

2 ESDRAS

TO THE READER

EDITION OF GREEK TEXT

The NETS translation of 2 Esdras is based on the standard critical edition prepared by Robert Hanhart (*Septuaginta: Vetus Testamentum Graecum Auctoritate Academiae Scientiarum Gottingensis editum XVIII.2: Esdrae liber II* [Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1993]). The text of this edition was followed almost invariably for the translation. Only at 4.21–22 have I departed from it, where have I followed Codex B. I have not adhered as closely to the punctuation provided by Hanhart.

TRANSLATION PROFILE OF THE GREEK

This book is known as Esdras B' in the Greek tradition. The title "2 Esdras" also has been used for three other works: the Vulgate translation of Nehemiah; the later Latin-manuscript book that consists of chapters 1–2 of the Vulgate book 4 Esdras, which is also known as 5 Ezra in scholarship or 2 Esdras 1–2 in modern translations; and the modern English translations of 4 Esdras from the Vulgate (scholarship's 4 Ezra, 5 Ezra, and 6 Ezra), such as in the NRSV.

1 Esdras (Esdras A') and 2 Esdras are one pair of double traditions found in Septuagint collections (see as well the double traditions of Daniel and Esther). They represent material from the Hebrew-Aramaic 2 Chronicles (2 Supplements), Ezra (2 Esdras 1–10), and Nehemiah (2 Esdras 11–23). The general relationship of content among the various versions is as follows:

2 Esdras	1 Esdras	Additional parallels
1.1–3	2.1–5	2 Chr (2 Suppl) 36.22–23
1.4–11	2.6–14	
4.6–24	2.15–25	
2.1–70 // 17.7–73	5.7–45	
3.1–4.5	5.46–70	
5.1–10.44	6.1–9.36	
17.73–18.12	9.37–55	

The Greek 2 Esdras is arguably the most pedantic of the translations of biblical books found in "the Septuagint" and is possibly the best representative of an "interlinear translation." It has not fared well in scholarly assessments, being described as "a very literal and servile translation of the Hebrew,"¹ "un-Greek, literal and mechanical,"² a translation that "discloses servile conformity to the Hebrew and Aramaic original, at the cost of clarity, and thus fails to attain even the pretence of Greek idiomatic expression, not to speak of distinction in diction."³ Subsequent examination has only confirmed such conclusions.⁴ The difficult nature of the Greek in this book makes its translation problematic. This translation into English makes an attempt to remain faithful to the Greek but also to render it into grammatical English.

General character

The translator of 2 Esdras used a Hebrew-Aramaic text that was of the Masoretic tradition (MT) of texts and translated it by a slavish adherence to the forms and order of the source text and with little in the

¹ Henry H. Howorth, "Some Unconventional Views on the Text of the Bible: I. The Apocryphal Book Esdras A and the LXX," *PSBA* 23 (1901) 151.

² S. A. Cook, "1 Esdras," in Charles 1:3.

³ Pfeiffer, *History* 248.

⁴ R. Glenn Wooden, "Interlinearity in 2 Esdras: A Test Case," in *Septuagint Research: Issues and Challenges in the Study of the Greek Jewish Scriptures* (W. Kraus and R. G. Wooden, eds; SBLSCS 53; Atlanta: SBL, 2006) 119–144.

way of creativity or translator's license. The translation is so close to the MT that there is very little change even of word order, a feature hard to reflect in the English translation.

Another feature is easier to reflect, however. With very few exceptions, where a Hebrew-Aramaic conjunctive ׀ occurs in the MT, it is rendered by καί in this translation. This is different from other OG/Septuagint books where there tends to be somewhat more variety. So extreme is this feature of 2 Esdras that there are only four occurrences of δέ anywhere in the book (2.64; 5.12; 7.9; 19.18), and for those four occurrences only at 7.9 is there a ׀ in the source text, the other three being introduced without explicit warrant. Given this approach to the translation of the Hebrew and Aramaic, in the NETS translation of 2 Esdras there is no attempt to represent the various nuances possible when rendering καί, with the result that "and" is grossly overused.

Transcription

Another significant characteristic of this book is that there are 35 transcriptions used 67 times, and this does not include the transcription of the over 500 names that occur in the genealogies and lists. This use of transcriptions is not consistent throughout the book. Thus, for example, for the same Hebrew word, ׀ַתְּנִי, we find ναθιναῖοι (2.43; 21.3) and ναθινίμ (2.58, 70; 7.7, 24; 8.17, 20; 13.26; 17.46, 60, 73; 20.28), and for another, עֲפֹל, Ὀφάλ (13.26) and Ὀφλά (13.27). The treatment of names in the book is also inconsistent, so that one finds, for example, Ἀδδίν (2.15), Ἀδίν (8.6) and Ἡδίν (17.20) for ׀ַדְּרַע; Ἀμμανίται (23.1) and Ἀμμωνί (9.1) for ׀ַמְנִי; Βανουί (2.10), Βανί (10.29) and Βαναίας (18.7) for ׀ַבְּנִי; Ἡράμ (2.32), Ἡρέμ (2.39), Ἰράμ (20.5) and Ἀρέμ (22.15) for ׀ַרְמִי; Κωλίτας (10.23), Καλλίτας (18.7) and Καλίταν (20.10) for ׀ַלִּיתַי; Σαδδούκ (7.2), Σαδούκ (20.21) and Σαδώκ (23.13) for ׀ַדְּרֹק.

Pleonasm

In this book there are scattered examples of redundant adverbs and pronouns where the Greek uses the relative pronoun to translate ׀ַרְשָׁא or ׀ַד when they function as relative particles marking the connection between two independent clauses. When the Hebrew or Aramaic clause has an adverb or pronoun, it is rendered redundantly, such as in 1.4: "And every one left shall go up from all the places where (׀ַרְשָׁא – οὐ) he resides there (׀ַשׁ – ἐκεῖ)." These are redundant in Greek and therefore have been rendered into equally redundant English.

Lists and the lack of grammaticality

A more difficult grammatical problem is encountered at 9.1; 10.18; 13.24–25, 26, 31; 14.13; 21.4–7, 25–30 where there are lists of two or more people or items in the MT in which Greek grammar seems to have been abandoned and the words are listed without grammatical connection to the first item in the list. In this translation we have found ways to render these, taking into account what is possible given Greek grammar and knowing what the translator probably saw in the source text. They are awkward translations, but not as awkward as the Greek.

THE NETS TRANSLATION OF 2 ESDRAS

Whereas the Greek follows its parent MT text very closely, we have tried to maintain as many connections to the NRSV as possible, within the guidelines of the project. Where the Greek is gender specific, such as in the use of ἀνήρ, we have made the translation specific. Given the pedantic nature of the translation, where "sons of" is found in what could arguably be a generic form, we have rendered it with the gender specific "sons of," etc.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Whereas 2 Esdras in the OG/Septuagint is the translation of both Ezra and Nehemiah, the chapters do not follow the MT for the book of Nehemiah: 2 Esdras 1–10 is the translation of Ezra 1–10, and 2 Esdras 11–23 is the translation of Nehemiah 1–13.

Versification differs among editions of 2 Esdras and from the MT:

Hanhart and English translations of Nehemiah	MT and Rahlfs
14(4).1–6	3(13).33–38/37
14(4).7–23	4(14).1–17
18(8).1a	7(17).73b
19(9).38	10(20).1
20(10).1–39	10(20).2–40

Compared to the MT, some text is not represented in 2 Esdras at 14.6 (Neh 3.37-38); 21(11).12-35; and 22(12).2-9, 25, 29. Where the material is lacking in chapters 21 and 22, the versification follows that of the MT, and thus there are gaps in the sequences of numbers.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The only English translation of this book that I consulted in the process of developing this translation was that by Brenton.

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1 And in the first year of Cyrus, king of the Persians, in order that the word of the Lord from the mouth of Ieremias might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, king of the Persians, and he commanded an utterance^a in all his kingdom, indeed in written form, saying:

2 "Thus said Cyrus, king of the Persians: the Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he himself has visited upon me to build him a house in Ierousalem, which is in Judea. ³Who is there among you from all his people? And his God will be with him, and he will go up to Ierousalem, which is in Judea, and let him build the house of Israel's God; he is the God who is in Ierousalem. ⁴And every one left shall go up from all the places where he resides there, and the men of his place shall receive them with silver and gold and with goods and animals, besides the freewill offering for the house of the God who is in Ierousalem."

5 And the chiefs of the paternal families of Iouda and Benjamin and the priests and the Leuites got up, all of whom God had stirred up their spirit, to go up to build the Lord's house, which is in Ierousalem. ⁶And all from round about prevailed with their hands with vessels of silver, with gold and with goods and with livestock and with presents, besides the things that were freely offered. ⁷And King Cyrus brought out the vessels of the house of the Lord, which Nabouchodonosor took from Ierousalem and placed them in the house of his god. ⁸And Cyrus, king of the Persians, brought them out onto the hand of Mithridates Garbarenos^b, and he counted them for Sasabassar, the ruler of Iouda. ⁹And this was their number: gold wine coolers, thirty, and silver wine coolers, one thousand, assorted items, twenty-nine, ¹⁰gold chephoures^c, thirty, and silver ones and other vessels, one thousand, ¹¹All the vessels in gold and silver: five thousand four hundred, every one of which went up with Sasabassar from the exile out of Babylon to Ierousalem.

2 And these are the sons of the country, who went up from the captivity of the exile, which Nabouchodonosor, king of Babylon, had exiled to Babylon, and they returned to Ierousalem and Iouda, a man to his city, ²who went with Zoroba-

bel: Iesous, Neemias, Saraias, Reelias, Mardochaios, Balasan, Masphar, Bagouai, Reoum, Baana.

Number of the men of the people of Israel: ³sons of Phoros, two thousand one hundred seventy-two; ⁴sons of Saphatia, three hundred seventy-two; ⁵sons of Ares, seven hundred seventy-five; ⁶sons of Phaathmoab—in reference to the sons of Iesou, of Ioab^d—two thousand eight hundred twelve; ⁷sons of Ailam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four; ⁸sons of Zaththoua, nine hundred forty-five; ⁹sons of Zakchai, seven hundred sixty; ¹⁰sons of Banoui, six hundred forty-two; ¹¹sons of Babai, six hundred twenty-three; ¹²sons of Azgad, one thousand two hundred twenty-two; ¹³sons of Adonikam, six hundred sixty-six; ¹⁴sons of Bagouai, two thousand fifty-six; ¹⁵sons of Addin, four hundred fifty-four; ¹⁶sons of Ater—in reference to Hezekias—ninety-eight; ¹⁷sons of Bassou, three hundred twenty-three; ¹⁸sons of Iora, one hundred twelve; ¹⁹sons of Hasoum, two hundred twenty-three; ²⁰sons of Gaber, ninety-five; ²¹sons of Baithleem, one hundred twenty-three; ²²sons of Netopha, fifty-six; ²³sons of Anathoth, one hundred twenty-eight; ²⁴sons of Azmoth, forty-two; ²⁵sons of Kariathiarim, Chaphira and Beroth, seven hundred forty-three; ²⁶sons of the Rama and of Gabaa, six hundred twenty-one; ²⁷men of Machmas, one hundred twenty-two; ²⁸men of Baithel and Aia, four hundred twenty-three; ²⁹sons of Nabo, fifty-two; ³⁰sons of Magebis, one hundred fifty-six; ³¹sons of Elamar, one thousand two hundred fifty-four; ³²sons of Heram, three hundred twenty; ³³sons of Lod, Hadid and Ono, seven hundred twenty-five; ³⁴sons of Iericho, three hundred forty-five; ³⁵sons of Senaa, three thousand six hundred thirty.

36 And the priests: sons of Iedoua—in reference to the house of Iesous—nine hundred seventy-three; ³⁷sons of Emmer, one thousand fifty-two; ³⁸sons of Phasour, one thousand two hundred forty-seven; ³⁹sons of Herem, one thousand seven.

40 And the Leuites: sons of Iesous and Kadmiel—in reference to the sons of Hodouia—seventy-four. ⁴¹The singers: sons of Asaph, one hundred twenty-eight. ⁴²Sons of the gatekeepers: sons of Selloum; sons of Ater; sons of Telmon; sons of Akoub; sons of Hatita; sons of Sobai, in all one hundred thirty-nine.

^aI.e. proclamation ^bCf. Heb = treasurer ^cHeb = bowls ^dPossibly Iesous Ioab

43 The nathineans^a; sons of Souaa; sons of Hاسوبها; sons of Tabbaoth; ⁴⁴sons of Keraos; sons of Siaa; sons of Phadon; ⁴⁵sons of Labano; sons of Hagaba; sons of Akoub; ⁴⁶sons of Hagab; sons of Selami; sons of Hanan; ⁴⁷sons of Geddel; sons of Gaar; sons of Raia; ⁴⁸sons of Rason; sons of Nekoda; sons of Gazam; ⁴⁹sons of Aza; sons of Phase; sons of Basi; ⁵⁰sons of Asena; sons of Mooünim; sons of Nephousim; ⁵¹sons of Bakkouk; sons of Hakoupha; sons of Harour; ⁵²sons of Basaloth; sons of Meida; sons of Harsa; ⁵³sons of Barkos; sons of Sisara; sons of Thema; ⁵⁴sons of Nasie; sons of Hatipha.

55 Sons of Abdeselma; sons of Sotai; sons of Hasepherath; sons of Phadoura; ⁵⁶sons of Ieala; sons of Kerkon; sons of Geddel; ⁵⁷sons of Saphatia; sons of Hattil; sons of Phacherath of Hasaboim; sons of Emei. ⁵⁸All the nathinim^a and sons of Abdeselma were three hundred ninety-two.

59 And the following were those who went up from Thelmelech, Thelaresa, Cheroub, Edan, Emmer and were not able to proclaim their paternal house and their offspring, whether they were from Israel: ⁶⁰sons of Dalaia; sons of Boua; sons of Tobia; sons of Nekoda, six hundred fifty-two. ⁶¹And from sons of the priests: sons of Hobaia; sons of Hakkous; sons of Berzellai (who took as wife one of the daughters of Berzellai the Galaadite and was called by their name). ⁶²These, the methoesim^b, looked for their registration, and they were not found, and they were made near kin from the priesthood, ⁶³and Hathersatha spoke to them so that they would not eat from the holy of holies until a priest should arise for^c the things that enlighten and the things that are flawless.

64 Now the whole assembly, as one, was forty-two thousand three hundred sixty, ⁶⁵besides their male slaves and their servant girls—these were seven thousand three hundred thirty-seven. And these, there were two hundred male singers and female singers. ⁶⁶Their horses seven hundred thirty-six; their mules two hundred forty-five; ⁶⁷their camels four hundred thirty-five, and their donkeys six thousand seven hundred twenty.

68 And some from the chiefs of the ancestral families, when they came to the Lord's house, which is in Ierousalem, made freewill offerings to the house of God in order to erect it on its prepared basis. ⁶⁹According to their ability they gave to the treasury for the work sixty-one thousand drachmas of gold and five thousand minas^d of silver and one hundred priests' robes.

70 And the priests and the Leuites and those from the people and the singers and the gatekeepers and the nathinim^a settled in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

3 And the seventh month arrived, and Israel was in their cities, and the people gathered as one man to Ierousalem. ²And Iesus the son of Iosedek and his brothers the priests and Zorobabel the son of Salathiel and their brothers got ready

and built the altar of the God of Israel in order to offer up whole burnt offerings on it, according to the things written in the law of Moyses the man of God. ³And they prepared the altar on its prepared basis, because they had dread upon them from the peoples of the countries, and a whole burnt offering to the Lord was mounted upon it, in the morning and at evening. ⁴And they observed the feast of tents, according to what was written, and the whole burnt offerings day by day, by number, according to decision, a matter of a day for its day, ⁵and after that the whole burnt offerings of perpetuity and those for the new moons and for all the consecrated feasts to the Lord and the freewill offering of everyone who was making a freewill offering to the Lord. ⁶On day one of the seventh month they began to offer up whole burnt offerings to the Lord, and the foundation of the Lord's house was not laid. ⁷And they gave silver to the stoncutters and the carpenters and food and drink and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians, to bring cedar trees from the Lebanon to the sea of Joppe, according to the grant of Cyrus, king of the Persians, to them.

8 And in the second year of their going to the house of God at Ierousalem, in the second month, Zorobabel the son of Salathiel and Iesus the son of Iosedek and the rest of their brothers, the priests and the Leuites and all who were coming to Ierousalem from the captivity made a beginning and appointed the Leuites, from twenty years old and upward, over those who were doing the projects in the Lord's house. ⁹And Iesus and his sons and his brothers, Kadmiel and his sons, sons of Iouda, sons of Henadad, their sons and their brothers the Leuites supervised those doing the projects in the house of God.

10 And they laid the foundation to build the house of the Lord, and the priests stood in their vestments with trumpets, and the Leuites, sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord upon the hands of Dauid, king of Israel, ¹¹and they responded with praise and confession to the Lord,

"For it is good,

for his mercy is forever upon Israel."

And all the people signaled with a loud voice to praise the Lord for the foundation of the house of the Lord. ¹²And many from the priests and the Leuites and chiefs of the paternal families, the old people, who had seen the first house on its foundation and this house with their eyes, were weeping with a loud voice, also the crowd at a signal with merriment to raise up a song. ¹³And the people were not distinguishing the sound of the signal of merriment from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a loud voice and the sound was being heard even at great distance.

4 And those who were afflicting Iouda and Benjamin heard that the sons of the exile were building a house to the Lord, God of Israel, ²and they approached Zorobabel and the chiefs of the

^aHeb = temple servants ^bHeb = genealogical records ^cI.e. to pronounce on ^dGk 1 mina = 100 drachmas = 0.6 kg

paternal families and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we seek your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him since the days of Asaraddon, king of Assour, who brought us here."³ And Zorobabel and Iesous and the rest of the chiefs of the paternal families of Israel said to them: "It is not for us and for you to build a house for our God, because we ourselves together will build for the Lord, our God, as Cyrus, the king of the Persians, commanded us."

4 And the people of the land were weakening the hands of the people of Iouda, and they were trying to hinder them from building⁵ and were hiring people against them, plotting to scatter their council all the days of Cyrus, king of the Persians, and until the reign of Darius, king of the Persians.

6 And in the reign of Asoueros, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote a letter against those inhabiting Iouda and Ierousalem.

7 And in the days of Arthasastha, they wrote in peace—^aMithridates, Tabeel^a with also the rest of his fellow-slaves—to Arthasastha, king of the Persians; the tribute collector wrote in Syrian^b a document, also having been translated. ⁸Reoum, Baaltam and Samsai the scribe wrote one letter against Ierousalem to Arthasastha the king. ⁹Reoum, Baaltam and Samsai the scribe and the rest of our fellow-slaves, the Dinians, Apharsathachians, Tarpallians, Apharsians, Archyians, Babylonians, Sousanachians, Dauians, ¹⁰the rest of the nations, whom the great and honorable Asennaphar deported and whom he settled in the cities of Somoron, and the rest ^cbeyond the river^c have rendered judgment as follows." ¹¹This is the commandment^d of the letter that they sent to him:

"To Arthasastha the king. Your servants, men ^cbeyond the river^c. ¹²Let it be known to the king that the Judeans, having come up from you to us, went to Ierousalem, the rebellious and wicked city, which they are building, and its walls have been finished, and they raised up its foundations. ¹³Now then, let it be known to the king that, if that city is rebuilt and its walls finished, tributes will not accrue to you, nor will they give, and this is detrimental to kings. ¹⁴And it is not fitting for us to see the king's dishonor; therefore we have sent and informed the king ¹⁵so that he might look in the book of the record of your fathers, and you will discover and know that that is a rebellious city and detrimental to kings and territories, and groups of fugitive slaves from long ago are in its midst. On that account this city was laid waste. ¹⁶Therefore, we are making it known to the king that, if that city is built and its walls are finished, you do not have peace."

17 And the king sent peace and tidings to Reoum, Baaltam and Samsai the scribe and the rest of their fellow-slaves who live in Samaria and to the rest of those from ^cbeyond the river^c: ¹⁸"The tribute collector whom you sent to us was summoned before me. ¹⁹And a decision was made by

me, and we searched and discovered that that city, from days of old, rises up against kings, and that rebellions and banishments occur in it, ²⁰and kings became strong in Ierousalem and ruled over the whole west of the river, and full tributes and a share were given to them. ²¹And now, make a decision that those men stop. And the city will no longer be built due to the decision, ²²since you have been on guard against being slack in this matter, lest^e damage might perchance multiply to the detriment of kings."

23 Then the tribute collector of Arthasastha the king read before Reoum, Baaltam and Samsai the scribe, his own fellow-slaves. And they went quickly to Ierousalem and in Iouda and stopped them with horses^f and a force. ²⁴Then the work in Ierousalem on the house of God stopped and remained stopped until the second year of the reign of Darius, the king of the Persians.

5 And Haggaios the prophet and Zacharias the son of Addo prophesied a prophecy to the Judeans who were in Iouda and Ierousalem, in the name of Israel's God, who was over them. ²At that time Zorobabel the son of Salathiel and Iesous son of Iosedek set out and began to build the house of God, which is in Ierousalem, and with them were the prophets of God, helping them.

3 At the same time Thaththanai, the commander ^cbeyond the river^c, and Satharbouzanai, and their fellow-slaves came to them and spoke to them like this, "Who gave you a decision to build this house and to supply these materials?" ⁴Then they said to them this: "What are the names of the men who are building this city?" ⁵And the eyes of God were upon the captivity of Iouda, and they did not stop them until the advice was delivered to Darius. And then an answer about the matter was sent to the tribute collector.

6 The explanation of the letter that Thaththanai, the commander of ^cthe areas beyond the river^c, Satharbouzanai and their fellow-slaves, the Apharsachians, who were in ^cthe areas beyond the river^c, sent to Darius the king. ⁷They sent him a report and in it^h these things were written: "To Darius the king, all peace! ⁸Let it be known to the king that we went to the Judean region, to the house of the great God, and it is being built with choice stones, and timbers are laid in the walls, and that work is prosperous and going well in their hands. ⁹Then we asked those elders and spoke to them thus, 'Who gave you a decision to build this house and to supply these materials?' ¹⁰And we asked them their names, to inform you, so we could record for you the names of the men who are their rulers. ¹¹And they replied to us with a speech like this, saying: 'We are slaves of the God of heaven and earth, and we are building the house that had been built many years before now (and a great king of Israel built it and finished it for them). ¹²But after that our fathers angered the God of heaven; he

^aOr *Mithridates Tabeel* or *Mithridates of Tabeel* ^bI.e. Aramaic ^cPerhaps *Beyond the River* ^dPossibly *disposition in order that no = Ha* ^eI.e. *cavalry* ^fLacking in Gk ^hAntecedent unclear

gave them into the hands of Nabouchodonosor, king of Babylon, the Chaldean, and he destroyed this house and exiled the people to Babylon. ¹³But in the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king had a decision made that this house of God should be built. ¹⁴And, as for the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nabouchodonosor brought out from the house, which is in Ierousalem, and brought away into the shrine of the king, Cyrus the king brought them out of the shrine of the king and gave them to Sanabassaros, the treasurer who was over the treasury ¹⁵and said to him, "Take all the vessels, and go; put them in the house, which is in Ierousalem, in their place." ¹⁶Then this Sanabassar came and laid the foundations of the house of God in Ierousalem, and from then until now it was built and was not finished. ¹⁷And now, if it seems good to the king, have a search made in the house of the treasure of the king of Babylon, so you might know that a decision was issued from King Cyrus to build that house of God, which is in Ierousalem. And when the king knows about this, let him send notification to us."

6 Then Darius the king made a decision, and he searched in the libraries where the treasure is deposited in Babylon. ²And in the city of Amatha, in the bastion of the city of the Medes, one scroll was found, and this had written in it: "A record: ³In the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king issued a decision concerning the house of God, which is in Ierousalem: Let a house and a place where they sacrifice sacrifices be built, (and he made an elevation sixty cubits in height and its width sixty cubits, ⁴and there were three courses of hard stones and one course of timber), and the cost will be paid from the house of the king. ⁵And, as for the silver and gold vessels of the house of God, which Nabouchodonosor brought out of the house, which was in Ierousalem, and carried off to Babylon, let them also be given, and let them go to the shrine, which is in Ierousalem, to the place where they were put in the house of God."

⁶ "Now, commanders ^abeyond the river^a, Satharbouzanai and their fellow-slaves, the Apharsacheans, who are in ^athe area^b beyond the river^a, you will give these things, though being far away from there. ⁷And now permit the work of the house of God. Let the leaders of the Judeans and the elders of the Judeans build that house of God on its site. ⁸And a decision has been issued by me, lest you do anything with the elders of the Judeans to build that house of God. And let the cost diligently be paid to those men from the king's possessions, the tributes from ^abeyond the river^a, so that they are not delayed. ⁹And whatever the need—^bin a case of^b both the offspring of cattle and rams and male lambs for whole burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, oil, according to the word of the priests who are in Ierousalem—let it be given to them day by day,

whatever they request, ¹⁰so that they may be offering fragrances to the God of heaven and be praying for the life of the king and his sons. ¹¹And a decision has been issued from me that, as for any person who alters this word, a beam shall be taken down out of his house, and he will be raised up and impaled on it, and his home made my possession. ¹²And may the God whose name encamps there overthrow any king and people that shall put forth its hand to alter or to destroy that house of God which is in Ierousalem. I, Darius, have issued a decision; it shall be done with all diligence."

¹³ Then Thaththanai, governor ^abeyond the river^a, Satharbouzanai and his fellow slaves in this way acted with all diligence toward what Darius the king had sent. ¹⁴And the elders of the Judeans and the Leuites kept building during the prophesying of Haggaios the prophet and Zacharias son of Addo, and they rebuilt and finished it due to the decision of the God of Israel and due to the decision of Cyrus and Darius and Arthasastha, kings of the Persians. ¹⁵And they completed this house until the third day of the month of Adar, which was the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

¹⁶ And sons of Israel—the priests and the Leuites and the rest of the sons of the exile—celebrated the rededication of the house of God with joy. ¹⁷And for the rededication of the house of God they offered one hundred calves, two hundred rams, four hundred male lambs, twelve male goats for sin on behalf of all Israel, for the number of the tribes of Israel. ¹⁸And they set the priests in their divisions and the Leuites in their orders for the service of the God who is in Ierousalem, in accordance with the scripture of the book of Moyses.

¹⁹ And on the fourteenth of the first month the sons of the exile kept the pascha^c. ²⁰Because the priests were purified and the Leuites pure, one and all, they also slaughtered the pascha^c for all the sons of the exile and for their brothers the priests and for themselves. ²¹And sons of Israel—those from the exile and every one who was separating himself from the impurity of the nations of the land, joining them, in order to seek after the Lord, God of Israel—ate the pascha^c. ²²And they celebrated the feast of unleavened bread for seven days with joy, because the Lord made them joyful, and the Lord turned the heart of the king of Assour to them, to strengthen their hands in the projects of the house of the God of Israel.

7 And after these matters, in the reign of Arthasastha, king of the Persians, Esdras went up—son of Saraias son of Azarias son of Helkia ²son of Selloum son of Saddouk son of Achitob ³son of Amaria son of Ezria son of Maraioth ⁴son of Zaraia son of Ozios son of Bokki ⁵son of Abisoue son of Phinees son of Eleazar son of Aaron the first priest. ⁶Esdras himself went up from Babylon, and he was a scribe quick in the law of Moyses that the Lord God of Israel had given. And the king gave to him, for the hand of the Lord,

^aPerhaps (of) *Beyond the River* ^bLacking in Gk ^ci.e. *Passover*

his God, was upon him in all that he himself was seeking.

7 And some of the sons of Israel and some of the priests and some of the Leuites and the singers and the gatekeepers and the nathinim^a went up to Ierousalem in the seventh year of Arthasastha the king. ⁸And they came to Ierousalem in the fifth month, that is, the seventh year of the king—⁹because on the first of the first month he himself founded the ascent from Babylon, but on the first of the fifth month they came to Ierousalem, for the hand of his God was good upon him—¹⁰because Esdras proposed in his heart to seek the law and to practice and to teach the ordinances and judgments in Israel.

11 And this is the clear statement of the edict that Arthasastha gave to Esdras the priest, the scribe of the book of words of the commandments of the Lord and his ordinances for Israel: ¹²“Arthasastha, king of kings, to Esdras, the scribe of the law of the Lord the God of heaven. The message and its answer have been completed. ¹³A decision was issued from me that any from the people of Israel and priests and Leuites in my kingdom who freely offer to go to Ierousalem are to go with you. ¹⁴It^b was sent from before the king and the seven counselors that you^c conduct an inspection of Judea and of Ierousalem in accordance with the law of their God, which is in your hand—¹⁵and that you inspect^c the silver and gold for the house of the Lord that the king and counselors freely offered to the God of Israel who encamps in Ierousalem ¹⁶and any silver and gold that you might find in the whole country of Babylon besides the freewill offering of the people and the priests who are giving willingly to the house of God, which is in Ierousalem, ¹⁷and everything that comes in, readily enter this one in this book: calves, rams, lambs and their offerings and their libations, and you shall offer them on the altar of the house of your God, which^d is in Ierousalem. ¹⁸And if something seems good to you and your brothers to do with the rest of the silver and gold, do as is pleasing to your God. ¹⁹And the vessels that are being given you for the service of the house of God, deliver them before God in Ierousalem. ²⁰And as for the rest of the requirements for the house of your God—whatever you think you should provide, you will provide out of the houses of the king’s treasure.

21 “And I, Arthasastha the king, have issued a decision from me for all the treasures in ^ethe area^f beyond the river^e that everything that Esdras, the priest and scribe of the law of the God of heaven, asks you, let it be done with all diligence, ²²up to one hundred talents of silver and up to one hundred kors^g of wheat and up to one hundred bath^h of wine and one hundred bath^h of oil and salt for which there is no writ. ²³Everything that is in the decision of the God of heaven, let it be done. Beware of someone attacking the house of the God of

heaven, lest wrath come upon the realm of the king and his sons. ²⁴And this has been made known to youⁱ among all the priests and Leuites, singers, gatekeepers, nathinim^a and ministers of God’s house. Let there be no tribute for youⁱ, you will not have the power to enslave them.

25 “And you, Esdras, in keeping with the wisdom of God in your hand, appoint scribes and judges so that they may be judging in the interest of all the people who are in ^ethe area^f beyond the river^e, all who know the law of your God, and you shall make it known to the one who does not know it. ²⁶And any who does not observe the law of God and the law of the king, readily the judgment will be one that issues from it, whether for death or whether for discipline or whether for loss of livelihood or whether for bonds.”

27 Blessed be the Lord the God of our fathers, who in this way put it in the heart of the king to glorify the house of the Lord, which is in Ierousalem, ²⁸and has inclined mercy upon me in the eyes of the king and his counselors and all the king’s exalted rulers. And I was strengthened, for the good hand of God was upon me, and I gathered rulers from Israel to go up with me.

8 And these are the chiefs of their paternal families, the guides who went up with me in the reign of Arthasastha, the king of Babylon: ²of Phinees’ sons, Gersom; of Ithamar’s sons, Daniel; of Daud’s sons, Hattous; ³of Sachania’s sons; of Phoros’ sons, Zacharias, and with him the company of one hundred fifty; ⁴of Phaathmoab’s sons, Eliana son of Saraia, and with him two hundred males; ⁵of Zathoes’ sons, Sechenias son of Haziell, and with him three hundred males. ⁶And of Adin’s sons, Obeth son of Ionathan, and with him fifty males. ⁷And of Elam’s sons, Isaia son of Athelia, and with him seventy males. ⁸And of Saphatia’s sons, Zabdias son of Michael, and with him the eighty males. ⁹And of Ioab’s sons, Abadia—he being son of Ieiel—and with him were the two hundred eighteen males. ¹⁰And of Baani’s sons, Selimouth son of Iosephia, and with him the one hundred sixty males. ¹¹And of Babi’s sons, Zacharias son of Babi, and with him the twenty-eight males. ¹²And of Azgad’s sons, Ioanan—he being son of Hakkatan—and with him the one hundred ten males. ¹³And of Adonikam’s sons—they were last—and these were their names: Eliphalath, Ieiel and Samaia, and with them the sixty males. ¹⁴And of Bagouai’s sons, Outhai and Zaboud, and with them the seventy males.

15 And I gathered them to the river that runs to Eui, and there we camped three days. And I took notice among the people and among the priests, and I did not find there any of Leui’s sons. ¹⁶And I sent intelligent people to Eleazar, to Ariel, to Samaia and to Maonam and to Iarib and to Elnathan and to Nathan and to Zacharia and to Mesoulam and to Ioarib and to Elnathan, ¹⁷and I brought

^aHeb (Aram) = *temple servants* ^bI.e. *the decision* ^cLacking in Gk ^dOr *who* ^ePerhaps *Beyond the River* ^fLacking in Greek ^gHeb 1 kor = 220 liters ^hHeb 1 bath = 22 liters ⁱGk = pl ^jGk = sg

them out to the ruler with the silver of the place, and I placed words in their mouths to say to the brothers of them, of the nathinim^a, so that they would bring for us, with the silver of the place, singers for the house of our God. ¹⁸And since the good hand of our God was upon us, there came to us a man of Sachol^b, some of Mooli's sons, son of Leui son of Israel (and his sons and his brothers, eighteen of them, came at the beginning), ¹⁹and Hasebia and Isaia of Merari's sons, his brothers and their sons, twenty, ²⁰and of the nathinim^a whom Daud and his rulers had given into slavery to the Leuites, two hundred twenty nathinim^a. They were all gathered together by name.

²¹ And I proclaimed a fast there at the river Aoue, so that we might be humbled before our God, to seek from him a straight journey for ourselves and our children and all our property. ²²Because I was ashamed to request from the king a force and horses to save us from an enemy on the journey, because we had spoken to the king, saying, "The hand of our God is upon all who seek him for good, and his power and his wrath are upon all who forsake him." ²³And we fasted and sought from our God about this, and he listened to us.

²⁴ And I set apart twelve from the leaders of the priests, in reference to Saraia, in reference to Hasabia, and ten from their brothers with them, ²⁵and I weighed out for them the silver and the gold and the vessels of the first fruit of the house of our God, which the king and his counselors and his rulers and all Israel who were found had lifted up. ²⁶And I weighed onto their hands six hundred fifty talents of silver and one hundred silver vessels and one hundred talents of gold, ²⁷and for the journey twenty gold chaphoure^c worth a thousand drachmas and excellent, desirable vessels of fine polished bronze in gold. ²⁸And I said to them, "You are holy to the Lord God, and the vessels are holy, and the silver and the gold are freewill offerings to the Lord, God of our fathers. ²⁹Be vigilant, and keep them until you weigh^d them before the rulers of the priests and the Leuites and the chiefs of paternal families in Ierousalem, at the tents of the house of the Lord." ³⁰And the priests and the Leuites took the weight of the silver and the gold and the vessels, to bring to Ierousalem to the house of our God.

³¹ And we started out from the river Aoue on the twelfth of the first month, to go to Ierousalem, and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and hostility on the journey. ³²And we came to Ierousalem and settled there three days. ³³And it happened on the fourth day, in the house of our God, we weighed the silver and the gold and the vessels into the hand of Marimoth son of Ouria the priest (and with him was Eleazar son of Phinees, and with them Iozabad son of Iesous and Noadia son of Banaia, the Leuites), ³⁴everything by number and by

weight, and the total weight was recorded. At that time ³⁵those who had come from captivity, sons of the exiles, offered as whole burnt offerings to the God of Israel twelve calves for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, twelve male goats for sin; these were all the burnt offerings to the Lord. ³⁶And they gave the king's currency to the administrators of the king and to the commanders beyond the river^e, and they extolled the people and the house of God.

9 And after these things had been done, the rulers approached me, saying, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Leuites were not separated from the peoples of the lands with their things put far away^f, in reference to the Chanani—the Heththi, the Pherezi, the Iebousi, the Ammoni, the Moab, the Mosri and the Amori—²because they have taken from their daughters for themselves and for their sons, and the holy seed was influenced by the peoples of the lands, and the hand of the rulers was in this faithlessness in the beginning." ³And when I heard this word, I tore my garments and was quivering and was pulling out some of the hair of my head and some of my beard and was sitting in silence. ⁴And everyone who pursued the word of Israel's God, because of the faithlessness of the exile—they gathered to me, and I kept sitting in silence until the evening sacrifice.

⁵And at the evening sacrifice I got up from my humiliation. And when I had torn my garments, and I was quivering and was getting down on my knees and spreading out my hands to the Lord God ⁶and said,

"O Lord, I was ashamed and hesitated to lift, O my God, my face to you, because our acts of lawlessness have multiplied above our heads, and our errors have been increased up to heaven. ⁷From the days of our fathers to this day we are in error, and for our acts of lawlessness we and our kings and our sons have been handed over in the hand of the kings of the nations, by sword and by captivity and by plundering and by shame of our face, as this day. ⁸And now the Lord, our God, was fair with us to leave us for salvation and give us support in the place of his holiness^g in order that he might brighten our eyes and grant us a little vitality in our slavery. ⁹Because we are slaves, the Lord, our God, has not forsaken us even in our slavery and inclined mercy upon us before the kings of the Persians, to give us vitality that they might raise up the house of our God and to repair its ruins and to give us a fence^h in Iouda and in Ierousalem.

¹⁰ "Our God, what shall we say after this? Because we have forsaken your commandments, ¹¹which you gave us by the hand of your slaves the prophets, saying, "The land that you are entering to possess it is a land undergoing change by the changing of the peoples of the nations, with their things put far away^f, who they have filled it from mouth to mouth with their impurities. ¹²And now

^aHeb = temple servants ^bOr sachol ^cHebrew = bowls ^dOr set ^ePerhaps of Beyond the River ^fPossibly abominations ^gOr holy precinct ^hOr fortification

do not give your daughters to their sons, and do not take some of their daughters for your sons, and never seek out their peace and their prosperity so that you may be strong and eat the good of the land and distribute it to your sons forever.¹³ And after all that is coming upon us for our evil deeds and for our great error—because there is none like our God, because you canceled our acts of lawlessness and gave us salvation,¹⁴ because we returned to scatter your commandments and to intermarry with the peoples of the lands, do not be provoked at us until destruction so that there is no remnant and survivor.¹⁵ O Lord, God of Israel, you are just, because we have been left over as survivors, as this day. Behold, we are before you with our errors, because it is not possible to stand before you because of this.”

10 And as Esdras prayed and as he declared, weeping and praying before the house of God, a very great assembly—men and women and young men—gathered to him from Israel, because the people wept and lifted up while weeping.² And Sechenias son of Ieiel, of Elam’s sons, answered and said to Esdras, “We were faithless with our God and ^aset up^a foreign women from the peoples of the land, and now there is endurance for Israel in this.³ And now let us make a covenant with our God to cast out all the women and the issue from them, however you want. Arise, and scare them with the commandments of our God, and let it be done according to the law.⁴ Arise! The word is upon you, and we are with you; be strong, and act.”⁵ And Esdras arose and made the rulers, the priests and Leuites and all Israel swear to act according to this word. And they swore.

⁶ And Esdras arose from before the house of God and went to the treasure chamber of Ioanan son of Elisoub, and he went there. He did not eat bread and did not drink water, because he was mourning over the faithlessness of the exile.⁷ And they presented an utterance^b in Iouda and in Ierousalem to all sons of the exile that they should assemble in Ierousalem:⁸ “Anyone who does not come within three days, as the council of the rulers and the elders demands^c—all his property will be anathematized, and he himself banned from the assembly of the exile.”

⁹ And all the men of Iouda and Benjamin assembled to Ierousalem within the three days; this was the ninth month. On the twentieth of the month, all the people sat in the open square of the house of God, from their ^dtumult about^d the word and because of the winter.¹⁰ And Esdras the priest arose and said to them, “You have been faithless and ^aset up^a foreign women, increasing the error of Israel.¹¹ And now give praise to the Lord God of our fathers, and do what is pleasing before him, and separate from the peoples of the land and from the foreign women.”¹² And all the assembly answered with a loud voice and said, “This word of yours is a big thing for us to do.

¹³ But the people are many, and it is the winter season, and there is no ability to stand outside, and the task is not for one day and not for two, because we have multiplied in doing wrong in this matter.¹⁴ Let now our rulers stand fast for the whole assembly and for all those in our cities. As for him who has ^aset up^a foreign women—let them come at appropriate times as instructed, and with them the elders of city by city and judges, in order to turn away from us the anger of the wrath of our God concerning this matter.”¹⁵ Only Jonathan son of Asael and Iazias son of Thekoue are with me in this, and Mesoulam and Sabbathai the Leuite supporting them.

¹⁶ And sons of the exile did so. And Esdras the priest and men ruling the paternal houses ^ewere set apart^e, and all by name, because on the first day of the tenth month they turned to investigate the matter.¹⁷ And they finished with all the men who had ^aset up^a foreign women by the first day of the first month.

¹⁸ And there were found some sons of the priests who had ^aset up^a foreign women: some sons of Iesus son of Iosedek and his brothers: Maaseia and Eliezer and Iarib and Gadalia.¹⁹ And they ^fgave their hand^f to put away their wives and errors—a ram of the flock for their error.²⁰ And of Emmer’s sons: Hanania and Zabdia.²¹ And of Heram’s sons: Masias and Elia and Samaia and Ieiel and Ozia.²² And of Phasour’s sons: Elioenai, Maasia and Ismael and Nathanael and Iozabad and Elasa.

²³ And of the Leuites: Iozabad and Samou and Kolia (that is, Kolitas) and Phetheia and Ioudas and Eliezer.²⁴ And of the singers: Elisab. And of the gatekeepers: Solmen and Telmen and Odoue.

²⁵ And of Israel: of Phoros’ sons: Ramia and Iazia and Melchia and Meamin and Eleazar and Hasabia and Banaia.²⁶ And of Elam’s sons: Maththania and Zacharia and Iael and Abdia and Ierimoth and Elia.²⁷ And of Zaththoua’s sons: Elioenai, Elisoub, Maththanai and Iarmoth and Zabad and Oziza.²⁸ And of Babi’s sons: Ioanan, Hanania and Zabou, Othali.²⁹ And of Bani’s sons: Mesoulam, Malouch, Adaias, Iasoub and Saal and Remoth.³⁰ And of Phaathmoab’s sons: Edne and Chalel and Banaia, Maasea, Maththania, Beselel and Banoui and Manasse.³¹ And of Heram’s sons: Eliezer, Ieseia, Melchia, Samaias, Semeon,³² Benjamin, Malouch, Samaria.³³ And of Hasem’s sons: Maththanai, Maththatha, Zabad, Eliphalet, Ieremi, Manasse and Semei.³⁴ And of Bani’s sons: Moodia, Amram and Ouel,³⁵ Banaia, Badaia, Chelia,³⁶ Ououania, Marimoth, Eliasib,³⁷ Maththania, Maththanai, and so did ³⁸Banoui’s sons and Semei’s sons³⁹ and Selemia and Nathan and Adaias,⁴⁰ Machnadaabou, Sesei, Arou,⁴¹ Ezriel and Selemia and Samarias,⁴² Selloum, Amarias, Ioseph.⁴³ And of Nabou’s sons: Ieiel, Maththathias, Zabad, Zebinnas, Iadai and Ioel and Banaia.⁴⁴ All these had married foreign women, and they fathered sons by them.

^aI.e. married ^bOr proclamation ^cLacking in Gk ^dOr clamor after ^eOr given express orders ^fI.e. pledged

11 (Neh 1.1) Words of Neemias son of Hachalia. And it happened in the month of Cheseleu, in the twentieth year, and I was in Sousan Habira^a, and one of my brothers, Hanani, he and men of Iouda came, and I asked them about those that survived, those who had been left over from the captivity, and about Ierousalem. ³And they said to me, "Those who are left over from the captivity there in the country are in great trouble and in shame, and the walls of Ierousalem are broken down, and its gates were burned with fire."

⁴ And it happened, when I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven, ⁵And I said, "Nay indeed, O Lord, you the strong and the great and the awesome God of heaven, one who keeps covenant and mercy with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶let now your ear be attentive and your eyes opened to hear the prayer of your slave that I am praying before you today, day and night, for Israel's sons, your slaves, and I am declaring with regard to the sins of Israel's sons, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷In breaking up we broke up with you and did not keep the commandments and the ordinances and the judgments that you commanded your servant Moyses. ⁸Remember now the word that you commanded your servant Moyses, saying, 'You, if you are faithless, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹and if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, if your dispersion is to the farthest skies, from there I will gather them and lead them to the place where I have chosen my name to encamp there.' ¹⁰And they are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹Nay indeed; rather, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your slave and to the prayer of your servants who want to revere your name, and give now success to your servant today, and ^bgive him over to feelings of ^ccompassion before this man!"

And I was cupbearer to the king.

12 (2.1) And it happened in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of Arthasastha the king. And wine was before me, and I took the wine and gave it to the king, and there was no one else before him. ²And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad," and, "You are not unwell, are you? This is nothing except sadness of the heart." And I was very much afraid. ³And I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, since the city, the home of my fathers' graves, was laid waste, and its gates have been consumed with fire?" ⁴And the king said to me, "For what are you looking in this matter?" And I prayed to the God of heaven ⁵and said to the king, "If it is good to the king and if your servant shall find favor before you so that you send him to Iouda, to the city of my fathers' graves, I will also rebuild it." ⁶And

the king and his concubine who was sitting beside him said, "How long will your journey be, and when will you return?" And it found favor before the king, and he sent me, and I gave him a limit. ⁷And I said to the king, "If it is good to the king, let him give me letters to the governors ^cbeyond the river^c so that I may go on my way until I arrive in Iouda, ⁸and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the park that belongs to the king, so that he will give me timber to cover the gates and for the wall of the city and for the house into which I shall enter it." And the king gave them to me, because the hand of God was good.

⁹ And I came to the governors ^cbeyond the river^c and gave them the king's letters, and the king had sent leaders of the force and horsemen with me. ¹⁰And Sanaballat the Haroni and Tobia the slave, the Ammoni, heard it, and it displeased them that a person had come to seek good for the sons of Israel.

¹¹ And I came to Ierousalem and was there for three days. ¹²And I got up during the night, I and a few men with me, and I told no one what God was putting into my heart to do along with Israel, and there is no animal with me except the animal which I ride upon it. ¹³And I went out by the gate of Golela^d and to the mouth of the fountain of the figs and to the gate of the dung. And I was crushing in the wall of Ierousalem, which they^e are pulling down. And its gates were consumed by fire. ¹⁴And I went on to the gate of Ain and in the king's swimming pool, and there was no place for the animal under me to continue. ¹⁵And I kept going up in the wall off the wadi by night and kept crushing in the wall. And I was in the gate of the ravine and returned. ¹⁶And those who were guarding did not know why I went and what I was doing, and until then I had not told the Judeans and the priests and the distinguished and the generals and the rest that were doing the work.

¹⁷ And I said to them, "You see the trouble in which we are in it, how Ierousalem is in ruins, and its gates were given to fire. Come, and let us wall off Ierousalem's wall, and we will no longer suffer disgrace." ¹⁸And I reported to them the hand of God that was good upon me and the words that the king had spoken to me, and I said, "Let us arise and build!" And their hands were strengthened for the good. ¹⁹And Sanaballat the Haroni and Tobia the slave, the Ammoni, and Gesam the Arabi heard, and they mocked us and came against us and said, "What is this matter that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" ²⁰And I returned word to them and said to them, "The God of heaven, he will give us success, and we are his pure slaves, and we will build it, and you have no share and righteousness and record in Ierousalem."

13 (3.1) And the great priest Elisoub and his brothers the priests set out and built the

^aHeb = the citadel ^bI.e. grant that he may be shown ^cPerhaps of Beyond the River ^dHeb = by night + Valley ^eReferent unclear ^fPossibly at

sheep gate. They consecrated it and set up its doors, and they consecrated it as far as the tower of the hundred, as far as the tower of Hanameel,² and at the hand of the sons of the men of Iericho and at the hand of the sons of Zakchour son of Amari.

3 And Hasana's sons built the fish gate; they covered it and set up its doors and its bars and its bolts. ⁴And at their hand, one of Ramoth son of Ouria son of Hakkos took control. And at their hand Mesoulam son of Barachiou son of Masezabel took charge. And at their hand Sadouk son of Baana took charge. ⁵And at their hand the Thekoim took charge, and the Adoreem did not contribute their neck to their service.

6 And Ioida son of Phasek and Mesoulam son of Basodia—they took control of the gate of Iasana; they covered it and set up its doors and its bars and its bolts. ⁷And at their hand Maltias the Gabaonite and Euaron the Meronothite, men of Gabaon and of Maspha, took control as far as the throne of the ruler ^abeyond the river^a. ⁸And beside them Oziel son of Harachias, one of the smiths, secured things. And at their hand Hananias son of Rokeim took control, and they left Ierousalem alone as far as the broad wall. ⁹And at their hand Raphaia son of Hour, ruler of half the area around Ierousalem, took control. ¹⁰And at their hand and opposite his home Iedaia son of Heromaph took control. And at his hand Hattous son of Hasbania took control. ¹¹And a second Melchias son of Heram and Hasoub son of Phaathmoab took control as far as the tower of the Thannourim. ¹²And at his hand Salloum son of Halloes, ruler of half the area around Ierousalem, took control, he and his daughters.

13 Hanoun and the inhabitants of Zano took control of the gate of the ravine; they built it and set up its doors and its bars and its bolts and a thousand cubits on the wall, as far as the gate of dung.

14 And Melchia son of Rechab, ruler of the area around Bethachcharam, took control of the gate of dung, he and his sons, and covered it and set up its doors and its bars and its bolts.

15 Then Salomon son of Coleze, ruler of the district of Maspha, fortified the gate of the fountain; he himself built it up and covered it and set up its doors and its bolts, and he built the wall of the pool of the fleeces at the shearing of the king, and as far as the stairs that go down from the city of Dauid. ¹⁶Behind him Neemias son of Azbouch, ruler of half the area around Bethsour, took control as far as the garden of the grave of Dauid and as far as the artificial pool and as far as Bethagabarim. ¹⁷Behind him the Leuites took control: Raoum son of Bani, and at his hand Hasabia, ruler of half the area around Keila, took control for his surrounding area. ¹⁸After him their brothers took control: Benei son of Hanadad, ruler of half the area around Keila. ¹⁹And at his hand Azour son of Iesoua, ruler of Masphe, controlled a second sec-

tion of the tower of ascent, which joins the corner. ²⁰And after him Barouch son of Zabou took control of the next section from the corner to the door of Bethelisoub the great priest. ²¹And after him Meramoth son of Ouria son of Hakkos controlled a second section from the door of Bethelisoub to where Bethelisoub leaves off. ²²And after him the priests, the men of Hachchechar, took control. ²³And after him Benjamin and Hasoub took control opposite their house. And after him Azaria son of Maasias son of Anania took control beside his house. ²⁴After him Bani son of Henadad controlled a second section, from Bethazaria to the corner and as far as the bend ²⁵of Phalal son of Euzai from opposite the corner—and ^{bit is^b} the upper tower that projects from the house of the king at the court of the guard—and after him Padaia son of Phoros. ²⁶(And the nathinim^c were dwelling in Ophal as far as the garden of the gate of water to the east. And the tower is^b the one projecting.) ²⁷After him the Thekoim took control of a second section from opposite the great projecting tower and as far as the wall of Ophla.

28 Above the gate of the horses the priests took control, a man opposite his house. ²⁹After him Saddouk son of Emmer took control opposite his house. And after him Samaia son of Sechenia, the keeper of the gate of the east, took control. ³⁰After him Hanania son of Selemia and Hanom sixth son of Seleph took control of a second section. After him Mesoulam son of Barchia took control opposite his treasure chamber. ³¹After him Melchia son of Sarephi took control as far as Bethannathinim and the hucksters opposite the gate of Maphekad and as far as the ascent at the bend. ³²And in the midst of the sheep gate the smiths^d and the hucksters took control.

14 ^(4.1)And it happened, when Sanaballat heard that we were building the wall, and he was upset and greatly enraged, and he mocked at the Judeans. ²And he said in the presence of his brothers, "Is this the power of Somoron, that these Judeans are building the city for themselves? Are they, then, sacrificing? Will they, then, be strong, and will they today repair the scorched stones after they had become the rubbish heap of the land?" ³And Tobias the Ammanite came beside him, and they said to themselves, "They will not sacrifice or eat in their place, will they? Will a fox not go up and break down their stone wall?" ⁴Hear, O our God, for we have become despised, ⁵and return their taunt to their heads, and give them over to sneering in a land of captivity, ⁶and do not cover over lawlessness.

7 And it happened, when Sanaballat and Tobia and the Arabs and the Ammanites heard that the stature of the walls of Ierousalem was rising because the gaps were beginning to be closed, and it looked very bad to them. ⁸And they all gathered together to come and get ready to fight in Ierousalem. ⁹And we prayed to our God and set up an

^aPerhaps of *Beyond the River* ^bLacking in Gk ^cHeb = *temple servants* ^dPossibly bronze smiths

advance guard against them day and night because of their presence.

10 And Ioudas said, "The strength of the enemies was crushed. And there is much rubbish, and we will not be able to build on the wall." ¹¹And those who were afflicting us said, "They will not know and will not see until we come into their midst and kill them and stop the work." ¹²And it happened, when the Judeans who lived next to them came, and they said to us, "They are coming up against us from all the places." ¹³And I stationed some into the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in covered places, and I stationed the people according to divisions, their spears and their bows, with their swords. ¹⁴And I looked and stood up and said to the distinguished and to the generals and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid from before them. Remember our great and awesome God, and get ready to fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters and your wives and your homes."

15 And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had scattered their council, and we all returned to the wall, a man to his work. ¹⁶And it happened from that day on, half of the outcasts were doing the work and half were standing in defense, and there were spears and oblong shields and the bows and body-armor and the rulers behind every house of Iouda ¹⁷belonging to those who were building on the wall. And as for those who were lifting with lifters with weapons—with one hand he was doing his work and with one he was grasping the javelin. ¹⁸And as for the builders—a man with his sword strapped on his lower back—and they kept building, and the one who trumpeted with the horn was beside him. ¹⁹And I said to the distinguished and to the rulers and to the remainders of the people, "The work is wide-spread and great, and we are far scattered, a man from his brother, on the wall. ²⁰In whatever place you hear the sound of the horn there, you shall gather to us, and our God will fight for us."

21 And we were doing the work, and half of them were holding the spears from the rising of the dawn until the coming out of the stars. ²²And I said to the people at that time, "Each of you with his young man, pass the night inside Ierousalem, and let the night be an advance guard for you and the day work." ²³And I and the men of the advanced guard behind me were there, and there was not a man of us taking off his clothes.

15 ^(5.1)And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Judean brothers. ²And there were some, saying, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many, and we will get grain and eat and stay alive." ³And there are some, saying, "As for our fields and our vineyards and our homes—we are mortgaging them, and we will get grain and eat." ⁴There are some, saying, "As for our fields and our vineyards and our homes—

we borrowed money for the king's tributes. ⁵And now our flesh is like the flesh of our brothers; our sons like their sons, and behold we are oppressing our sons and daughters, making them slaves, and some of our daughters are being oppressed, and there is no power in our hands, and our fields and our vineyards belong to the distinguished."

6 And I was very distressed as I heard their outcry and these words. ⁷And my heart deliberated with me, and I quarreled with the distinguished and the rulers and said to them, "Will a man demand back of his brother? You are demanding back." And I held a great assembly for them. ⁸And I said to them, "We, of our own free-will, have acquired our Judean brothers who were being sold to the nations. And you, are you selling your own brothers, and they shall be handed over to us?" And they were silent and could not find a word. ⁹And I said, "The matter that you are doing is not good. Not thus! You shall depart in the fear of our God, from the reproach of the nations our enemies. ¹⁰And my brothers and my acquaintances and I put up our own money and grain. We certainly abandoned this demanding back. ¹¹Return now to them, this very day, their fields and their vineyards and their olive orchards and their homes. And bring out for yourselves the grain and wine and olive-oil from^a the money." ¹²And they said, "We will give these back and not seek these from them. We will do just as you say." And I called the priests and made them swear to do like this word. ¹³And I shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out every man from his house and from his property who does not establish this word, and thus they will be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said, "Amen," and praised the Lord, and the people did this word.

14 From the day that he commanded me to be their ruler in the land of Iouda, from the twentieth year even to the thirty-second year of Arthasastha, twelve years, I and my brothers did not eat an exaction from them. ¹⁵And as for the first exactions, with which they burdened them before me, they also took the last money from them for food and wine, forty didrachmas. And their outcasts exercise authority over the people, and I did not do so, from before fear of God. ¹⁶And I did not take control over them by the work on the wall, and I did not acquire a field, and all who were gathered were there for the work. ¹⁷And the Judeans, one hundred fifty men, and those who came to us from the nations around us, were at my table. ¹⁸And what was prepared for one day was one bull calf, and they were preparing six choice sheep and a goat for me and among ten days wine in abundance with everything, and I did not seek the food of exaction with them, because the service was heavy on this people. ¹⁹Remember me, O God, for good, all that I have done for this people.

16 ^(6.1)And it happened, when it was heard to Sanaballat and Tobias and to Gesam the

^aPossibly by means of

Arabi and to the rest of our enemies that I had built the wall, and there was no breath left in them. Up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates. ²And Sanaballat and Gesam sent to me, saying, "Come, and let us meet together in the villages in the plain of Ono." And they were intending to do me harm. ³And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, and I will not be able to come down, lest the work stop. Whenever I finish it, I will come down to you." ⁴And they sent to me like this word, and I sent to them in the same manner. ⁵And Sanaballat sent his servant to me and an open letter in his hand. ⁶And in it was written, "It was heard among the nations that you and the Judeans intend to rebel, which is why you are building the wall, and you are becoming their king. ⁷And besides these, you have set up prophets for yourself so that you might sit in Ierousalem as king in Iouda. And now these words will be reported to the king. And now come, let us confer together." ⁸And I sent to him, saying, "It did not happen like these words that you say, because you are inventing them out of your own heart." ⁹Because they all were trying to frighten us, saying, "Their hands will slacken from this work, and it will not be done." But now I strengthened my hands.

¹⁰ And I went into the house of Semei son of Dalaia son of Metabeel, and he was confined. And he said, "Let us gather together at the house of God, in the midst of it, and let us close its doors, because they are coming by night to kill you." ¹¹And I said, "Should a man like me run away? Or, what kind of man would enter the house and live?" ¹²And I perceived, and behold, God had not sent him, because the prophecy was a message against me, and Tobias and Sanaballat had hired ¹³a crowd against me, so I might become afraid and do so and sin and become a bad name for them so they could taunt me. ¹⁴Remember, O God, against Tobias and against Sanaballat as these acts of his and against the prophet Noadia and against the rest of the prophets who were trying to make me afraid.

¹⁵ And the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth of the month Eloul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶And it happened, when all our enemies heard, and all the nations around us were afraid, and fear fell severely on their eyes, and they knew that this work came to be completed with the help of our God. ¹⁷And in those days letters were going from many of Iouda's distinguished to Tobias, and those of Tobias were coming to them, ¹⁸because many in Iouda were bound by oath to him, because he was the son-in-law of Sechenia son of Erae, and his son Ionathan had taken the daughter of Mesoulam son of Barachia as wife. ¹⁹And they were telling me his words and were conveying my words to him, and Tobias sent letters to intimidate me.

17 ^(7.1)And it happened, when the wall was built, and I set up the doors, and the gate-

keepers and the singers and the Leuites were reviewed. ²And I commanded my brother Hanania and Hanania, ruler of the bira^a in Ierousalem, because he was like a truthful man and feared God more than many, ³and I said to them, "The gates of Ierousalem will not be opened until ^bat the same as the sun^b, and while they are still keeping watch, let the doors be shut and barred. And appoint advance guards from those living in Ierousalem, a man at his watch and a man opposite his home." ⁴And the city was wide and large, and the people in it were few, and no homes had been built.

⁵ And God gave it into my heart, and I assembled the distinguished and the rulers and the people into a company. And I found the book of the company—those who came up at first, and I found written in it:

⁶ And these are sons of the country who went up from the captivity of the exile which Nabouchodonosor, king of Babylon, had exiled, and they returned to Ierousalem and to Iouda, a man to his city, ⁷with Zorobabel and Iesus, and Neemias, Azaria, Reelma, Naemani, Mardochoaios, Balsan, Maaspharath, Esdras, Bagouiai, Naoum, Baana, Masphar, men of the people of Israel: ⁸Sons of Phoros, two thousand one hundred seventy-two. ⁹Sons of Saphatia, three hundred seventy-two. ¹⁰Sons of Era, six hundred fifty-two. ¹¹Sons of Phaathmoab, in reference to the sons of Iesus and Ioab, two thousand eight hundred eighteen. ¹²Sons of Ailam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four. ¹³Sons of Zaththouia, eight hundred forty-five. ¹⁴Sons of Zakchou, seven hundred sixty. ¹⁵Sons of Banoui, six hundred forty-eight. ¹⁶Sons of Bebei, six hundred twenty-eight. ¹⁷Sons of Azgad, two thousand three hundred twenty-two. ¹⁸Sons of Adonikam, six hundred sixty-seven. ¹⁹Sons of Bagoui, two thousand sixty-seven. ²⁰Sons of Edin, six hundred fifty-four. ²¹Sons of Ater, in reference to Hezekias, ninety-eight. ²²Sons of Hesami, three hundred twenty-eight. ²³Sons of Basi, three hundred twenty-four. ²⁴Sons of Hariph, one hundred twelve. Sons of Hasen, two hundred twenty-three. ²⁵Sons of Gabaon, ninety-five. ²⁶Sons of Baithleem, one hundred twenty three. Sons of Netopha, fifty six. ²⁷Sons of Anathoth, one hundred twenty-eight. ²⁸Men of Beth, forty-two. ²⁹Men of Kariathiarim, Chaphira and Beroth, seven hundred forty-three. ³⁰Men of Harama and Gabaa, six hundred twenty-one. ³¹Men of Machmas, one hundred twenty-two. ³²Men of Baithel and Ai, one hundred twenty-three. ³³Men of Nabiar, fifty-two. Sons of Magebos, one hundred fifty-six. ³⁴Men of Elamaar, one thousand two hundred fifty-four. ³⁵Sons of Heram, three hundred twenty. ³⁶Sons of Iericho, three hundred forty-five. ³⁷Sons of Lod, Hadid and Ono, seven hundred twenty-one. ³⁸Sons of Sanana, three thousand nine hundred thirty.

³⁹ The priests: sons of Iodae, for the house of Iesus, nine hundred seventy-three. ⁴⁰Sons of Emmer, one thousand fifty-two. ⁴¹Sons of Phaseour,

^aHeb = *citadel* ^bI.e. *the hottest time of the day*

one thousand two hundred forty-seven. ⁴²Sons of Heram, one thousand seventeen.

⁴³The Leuites: sons of Iesous, in reference to Kadmiel, in reference to the sons of Houdouia, seventy-four. ⁴⁴The singers: sons of Asaph, one hundred forty-eight. ⁴⁵The gatekeepers: sons of Selloum, sons of Ater, sons of Tolmon, sons of Akoub, sons of Hatita, sons of Sabi, one hundred thirty-eight.

⁴⁶The nathinim^a: sons of Siaa, sons of Hasipha, sons of Tabbaoth, ⁴⁷sons of Kiras, sons of Siaia, sons of Phadon, ⁴⁸sons of Labana, sons of Hangaba, sons of Akoud, sons of Outa, sons of Ketar, sons of Hagab, sons of Selmei, ⁴⁹sons of Hanan, sons of Sadel, sons of Gaar, ⁵⁰sons of Raaia, sons of Rason, sons of Nekoda, ⁵¹sons of Gezam, sons of Ozi, sons of Phese, ⁵²sons of Besi, sons of Meinom, sons of Nephosim, ⁵³sons of Bakkbouk, sons of Hachipha, sons of Harour, ⁵⁴sons of Basaloth, sons of Meida, sons of Hadasan, ⁵⁵sons of Barkous, sons of Sisarath, sons of Thema, ⁵⁶sons of Nisia, sons of Hatipha.

⁵⁷Sons of Salomon's slaves: sons of Soutei, sons of Sapharath, sons of Pherida, ⁵⁸sons of Ieale, sons of Dorkon, sons of Gaddel, ⁵⁹sons of Saphatia, sons of Hettel, sons of Phacharath, sons of Sabaim, sons of Emim.

⁶⁰All the nathinim^a and sons of Salomon's slaves, three hundred ninety-two.

⁶¹And these went up from Thermelech, Thelaresa, Cheroub, Eron, Iemmer, and they could not declare their paternal houses and their seed, whether they were from Israel: ⁶²sons of Dalaia, sons of Boua, sons of Tobia, sons of Nekoda, six hundred forty-two. ⁶³And from the priests: sons of Hebja, sons of Hakkos, sons of Berzellai (because they had taken of the daughters of Berzellai the Galaadite as wives and were called by their name). ⁶⁴These sought their registration of the company, and it was not found, and they were made near kin from the priesthood, ⁶⁵and Hathersatha spoke so that they would not eat from the holy of holies until the priest should arise to enlighten.

⁶⁶And all the assembly was as one, forty-two thousand three hundred sixty, ⁶⁷apart from their male and female slaves—these were seven thousand three hundred thirty-seven and two hundred forty-five male singers and female singers—⁶⁸seven hundred thirty-six horses, two hundred forty-five mules, ⁶⁹four hundred thirty-five camels, six thousand seven hundred twenty donkeys.

⁷⁰And some of a portion of the leaders of paternal families contributed to the work of Hathersatha, they contributed to the treasury one thousand gold coins, fifty saucers and thirty chothonoth^b of the priests. ⁷¹And some of the leaders of paternal families gave to the building fund twenty thousand gold coins and two thousand two hundred minas^c of silver, ⁷²and the rest of the people gave twenty thousand gold coins, two thousand two hundred minas^c of silver and sixty-seven chothonoth^b of the priests.

⁷³And the priests and the Leuites and the gatekeepers and the singers and those from the people and the nathinim^a and all Israel settled in their cities.

18 ^(8.1)And the seventh month came, and the sons of Israel were in their cities, and all the people gathered together as one man into the square that is before the gate of the water, and they told Esdras the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moyses, which the Lord had commanded Israel. ²And Esdras the priest brought the law before the assembly, from man to woman and every person who understands, to listen on the first day of the seventh month, ³and he read in it from the hour the sun dawned until half the day, opposite the men and the women, and they were understanding, and the ears of all the people were unto the book of the law. ⁴And Esdras the scribe stood on a wooden platform, and beside him stood Matthias and Samaias and Hananias and Ouria and Helkia and Maasia on his right hand, and Phadaias and Misael and Melchias and Hosam and Hasabdama and Zacharias and Mesoulam on the left hand. ⁵And Esdras opened the book before all the people, because he was above the people, and it happened, when he opened it, all the people stood. ⁶And Esdras blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered and said, "Amen," lifting up their hands, and they bowed and did obeisance to the Lord with their face to the ground. ⁷And Iesous and Banaia and Sarabia were instructing; Akoub, Sabbathaios, Kallitas, Azarias, Iozabad, Hanani, Phalalais and the Leuites tutored the people in the law, and the people kept their stance. ⁸And they read from the book of the law of God, and Esdras was teaching and expanding on the knowledge of the Lord, and the people understood during the reading.

⁹And Neemias said, and Esdras the priest and scribe and the Leuites and those who were instructing the people, and they said to all the people, "A holy day it is to the Lord our God; do not mourn, and do not weep." Because all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰And he said to them, "Go, eat fat, and drink sweet wine, and send portions to those who do not have, because the day is holy to our Lord, and do not err, because he is our strength." ¹¹And the Leuites tried to still all the people, saying, "Be quiet, because the day is holy, and do not be downcast." ¹²And all the people went away to eat and to drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood by the words that were made known to them.

¹³And on the second day the chiefs of paternal families of all the people, the priests and the Leuites, gathered together to Esdras the scribe, to give their attention to all the words of the law. ¹⁴And they found it written in the law, which the Lord had commanded Moyses, that sons of Israel should live in tents during a feast of the seventh

^aHeb = *temple servants* ^bHeb = *robes* ^cone mina = 100 drachmas

month¹⁵ and that they should sound with trumpets in all their cities and in Ierusalem. And Esdras said, "Go out to the mountain and bring foliage of olive trees and foliage of cypress wood and foliage of myrtle and foliage of palm and foliage of the leafy tree to make tents, in accord with what is written."¹⁶ And the people went out and brought them and made tents for themselves, a man on his housetop, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God and in the squares of the city and as far as the house of Ephraim.¹⁷ And all the assembly, those who had returned from the captivity, made tents and lived in tents, because from the days of Iesous son of Naue to that day sons of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing.¹⁸ And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the book of the law of God, and they kept the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a finale, according to the judgment.

19^(9.1) And on the twenty-fourth of this month the sons of Israel gathered with fasting and in sackcloth and with ashes on their head.² And the sons of Israel were separated from every foreign son, and they stood and declared their sins and the acts of lawlessness of their fathers.³ And they kept their stance and read in the book of the law of the Lord, their God, and they were declaring to the Lord and doing obeisance to the Lord, their God.⁴ And Iesous and the sons of Kadmiel, Sechenia the son of Sarabia, sons of Chanani, stood at the ascent of the Leuites and cried out with a loud voice to the Lord their God.⁵ And the Leuites, Iesous and Kadmiel, said, "Stand up. Bless the Lord, our God, from everlasting and to everlasting, and they will bless your glorious name and exalt it with every blessing and praise."

6 And Esdras said: "You yourself are the Lord alone; you made heaven and the heaven of heaven and all their position, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them, and you give everything life, and the armies of the heavens do obeisance to you.⁷ You are the Lord God. You made a choice in Abram and brought him out of the country of the Chaldeans and made for him a name, Abraam,⁸ and you found his heart faithful before you and made a covenant with him to give him and his seed the land of the Chananites and Chettites and Amorrites and Pherezites and Iebousites and Gergesites, and you have established your word, because you are righteous.

9 "And you saw the humiliation of our ancestors in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea.¹⁰ And you gave signs in Egypt against Pharao and against all his servants and against all the people of his land, because you knew that they acted insolently against them, and you made a name for yourself, as this day.¹¹ And you broke asunder the sea before them, and they passed through in the midst of the sea on dry land, and those who pursued them closely you threw into the depths, like a

stone in violent water.¹² And by day you led them with a pillar of cloud, and during the night with a pillar of fire, to give them light on the way in which they should go in it.¹³ And you came down upon Mount Sina and spoke to them from heaven and gave them straightforward judgments and laws of truth and ordinances and good commandments.¹⁴ And you made known your holy sabbath to them; you commanded them commandments and ordinances and law by the hand of your slave Moyses.¹⁵ And you gave them bread from heaven in their famine, and you brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst. And you told them to go in to possess the land to which you stretched out your hand to give them.

16 "And they and our fathers behaved arrogantly and stiffened their neck and did not listen to your commandments,¹⁷ and they refused to obey and were not mindful of your wonders that you performed with them, and they stiffened their neck, and they gave^a a beginning to return to their slavery in Egypt. And you are the God who forgives sins, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and very gracious, and you did not forsake them.¹⁸ Furthermore, they made a cast-metal bull calf for themselves and said, 'These are the gods who brought us up out of Egypt' and committed great provocations.¹⁹ And you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness; you did not turn away from them the pillar of cloud for leading them on the way by day and the pillar of fire to lighten for them the way in which they should go in it during the night.²⁰ And you gave your good spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water in their thirst.²¹ And forty years you sustained them in the wilderness; there was no lack of anything for them; their clothes did not grow old, and their sandals did not tear.²² And you gave them kingdoms and allotted them peoples, and they took possession of the land of Seon, king of Hesebon, and the land of Og, king of Basan.²³ And you multiplied their sons like the stars of heaven and brought them into the land about which you told their fathers, and they possessed it.²⁴ And you wiped out before them the inhabitants of the land of the Chananites and gave them and their kings and the peoples of the land into their hands, to do with them as was pleasing before them.²⁵ And they captured lofty cities and took possession of homes filled with all sorts of goods, hewn cisterns, vineyards and olive orchards and every sort of fruit tree in abundance, and they ate and were filled and became fat and were nourished on your great goodness.

26 "And they changed and departed from you and cast your law behind their body and killed your prophets, who had warned them to turn them back to you, and they committed great provocations.²⁷ And you gave them into the hand of their oppressors, and they oppressed them. And they cried out to you in their time of oppression, and

^ai.e. made

you heard from your heaven, and through your great mercies you gave them deliverers and delivered them from the hand of their oppressors. ²⁸And after they rested, they returned to doing what is evil before you, and you abandoned them to the hands of their enemies, and they ruled among them. And again they cried to you, and you listened from heaven and rescued them by your many mercies. ²⁹And you repeatedly warned them in order to turn them to your law, and they did not listen but sinned against your commandments and judgments by the doing of which a person shall live by them. And they presented a disobedient back and stiffened their neck and did not listen. ³⁰And many years you lasted with them and repeatedly warned them by your spirit by the hand of your prophets, and they did not give ear, and you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the land. ³¹And in your many mercies you did not make an end of them and forsake them, because you are strong and merciful and compassionate.

³² "And now, our strong, great, mighty and awesome God, in keeping the covenant and your mercy, let all the hardship not be treated lightly before you, which found us and our kings and our rulers and our priests and our prophets and our fathers and among all your people from the days of the kings of Assour even until this day. ³³And you are just in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt truthfully, and we did wrong. ³⁴And our kings and our rulers and our priests and our fathers did not practice your law and did not heed your commandments or your testimonies about which you repeatedly warned them. ³⁵And even they—in your rule and in your great goodness that you bestowed on them and in the broad and rich land that you set before them—were not subject to you and did not turn from their wicked habits. ³⁶Behold, we are slaves today, and the land that you gave to our fathers to eat its fruit ³⁷belongs to the kings whom you gave over us because of our sins, and they have power over our bodies and over our animals as seems best to them, and we are in great affliction."

³⁸ And by all these things we are setting forth a pledge of faith and are writing it down, and all our rulers, our Leuites, our priests are sealing it.

20 ^(10.1)And over those affixing seals were Neemias son of Hachalia and Sedekias ²son of Saraia and Azaria and Ieremia, ³Phasour, Amaria, Melchia, ⁴Hattous, Sebani, Malouch, ⁵Hiram, Meramoth, Abdia, ⁶Daniel, Gaannathon, Barouch, ⁷Mesoulam, Abia, Miamin, ⁸Maazia, Belgai, Samaia—these are priests. ⁹And the Leuites were Iesus son of Azania, Banaïou of Banaïou's sons of Henadad's sons, Kadmiel ¹⁰and his brothers, Sabania, Hodouia, Kalitan, Pheleia, Hanan, ¹¹Micha, Roob, Hesebias, ¹²Zakchor, Sarabia, Sebania, ¹³Hodoua, sons of Banounai. ¹⁴The rulers of the people were Phoros, Phaathmoab, Elam, Zaththouia. The sons of Bani were ¹⁵Azgard, Bebai,

¹⁶Adania, Bagoi, Edin, ¹⁷Ater, Hezekia, Azour, ¹⁸Hodouia, Hesam, Besi, ¹⁹Hariph, Anathoth, Nobai, ²⁰Magaphes, Mesoulam, Hezir, ²¹Mesozebel, Sadouk, Ieddoua, ²²Phaltia, Hanan, Anaia, ²³Hosee, Hanania, Hasoub, ²⁴Haloes, Phalai, Sobek, ²⁵Raoum, Hesabana, Maasaia ²⁶and Aia, Hainan, Enan, ²⁷Malouch, Reoum and Baana.

²⁸ And the rest of the people, the priests, the Leuites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the nathinim^a and every one who adheres to the law of God from the people of the land, their wives, their sons, their daughters, every one who knows and understands, ²⁹were prevailing against their brothers, and they cursed them and entered into a curse and an oath to go in God's law, which was given by the hand of Moyses the slave of God, to observe and to do all the commandments of the Lord and his judgments, ³⁰and in order not to give our daughters to the peoples of the land. And we will not take their daughters for our sons. ³¹And the peoples of the land who bring in merchandise and any sale on the sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the sabbath and on a holy day. And we will release the seventh year and a claim of every hand.

³² And we will lay on ourselves the commandments to charge ourselves yearly one-third of a didrachma^b for the service of the house of our God ³³for the loaves of the presence and the sacrifice of perpetuity and for the whole burnt offering of perpetuity of the sabbaths, of the new moons, for the feasts and for the sacred things and the items for sin to make atonement for Israel and for the projects of the house of our God. ³⁴And we, the priests and the Leuites and the people, have cast lots for the assignment of carrying wood, to bring it for the house of our God, for the houses of our paternal families, for seasons of the times, year by year, to burn on the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the law, ³⁵and to bring the first products of our land and the first products of the fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the Lord, ³⁶and to the house of our God for the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our livestock, as it is written in the law, and the firstborn of our cattle and of our flocks.

³⁷ We will bring the first fruit of our grain and the fruit of every tree, wine and oil, for the priests, to the treasure chamber of the house of God, and the tithes of our soil for the Leuites. And the Leuites themselves are collecting the tithes in all the cities of our service, ³⁸and the priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Leuite in the tithe of the Leuite, and the Leuites shall bring up the tithe of the tithe to the house of our God, to the treasure chambers at the house of God. ³⁹Because the sons of Israel and the sons of Leui shall bring into the storerooms the first fruits of the grain and wine and the oil, and the holy vessels and the priests that minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are there. And we will not neglect the house of our God.

^aHeb = temple servants ^bI.e. two-drachma coin

21 ^(11.1)And the rulers of the people lived in Ierousalem, and the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in Ierousalem, the holy city, and nine-tenths remained in the other cities. ²And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered to live in Ierousalem.

³ And these are the rulers of the province who lived in Ierousalem and in the cities of Iouda: they lived, a man on his holding, in their cities: Israel, the priests and the Leuites and the nathineans^a and sons of Salomon's slaves. ⁴And in Ierousalem lived some of the sons of Iouda and some of the sons of Benjamin. Of Iouda's sons: Athaia son of Ozia—he being a son of Zacharia—he being a son of Amaria—he being a son of Saphatia—he being a son of Maleleel, and some sons of Phares. ⁵And Maasia son of Barouch—he being son of Chalaza—he being son of Ozia—he being son of Adaias—he being son of Ioiarib—he being son of Zacharias—he being a son of the Seloni. ⁶All the sons of Phares, who lived in Ierousalem, were four hundred sixty-eight men of power.

⁷ And these are sons of Benjamin: Selo son of Mesoulam—he being a son of Ioad—he being a son of Phadaia—he being a son of Koleia—he being a son of Maasias—he being a son of Aithiel—he being a son of Iessia. ⁸And after him Gebi, Seli, nine hundred twenty-eight. ⁹And Ioel son of Zechri was overseer over them, and Ioudas son of Hasana from the city was second.

¹⁰ From the priests: also Iadia son of Ioarim, Iachin, ¹¹Saraia son of Helkia—he being a son of Mesoulam—he being a son of Saddouk—he being a son of Marioth—he being a son of Aitob, opposite the house of God. ¹²And their brothers who did the work of the house: Amasi son of Zacharia—he being a son of Phaseour—he being a son of Melchia, ¹³and his brothers, chiefs of paternal families, two hundred forty-two. And Amessai son of Esdriel ¹⁴and his brothers, powerful in battle, one hundred twenty-eight, and the overseer over them was Zechriel son of the great men.

¹⁵ And from the Leuites: Samaia son of Hasoub—he being a son of Ezri ¹⁷and Maththania son of Micha and Iobeb son of Samoui, ¹⁸two hundred eighty-four.

¹⁹ And the gatekeepers, Akoub, Telamin and their brothers were one hundred seventy-two.

²² And the overseer of the Leuites was son of Bani, Ozi son of Hasabia—he being son of Micha, from the sons of Asaph, who sing opposite the work of the house of God, ²³because there was a command of the king for them. ²⁴And Phathaia son of Baseza was at ^bthe king's hand for every ^cword for^c the people^b ²⁵and went to the country villages, in their field.

And some of the sons of Iouda lived in Kariatharbok ²⁶and in Iesou ²⁷and in Bersabee, ³⁰and their country villages were Lacheis and its fields, and they camped in Bersabee. ³¹And sons of

Benjamin were from Gabaa, Machmas. ³⁶And from the Leuites were divisions of Iouda for Benjamin.

22 ^(12.1)And these are the priests and the Leuites who went up with Zorobabel son of Salathiel and Iesous: Saraia, Iermia, Esdra, ²Amaria, Malouch, ³Sechenia. ⁷These were the rulers of the priests and their brothers in the days of Iesous.

⁸ And the Leuites: Iesou, Banoui, Kadmiel, Sarabia, Iodae, Maththania. He was over^d the hands, and their brothers were in the daily divisions. ¹⁰And Iesous begat Ioakim, and Ioakim begat Eliasib, and Eliasib, Iodae, ¹¹and Iodae begat Ionathan and Ionathan begat Iadou.

¹² And in the days of Ioakim, his brothers, the priests and chiefs of paternal families were: for Saraia, Amaria; for Iermia, Hanania; ¹³for Esdra, Mesoulam; for Amaria, Ioanan; ¹⁴for Amalouch, Ionathan; for Sechenia, Ioseph; ¹⁵for Harem, Hannas; for Marioth, Helkai; ¹⁶for Addai, Zacharias; for Ganathoth, Mesoulam; ¹⁷for Abia, Zechri; for Benjamin, in the times of Peleti; ¹⁸for Balga, Samoue; for Semeias, Ionathan; ¹⁹for Iarim, Maththania; for Idia, Ozi; ²⁰for Salai, Kallai; for Amek, Abed; ²¹for Helkia, Hasabias; for Iedeiou, Nathanael.

²² The Leuites, in the days of Eliasib, Iouda and Ioa and Ioanan and Idoua, were recorded as the chiefs of paternal families and priests in the reign of Darius the Persian: ²³sons of Leui were chiefs of paternal families, having been recorded in the book of the words of the days, even until the days of Ionan son of Elisoue. ²⁴And the rulers of the Leuites, Hasabia and Sarabia and Iesou and sons of Kadmiel, and their brothers were over against them, to sing hymns and to praise, by the commandment of Daud the man of God, class with class, ²⁵when I gathered the gatekeepers ²⁶in the days of Ioakim son of Iesous son of Iosedek and in the days of Neemias. And Esdras was the priest and the scribe.

²⁷ And at the rededications of the wall of Ierousalem they sought the Leuites in their places, to bring them to Ierousalem, to celebrate the rededications and the merriment with thodatha^e and with odes, while playing the cymbal and harps and cinyras^f. ²⁸And the sons of the singers and some from the region that circles around Ierousalem and some from villages ²⁹and some from the fields gathered, because the singers in Ierousalem built the villages for themselves. ³⁰And the priests and the Leuites were purified, and they purified the people, the gatekeepers and the wall.

³¹ And they brought the rulers of Iouda up onto the wall and appointed two great ones^g concerning praise and went through to the right on the wall of dung, ³²and after them went Hosaia and half the rulers of Iouda ³³and Azarias, Esdra and Mesoulam, ³⁴Iouda and Benjamin and Samaias and Ieremia ³⁵and some of the sons of priests with trumpets: Zacharias son of Ionathan—he being a son

^aHeb = temple servants ^bOr the service of the king for every word concerning the people ^cOr pronouncement to ^dI.e. in charge of ^eHeb = thanksgivings ^f = Heb kinnor = lyre ^gPossibly companies; Gk = masc.

of Samaia—being a son of Maththania—being a son of Michaiā—being a son of Zakchour—being a son of Asaph,³⁶ and his brothers were Samaia and Oziel, Gelolia, Maaia, Nathanael and Ioudas, Hanani, so that they might sing with the songs of Daud the man of God, and Esdras the scribe was in front of them³⁷ at the gate of Ain, opposite them, and they went up to the stairs of the city of Daud, in the ascent of the wall above the house of Daud and as far as the gate of water in the east.

38 And concerning praise, the second one^a meeting them went out, and I followed it, and half of the people were on the wall above the tower of the Thennorim even as far as the broad wall³⁹ and above the gate of Ephraim and to the Eisiana gate and to the fish gate and at the tower of Hanameel and from the tower of Mea, even as far as the sheep gate, and they stood in the gate of the guard.⁴⁰ And the two^b of praise stood in the house of God, and I and half of the generals with me⁴¹ and the priests Eliakim, Maasias, Benjamin, Michaias, Elionai, Zacharias, Hananias⁴² and Semeias and Eleazar and Ozias and Ioanna and Melchias and Ailam and Ezour and the singers were heard and reviewed.⁴³ And they offered great sacrifices on that day and rejoiced, because God made them rejoice greatly, and their wives and their children rejoiced, and the joy in Ierousalem was heard from far away.⁴⁴ And on that day they appointed men over the treasure chambers for stores, for the first fruits and for the tithes and for the things collected in them for the rulers of the cities, portions for the priests and for the Leuites, because there was joy in Iouda both over the priests and over the Leuites that stood.^c ⁴⁵And they guarded the guard stations of the house of their God and the guard stations for purification and the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the commandments of Daud and his son Salomon.⁴⁶ Because in the days of Daud, Asaph from the beginning was the first of those that sing both hymn and praise to God,⁴⁷ and in the days of Zorobabel all Israel was giving portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, the rule of a day for its day, and were sanctifying for the Leuites, and the Leuites were sanctifying for sons of Aaron.

23 ^(13.1) On that day there was read from the book of Moyses in the hearing of the people, and there was found written in it that Ammanites and Moabites should not enter in the assembly of God forever,² because they did not meet the sons of Israel with bread and with water and hired Balaam against him^d to curse him^d, and our God turned the curse into a blessing.³ And it happened, when the people heard the law, and every person of mixed race in Israel was separated.

4 And before this, Eliasib the priest, while living in the treasure chamber of the house of our God, being next of kin to Tobias,⁵ also prepared for him^e a large treasure chamber, and there they had previously put the manaa^f and the frankin-

cense and the vessels and the tithes of grain and of the wine and of the oil (a commandment of the Leuites and of the singers and of the gatekeepers) and the first fruits of the priests.⁶ And in all this I was not in Ierousalem, because in the thirty-second year of Arthasastha, king of Babylon, I went to the king. And after the end of the days, I made a request from the king⁷ and went to Ierousalem. And I gained understanding in the wrong that Eliasib had done for Tobias, to prepare a treasure chamber for him in the court of the house of God.⁸ And it seemed very bad to me, and I threw all the vessels of the house of Tobias out from the treasure chamber.⁹ And I spoke, and they cleansed the treasure chambers, and I brought back there the vessels of the house of God, the manaa^f and the frankincense.

10 And I knew that the portions of the Leuites had not been given, and the Leuites and the singers, who were doing their task, had fled, a man to his field.¹¹ And I remonstrated with the generals and said, "Why was the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together and set them in their station.¹² And all Iouda brought the tithes of the wheat and the wine and the oil into the storehouses¹³ upon the hand of Selemia the priest and Sadok the scribe and Phadaia from the Leuites, and upon their hand was Hanan son of Zakchour—he being son of Maththaniou, because they were considered faithful to them to distribute to their brothers.¹⁴ Remember me, O God, in this, and let not the mercy I did in the house of the Lord God be wiped out.

15 In those days I saw in Iouda people treading wine presses on the sabbath and bringing in sheaves of grain and loading them on donkeys and also bringing into Ierousalem on the sabbath day wine and grapes and figs and all kinds of burdens, and I warned them on their day of sale.¹⁶ And they settled in it^h, bringing fish and selling all kinds of merchandise on the sabbath to the sons of Iouda, and in Ierousalem.¹⁷ And I remonstrated with the free sons of Iouda and said to them, "What is this evil matter that you are doing and profaning the sabbath day?¹⁸ Did not our fathers act in this way? And our God brought all these terrible things upon them and upon us and upon this city. And you are adding wrath to Israel to profane the sabbath."

19 And it happened, when the gates in Ierousalem settled down before the sabbath, and I spoke, and they shut the gates, and I spoke so that they would not be opened until after the sabbath. And I set some of my servants over the gates so that people would not carry burdens on the sabbath day.²⁰ And they all spent the night and made sales outside Ierousalem once and twice.²¹ And I warned them and said to them, "Why do you spend the night in front of the wall? If you do so again, I will extend my hand against you." From that time on they did not come on the sabbath.²² And I told the Leuites who were purifying them-

^aPossibly *company*; Gk = fem ^bPossibly *companies*; Gk = fem ^cPossibly *were appointed* ^dI.e. *Israel* ^eI.e. *Tobias*
^fHeb = *grain offering* ^gAntecedent unclear ^hI.e. *Ierousalem*

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selves and were coming, guarding the gates, to keep the sabbath day holy. Remember me for these things, O God, and spare me according to the fullness of your mercy.

23 And in those days I saw Judeans who had ^aset up^a women of Azotia, Ammanites, Moabites ²⁴(and half of their sons speak Azotian and do not know how to speak Judean), ²⁵and I contended with them and cursed them and beat the men among them and pulled out their hair, and I made them take an oath by God: "If you give your daughters to their sons and if you take some of their daughters for your sons!" ²⁶Did not Salomon, king of Israel, sin in this way? And among many nations there was no king like him. And he was beloved to God, and God gave him as king

over all Israel. And foreign women ruined this man. ²⁷And shall we listen to you to do all this evil to be faithless with our God to ^aset up^a foreign women?"

28 And one of the sons of Ioada the son of Elisoub, the great priest—he was the son-in-law of Sanaballat the Horanite—and I chased him away from me. ²⁹Remember them, O God, because of their close kinship to the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Leuites.

30 And I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established classes for the priests and Leuites, a man according to his task, ³¹and the gift of the wood carriers, in seasons of the times and in the bakchouria^b. Remember me, O our God, for goodness.

^ai.e. married ^bHeb = *firstlings*

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