testimonies which thou didst testify to them. ³⁵ And they did not serve thee in thy kingdom, and in thy great goodness which thou gavest to them, and in the large and fat land which thou didst furnish before them, and they turned not from their evil devices. ³⁶ Behold, we are servants this day, and as for the land which thou gavest to our fathers to eat the fruit of it and the good things of it, behold, we are servants upon it: ³⁷ and its produce is abundant for the kings whom thou didst appoint over us because of our sins; and they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, as it pleases them, and we are in great affliction.

20And in regard to all these circumstances we make a covenant, and write it, and our princes, our Levites, and our priests, set their seal to it.

2And over them that sealed were Neemias the Artasastha, son of Achalia, and Zedekias, ³ the son of Aræa, and Azaria, and Jeremia, ⁴ Phasur, Amaria, Melchia, ⁵ Attus, Sebani, Maluch, ⁶ Iram, Meramoth, Abdia, ⁷ Daniel, Gannathon, Baruch, ⁸ Mesulam, Abia, Miamin, ⁹ Maazia, Belgai, Samaia; these were priests.

10And the Levites; Jesus the son of Azania, Banaiu of the sons of Enadad, Cadmiel ¹¹ and his brethren, Sabania, Oduia, Calitan, Phelia, Anan, ¹² Micha, Roob, Asebias, ¹³ Zacchor, Sarabia, Sebania, ¹⁴ Odum, the sons of Banuæ.

15The heads of the people; Phoros, Phaath Moab, Elam, Zathuia, ¹⁶ the sons of Bani, Asgad, Bebai, ¹⁷ Adania, Bagoi, Hedin, ¹⁸ Ater, Ezekia, Azur, ¹⁹ Oduia, Esam, Besi, ²⁰ Ariph, Anathoth, Nobai, ²¹ Megaphes, Mesullam, Ezir, ²² Mesozebel, Saduc, Jeddua, ²³ Phaltia, Anan, Anæa, ²⁴ Osee, Anania, Asub, ²⁵ Aloes, Phalaï, Sobec, ²⁶ Reum, Essabana, Maasia, ²⁷ and Aia, Ænan, Enam, ²⁸ Maluch, Eram, Baana.

29And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nathinim, and every one who drew off from the nations of the land to the law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, every one who had knowledge and understanding, ³⁰ were urgent with their brethren, and bound them under a curse, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in the law of God, which was given by the hand of Moses, the servant of God; to keep and to do all the commandments of the Lord, and his judgments, and his ordinances; ³¹ and that we will not, they said, give our daughters to the people of the land, nor will we take their daughters to our sons. ³² And as for the people of the land who bring wares and all manner of merchandise to sell on the sabbath-day, we will not buy of them on the sabbath or on the holy day: and we will leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.

33And we will impose ordinances upon ourselves, to levy on ourselves the third part of a didrachm yearly for the service of the house of our God; ³⁴ the shewbread, and the continual meat-offering, and for the continual whole-burnt-offering, of the sabbaths, of the new moon, for the feasts, and for the holy things, and the sin-offerings, to make atonement for Israel, and for the works of the house of our God.

35And we cast lots for the office of wood-bearing, we the priests, and the Levites, and the people, to bring wood into the house of our God, according to the house of our families, at certain set times, year by year, to burn on the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the law: ³⁶ and to bring the first-fruits of our land, and the first-fruits of the fruit of every tree, year by year, into the house of the Lord: ³⁷ the first-born of our sons, and of our cattle, as it is written in the law, and the first-born of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, for the priests that minister in the house of our God. ³⁸ And the first-fruits of our corn, and the fruit of every tree, of wine, and of oil, will we bring to the priests to the treasury of the house of God; and a tithe of our land to the Levites: for the Levites themselves shall receive tithes in all the cities of the land we cultivate. ³⁹

And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites in the tithes of the Levite: and the Levites shall bring up the tenth part of their tithes to the house of our God, into the treasuries of the house of God. ⁴⁰ For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring into the treasuries the first-fruits of the corn, and wine, and oil; and there are the holy vessels, and the priests, and the ministers, and the porters, and the singers: and we will not forsake the house of our God.

21 And the chiefs of the people dwelt in Jerusalem: and the rest of the people cast lots, to bring one of every ten to dwell in Jerusalem the holy city, and nine parts in the other cities. ² And the people blessed all the men that volunteered to dwell in Jerusalem.

3 Now these are the chiefs of the province who dwelt in Jerusalem, and in the cities of Juda; every man dwelt in his possession in their cities: Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the Nathinim, and the children of the servants of Solomon.

4 And there dwelt in Jerusalem some of the children of Juda, and of the children of Benjamin. Of the children of Juda; Athaia son of Azia, the son of Zacharia, the son of Samaria, the son of Saphatia, the son of Maleleel, and some of the sons of Phares; ⁵ and Maasia son of Baruch, son of Chalaza, son of Ozia, son of Adaia, son of Joarib, son of Zacharias, son of Seloni. ⁶ All the sons of Phares who dwelt in Jerusalem were four hundred and sixty-eight men of might. ⁷ And these were the children of Benjamin; Selo son of Mesulam, son of Joad, son of Phadaia, son of Coleia, son of Maasias, son of Ethiel, son of Jesia. ⁸ And after him Gebe, Seli, nine hundred and twenty-eight. ⁹ And Joel son of Zechri was overseer over them: and Juda son of Asana was second in the city.

10 Of the priests: both Jadia son of Joarib, and Jachin. ¹¹ Saraia, son of Elchia, son of Mesulam, son of Sadduc, son of Marioth, son of Aethoth, was over the house of God. ¹² And their brethren doing the work of the house were eight hundred and twenty-two: and Adaia son of Jeroam, son of Phalalia, son of Amasi, son of Zacharia, son of Phassur, son of Melchia, ¹³ and his brethren, chiefs of families, two hundred and forty-two: and Amasia son of Esdriel, son of Mesarimith, son of Emmer, ¹⁴ and his brethren, mighty men of war, a hundred and twenty-eight: and their overseer was Badiel son of one of the great men.

15 And of the Levites; Samaia, son of Esricam, ¹⁷ Matthanias son of Micha, and Jobeb son of Samui, ¹⁸ two hundred and eighty-four.

19And the porters; Acub, Telamin, and their brethren, a hundred and seventy-two.

22And the overseer of the Levites was the son of Bani, son of Ozi, the son of Asabia, the son of Micha. Of the sons of Asaph the singers some were over the house of God, ²³ for so was the king's commandment concerning them.

24And Phathaia son of Baseza was in attendance on the king in every matter for the people, ²⁵ and with regard to villages in their country district: and some of the children of Juda dwelt in Cariatharhoc, ²⁶ and in Jesu, ²⁷ and in Bersabee: ³⁰ and their villages were Lachis and her lands: and they pitched their tents in Beersabee. ³¹ And the children of Benjamin dwelt from Gabaa to Machmas. ³⁶ And of the Levites there were divisions to Juda and to Benjamin.

22Now these are the priests and the Levites that went up with Zorobabel the son of Salathiel and Jesus: Saraia, Jeremia, Esdra, ² Amaria, Maluch, ³ Sechenia. ⁷ These were the chiefs of the priests, and their brethren in the days of Jesus.

8And the Levites were, Jesus, Banui, Cadmiel, Sarabia, Jodae, Matthania: he was over the bands, and his brethren ⁹ were appointed to the daily courses.

10And Jesus begot Joakim, and Joakim begot Eliasib, and Eliasib begot Jodae, ¹¹ and Jodae begot Jonathan, and Jonathan begot Jadu. ¹² And in the days of Joakim, his brethren the priests and the heads of families were, belonging to Saraia, Amaria; to Jeremia, Anania; ¹³ to Esdra, Mesulam; to Amaria, Joanan; ¹⁴ to Amaluch, Jonathan; to Sechenia, Joseph; ¹⁵ to Are, Mannas; to Marioth, Elcai; ¹⁶ to Adadai, Zacharia; to Ganathoth, Mesolam; ¹⁷ to Abia, Zechri; to Miamin, Maadai; to Pheleti, one; ¹⁸ to Balgas, Samue; to Semia, Jonathan; ¹⁹ to Joarib, Matthanai; to Edio, Ozi; ²⁰ to Salai, Callai; to Amec, Abed; ²¹ to Elkia, Asabias; to Jedeiu, Nathanael.

22The Levites in the days of Eliasib, Joada, and Joa, and Joanan, and Idua, were recorded heads of families: also the priests, in the reign of Darius the Persian. ²³ And the sons of Levi, heads of families, were written in the book of the chronicles, even to the days of Joanan son of Elisue. ²⁴ And the heads of the Levites were Asabia, and Sarabia, and Jesu: and the sons of Cadmiel, and their brethren over against them, were to sing hymns of praise, according to the commandment of David the man of God, course by course.

25When I gathered the porters, ²⁶ it was in the days of Joakim son of Jesus, son of Josedec, and in the days of Neemia: and Esdras the priest was scribe.

27And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep a feast of dedication and gladness with thanksgiving, and they sounded cymbals with songs, and had psalteries and harps. ²⁸ And the sons of the singers were assembled both from the neighbourhood round about to Jerusalem, and from the villages, ²⁹ and from the country: for the singers built themselves villages by Jerusalem. ³⁰ And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and they purified the people, and the porters, and the wall.

31And they brought up the princes of Juda on the wall, and they appointed two great companies for thanksgiving, and they passed on the right hand on the wall of the dung-gate. ³² And after them went Osaia, and half the princes of Juda, ³³ and Azarias, and Esdras, and Mesollam, ³⁴ and Juda, and Benjamin, and Samaias and Jeremia. ³⁵ And some of the sons of the priests with trumpets, Zacharias son of Jonathan, son of Samaias, son of Matthanias, son of Michaia, son of Zacchur, son of Asaph: ³⁶ and his brethren, Samaia, and Oziel, Gelol, Jama, Aia, Nathanael, and Juda, Anani, to praise with the hymns of David the man of God; ³⁷ and Esdras the scribe was before them, at the gate, to praise before them, and they went up by the steps of the city of David, in the ascent of the wall, above the house of David, even to the water-gate ³⁹ of Ephraim, and to the fish-gate, and by the tower of Anameel, and as far as the sheep-gate. ⁴² And the singers were heard, and were numbered. ⁴³ And in that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced; for God had made them very joyful: and their wives and their children rejoiced: and the joy in Jerusalem was heard from afar off.

44And in that day they appointed men over the treasures, for the treasures, the first-fruits, and the tithes, and for the chiefs of the cities who were assembled among them, to furnish portions for the priests and Levites: for there was joy in Juda over the priests and over the Levites that waited. ⁴⁵ And they kept the charges of their God, and the charges of the purification, and ordered the singers and the porters, according to the commandments of David and his son Solomon. ⁴⁶ For in the days of David Asaph was originally first of the singers, and they sang hymns and praise to God. ⁴⁷ And all Israel in the days of Zorobabel, and in the days of Neemias, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, a daily rate: and consecrated them to the Levites: and the Levites consecrated them to the sons of Aaron.

23In that day they read in the book of Moses in the ears of the people; and it was found written in it, that the Ammonites and Moabites should not enter

into the congregation of God for ever; ² because they met not the children of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them: but our God turned the curse into a blessing. ³ And it came to pass, when they heard the law, that they were separated, even every alien in Israel.

4And before this time Eliasib the priest dwelt in the treasury of the house of our God, connected with Tobias; ⁵ and he made himself a great treasury, and there they were formerly in the habit of bestowing the offerings, and the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithe of the corn, and the wine, and the oil, the ordered portion of the Levites, and singers, and porters; and the first-fruits of the priests. ⁶ But in all this time I was not in Jerusalem; for in the thirty-second year of Arthasastha king of Babylon I came to the king, and after a certain time I made my request of the king; ⁷ and I came to Jerusalem, and I understood the mischief which Eliasib had done in the case of Tobias, in making for him a treasury in the court of the house of God.

8And it appeared very evil to me: so I cast forth all the furniture of the house of Tobias from the treasury. ⁹ And I gave orders, and they purified the treasuries: and I restored thither the vessels of the house of God, and the offerings, and the frankincense.

10And I understood that the portion of the Levites had not been given: and they had fled every one to his field, the Levites and the singers doing the work. ¹¹ And I strove with the commanders, and said, Wherefore has the house of God been abandoned? and I assembled them, and set them in their place. ¹² And all Juda brought a tithe of the wheat and the wine and the oil into the treasuries, ¹³ to the charge of Selemia the priest, and Sadoc the scribe, and Phadæa of the Levites: and next to them was Anan the son of Zacchur, son of Matthanias; for they were accounted faithful: it was their office to distribute to their brethren.

14Remember me, O God, in this, and let not my kindness be forgotten which I have wrought in regard to the house of the Lord God.

15In those days I saw in Juda men treading wine-presses on the sabbath, and carrying sheaves, and loading asses with both wine, and grapes, and figs, and every kind of burden, and bringing them into Jerusalem on the sabbath-day: ¹⁶ and I testified in the day of their sale. Also there dwelt in it men bringing fish, and selling every kind of merchandise to the children of Juda and in Jerusalem on the sabbath. ¹⁷ And I strove with the free children of Juda, and said to them, What is this evil thing which ye do, and profane the sabbath-day? ¹⁸ Did not your fathers thus, and our God brought upon them and upon us and upon this city all these evils? and do ye bring additional wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath?

19And it came to pass, when the gates were set up in Jerusalem, before the sabbath, that I spoke, and they shut the gates; and I gave orders that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and I set some of my servants at the gates, that none should bring in burdens on the sabbath-day. ²⁰ So all the merchants lodged, and carried on traffic without Jerusalem once or twice. ²¹ Then I testified against them, and said to them, Why do ye lodge in front of the wall? if ye do so again, I will stretch out my hand upon you. From that time they came not on the sabbath. ²² And I told the Levites who were purifying themselves, and came and kept the gates, that they should sanctify the sabbath-day.

Remember me, O God, for these things, and spare me according to the abundance of thy mercy.

23And in those days I saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: ²⁴ and their children spoke half in the language of Ashdod, and did not know how to speak in the Jewish language. ²⁵ And I strove with them and cursed them; and I smote some of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters to their sons, and ye shall not take of their daughters to your sons. ²⁶ Did not Solomon king of Israel sin thus? though there was no king like him among many nations, and he was beloved of God, and God made him king over all Israel; yet strange women turned him aside. ²⁷ So we will not hearken to you to do all this evil, to break covenant with our God,—to marry strange wives.

28And Elisub the high priest, one of the sons of Joada, being son-in-law of Sanaballat the Uranite, I chased him away from me. ²⁹ Remember them, O God, for their false connection with the priesthood, and the breaking the covenant of the priesthood, and for defiling the Levites.

30So I purged them from all foreign connection, and established courses for the priests and the Levites, every man according to his work. ³¹ And the offering of the wood-bearers was at certain set times, and in the times of the first-fruits. Remember me, O our God, for good.