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: Esdræ libri 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:

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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

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³ Pfeiffer, History 248.
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 δε 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, מים, we find נוחי (2.43; 21.3) and נוחי (2.58; 70; 7.7; 24; 8.17; 20; 13.26; 17.46, 60, 73; 20.28), and for another, בֵּית, יִפְלָל (13.26) and רֹפֶה (13.27). The treatment of names in the book is also inconsistent, so that one finds, for example, אֵל (2.15), אֵל (8.6) and אֵל (17.20) for אֵל; הַמָּתָנָה (23.1) and הַמָּתָנָה (9.1) for מַטָּנָה; בַּאֲדָמֻי (2.10), בַּאֲדָמֻי (10.29) and בַּאֲדָמֻי (18.7) for מַטָּנָה; הַרְוִי (2.32), הַרְוִי (2.39), יִרְאֶה (20.5) and יִרְאֶה (22.15) for מַטָּנָה; קֹלֵי (10.23), קֹלֵי (18.7) and קֹלֵי (20.10) for מַטָּנָה; אָדַדְנָה (7.2), אָדַדְנָה (20.21) and אָדַדְנָה (23.13) for מַטָּנָה.

Pleonasm

In this book there are scattered examples of redundant adverbs and pronouns where the Greek uses the relative pronoun to translate τοις or τοις 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 (τοις – οὗ) he resides there (Επὶ – 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 ἄνδρον, 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:

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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 Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, king of the Persians, and he commanded an utterance 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 Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Who is there among you from all his people? And his God will be with him, and he will go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judaea, and let him build the house of Israel’s God; he is the God who is in Jerusalem. 4 And every one 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 Jerusalem.”

5 And the chiefs of the paternal families of Juda and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites got up, all of whom God had stirred up their spirit, to go up to build the Lord’s house, which is in Jerusalem. 6 And 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. 7 And King Cyrus brought out the vessels of the house of the Lord, which Nabuchodonosor took from Jerusalem and placed them in the house of his god. 8 And Cyrus, king of the Persians, brought them out onto the hand of Mithridates Gabareros, and he counted them for Sasabassar, the ruler of Juda. 9 And this was their number: gold wine coolers, thirty; silver wine coolers, thirty; gold bowls, thirty; and silver bowls, other vessels, one thousand. 10 All 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 Jerusalem.

2 And these are the sons of the country, who went up from the captivity of the exile, which Nabuchodonosor, king of Babylon, had exiled to Babylon, and they returned to Jerusalem and louda, a man to his city, who went with Zorobabel: Jesus, Neemias, Saraias, Reelias, Mardochoias, Balasar, Masphar, Bagouai, Reoum, Baana.

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

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

40 And the Leuites: sons of Iesous and Kadmiel—in reference to the sons of Hodouia—seventy-four. 41 The singers: sons of Asaph, one hundred twenty-eight. 42 Sons 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.
43 The nathineans: sons of Souua; sons of Hased; sons of Hara; sons of Tabbaoth; sons of Kerkon; sons of Geddel; 55 sons of Abdeselma: sons of Sotai; sons of Haseperath; sons of Phadoura; sons of Ieal; sons of Kerkon; sons of Geddel; 57 sons of Saphatia; sons of Hattil; sons of Phacherath of Haseboim; sons of Emei. 58 All the nathinima and sons of Abdeselma were three hundred ninety-two.

59 And the following were those who went up from Thelmelech, Thelearessa, Cheroub, Edan, Emmac and were not able to proclaim their parent houses and their offspring, whether they were from Israel: sons of Dalaia; sons of Boua; sons of Tobiah, sons of Nekoda, six hundred fifty-two. And from sons of the priests: sons of Hobai; sons of Hakkous; sons of Berzellai (who took as wife one of the daughters of Berzellai the Galadite and was called by their name). 62 These, the methoesim, looked for their registration, and they were not found, and they were made near kin from the priesthood, 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. On day one of the seventh month they began to offer up whole burnt offerings on it, 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, and 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.

64 Now the whole assembly, as one, was forty-two thousand three hundred sixty, besides their male slaves and their servant girls—these were two thousand three hundred sixty, besides whole burnt offerings on it, according to the ability they gave to the house of God in order to erect it on its prepared basis. According to their ability they gave to the house of God, and the priests and the Levites and all who were coming to Jerusalem from the captivity made a beginning and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, over those who were doing the projects in the Lord's house.

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

70 And the priests and the Levites and those from the people and the singers and the gatekeepers and the nathinima 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 Jerusalem. And Iesous 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. And they prepared the altar on its prepared basis, because they had dreed 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. And 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.

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, and they approached Zorobabel and the chiefs of the

- Heb = temple servants
- Heb = genealogical records
- I.e. to pronounce on
- Gk 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 Assaraddon, 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 building 5 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,—Mithridates, Tabeel with also the rest of his fellow-slaves—to Arthasastha, king of the Persians; the tribute collector wrote in Syrian a a document, also having been translated. 8 Reoum, Baaltam and Samsai the scribe wrote one letter against Jerusalem to Arthasastha the king. 9 "Reoum, Baaltam and Samsai the scribe and the rest of our fellow-slaves, the Dinians, Apharsachtachians, Tarphallians, Apharsians, Archyians, Babylonians, Sousanachians, Dauians, Dauians, the rest of the nations, whom the great and honorable Assennaphar deported and whom he settled in the cities of Somoron, and the rest beyond the river have rendered judgment as follows." 10 This is the commandment of the letter that they sent to him:

"To Arthasastha the king. Your servants, men beyond the river. 12 Let 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. 13 Now 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.

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. 2 At 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 And Haggai 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. 2 At 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 ‘beyond the river’, and Satharbozunai, 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?” 4 Then they said to them this: “What are the names of the men who are building this city?” 5 And 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 ‘beyond the river’, Satharbozunais and their fellow-slaves, the Apharsachians, who were in ‘beyond the river’, sent to Darius the king. 7 They sent him a report and in ib these things were written: “To Darius the king, all peace! 8 Let 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. 9 Then we asked those elders and spoke to them thus, ‘Who gave you a decision to build this house and to supply these materials?’ 10 And we asked them their names, to inform you, so we could record for you the names of the men who are their rulers. 11 And 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). 12 But after that our fathers angered the God of heaven; he

a Or Mithridates Tabeel or Mithridates of Tabeel  b I.e. Aramaic  c Perhaps Beyond the River  d Possibly disposition  e In order that no = Ha  f I.e. cavalry  g Lacking in Gk  h Antecedent unclear
gave them into the hands of Nabouchodonosor, king of Babylon, the Chaldean, and he destroyed this house and exiled the people to Babylon. 13 But in the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king had a decision made that this house of God should be built. 14 And, as for the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nabouchodonosor brought out of 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 Sanabassar, the treasurer who was over the treasury 15 and said to him, "Take all the vessels, and go; put them in the house, which is in Ierousalem, in their place." 16 Then 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.

17 And 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. 2 And 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: 3 In 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 be set up—son of Saraias son of Azarias son of Helkia 4 son of Amaria son of Ezria son of Maraioth 2 son of Selloum son of Saddouk son of Achitob 3 son of Eleazar son of Phinees son of Eleazar son of Aaron the first priest. 6 Esdras 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,

Whatever they request, 10 so that they may be offering fragrances to the God of heaven and be praying for the life of the king and his sons. 11 And 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. 12 And 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 2 beyond the river, Satharbouzanai and his fellow slaves in this way acted with all diligence toward what Darius the king had sent. 14 And 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. 15 And 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. 17 And 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. 18 And 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 paschac. 20 Because the priests were purified and the Leuites pure, one and all, they also slaughtered the paschac for all the sons of the exile and for their brothers the priests and for themselves. 21 And 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 paschac. 22 And 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—from Saraias son of Azarias son of Helkia 2 son of Selloum son of Saddouk son of Achitob 3 son of Amaria son of Ezria son of Maraioth 4 son of Zaraia son of Ozios son of Bokki 5 son of Abiosue son of Phinees son of Eleazar son of Aaron the first priest. 6 Esdras 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,
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\(^4\) went up to Jerusaleam in the seventh year of Arthasasta the king. \(^8\)And they came to Jerusaleam in the fifth month, that is, the seventh year of the king—\(^9\)because 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 Jerusaleam, for the hand of his God was good upon him—\(^10\)because 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 Arthasasta gave to Esdras the priest, the scribe of the book of words of the commandments of the Lord and his ordinances for Israel: \(^12\)Arthasasta, king of kings, to Esdras, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven. The message and its answer have been completed. \(^13\)A 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 Jerusaleam are to go with you. \(^14\)It was sent from before the king and the seven counselors that you conduct an inspection of Judea and of Jerusaleam in accordance with the law of their God, which is in your hand—\(^15\)and that you inspect 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 Jerusaleam, \(^16\)and 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 Jerusaleam, \(^17\)and 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 is in Jerusaleam. \(^18\)And 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. \(^19\)And the vessels that are being given you for the service of the house of God, deliver them before God in Jerusaleam. \(^20\)And 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.

*And I, Arthasasta the king, have issued a decision from me for all the treasures in the area\(^1\) beyond the river 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, \(^22\)up to one hundred talents of silver and up to one hundred kors of wheat and up to one hundred bath\(^5\) of wine and one hundred bath\(^6\) of oil and salt for which there is no writ. \(^23\)Everything 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. \(^24\)And this has been made known to you\(^2\) among all the priests and Leuites, singers, gatekeepers, nathinim\(^4\) and ministers of God’s house. Let there be no tribute for you, 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 the area\(^1\) beyond the river; all who know the law of your God, and you shall make it known to the one who does not know it. \(^26\)And 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 Jerusaleam, \(^28\)and 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 Arthasasta, the king of Babylon: \(^2\)of Phinees’ sons, Gersom; of Ithamar’s sons, Daniel; of Daudi’s sons, Hattous; \(^3\)of Sachanias’ sons; of Phoros’ sons, Zacharias, and with him the company of one hundred fifty; \(^4\)of Phaathmoab’s sons, Eliana son of Saraia, and with him two hundred males; \(^5\)of Zathoes’ sons, Sechenias son of Haziel, and with him three hundred males. \(^6\)And of Adin’s sons, Obeth son of Jonathan, and with him fifty males. \(^7\)And of Eleazar’s sons, Isaia son of Athelia, and with him seventy males. \(^8\)And of Saphatias’ sons, Zabdia son of Michael, and with him the eighty males. \(^9\)And of Ioah’s sons, Abadia—he being son of leiel—and with him were the two hundred eighteen males. \(^10\)And of Baani’s sons, Selimouth son of Josepha, and with him the one hundred sixty males. \(^11\)And of Babi’s sons, Zacharias son of Babi, and with him the twenty-eight males. \(^12\)And of Azgad’s sons, Ioanan—he being son of Hakkatan—and with him the one hundred ten males. \(^13\)And of Adonikam’s sons—they were last—and these were their names: Eliphlath, leiel and Samaia, and with them the sixty males. \(^14\)And of Bagouai’s sons, Othai 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. \(^16\)And I sent intelligent people to Eleazar, to Ariel, to Samaia and to Ioarib and to Nathan and to Zacharia and to Mesoulam and to Ioarib and to El Nathan, \(^17\)and I brought

\(^{a}\)Heb (Aram) = *temple servants*  
\(^{b}\)i.e. *the decision*  
\(^{c}\)Lacking in Gk  
\(^{d}\)Or *who*  
\(^{e}\)Perhaps *Beyond the River*  
\(^{f}\)Lacking in Greek  
\(^{g}\)Heb 1 kor = 220 liters  
\(^{h}\)Heb 1 bath = 22 liters  
\(^{i}\)Gk = pl  
\(^{j}\)Gk = 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, so that they would bring for us, with the silver of the place, singers for the house of our God. 7And since the good hand of our God was upon us, there came to us a man of Sachol, some of Mooli’s sons, son of Leui son of Israel (and his sons and his brothers, eighteen of them, came at the beginning), 8and Hasebia and Isaia of Merani’s sons, his brothers and their sons, twenty, 9and of the nathinim, whom Dauid and his rulers had given into slavery to the Leuites, two hundred twenty nathinim. 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 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 chaphourec 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, holy, and the silver and the gold are freewill offerings to the Lord, God of our fathers, to bring to Jerusalem to the house of our God.

30 And the priests and the Leuites took the weight of the silver and the gold and the vessels, to bring to Jerusalem 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 Jerusalem, 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 Jerusalem 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 Noahia son of Ba-naiia, the Leuites), 34everything by number and by weight, and the total weight was recorded. At that time those 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.

35And they gave the king’s currency to the administrators of the king and to the commanders beyond the river, 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, in reference to the Chanani—the Heththi, the Pheresi, the lebousi, the Ammoni, the Moab, the Morsi and the Amori—because 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 and 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. 6From 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 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 in Louda and in Jerusalem.

10 “Our God, what shall we say after this? Because we have forsaken your commandments, which we 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, who they have filled it from mouth to mouth with their impurities.’ And now

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*Heb = temple servants *bOr sacho *cHebrew = bowls *dOr set *ePerhaps of Beyond the River *fPossibly abominations
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 set up 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 Levites 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 in Iouda and in Ie-

9 And all the men of Iouda and Benjam in 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 tumult about the word and because of the winter. 10 And Esdras the priest arose and said to them, "You have been faithless and set up 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 set up 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 Sabbathi the Leuite supporting them.

16 And sons of the exile did so. And Esdras the priest and men ruling the paternal houses were set apart, 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 set up foreign women by the first day of the first month.

18 And there were found some sons of the priests who had set up foreign women: some sons of Iesous son of Iosedek and his brothers: 

19 And they gave their hand 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: Elloenai, Masia and Ismael and Nathanael and Iozabad and Elasa.

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

25 And of Israel: of Phoros' sons: Ramia and Iazia and Melchia and Meamit and Eliazar and Hasabia and Banaia. 26 And of Elam's sons: Maththania and Zacharia and Iaiel and Abdia and Ierimoth and Elia. 27 And of Zaththoua's sons: Elloenai, Eliosoub, Maththaniah and larnoth and Zabad and Oziza. 28 And of Babi's sons: Iozabad, 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 Chavel and Banaia, Maasea, Maththaniah, Beselel and Banoui and Manasse. 31 And of Heram's sons: Eliezer, Ieseia, Melchia, Samaia, Semeon, Beniamin, Malouch, Samaria. 32 And of Hasem's sons: Maththaniah, Maththatha, Zabad, Elphilaet, Jeremi, Manasse and Semei. 33 And of Bani's sons: Moodia, Amram and Ouel, Banaia, Badaia, Chelia, Ououania, Marimoth, Elisib, Maththaniah, Maththaniah, and so did Banui's sons and Semei's sons and Selemia and Nathan and Adaia, Machnadaabou, Sesei, Arou, Ezriel and Selemia and Samarias. 34 And of Nabo's sons: Ieiel, Maththathias, Zabad, Zebinnas, Iadai and Ioel and Banaia. All these had married foreign women, and they fathered sons by them.

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1. i.e. married 2. Or proclamation 3. Lacking in Gk 4. Or clamor after 5. Or given express orders 6. i.e. pledged
11 (Neh 1.1) Words of Neemias son of Hachaliah.
And it happened in the month of Chæseleu, in the twentieth year, and I was in Sousan Habira, and one of my brothers, Hanani, he and men of lourada came, and I asked them about those that survived, those who had been left over from the captivity, and about Ierousalem. And 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, your servant today, and I give him over to feelings want to revere your name, and give now success to your slave and to the prayer of your servants who rather, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your slave that I am praying before 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 people, whom you redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. Nay 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 give him over to feelings of compassion 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. And 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 sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I said, “Nay indeed, O Lord, you the strong God of heaven, the judgments that you commanded your servant Moyses, saying, ‘You, if you break up with us and did not keep the commandments and the ordinances and the judgments that you commanded your servant Moyses. Remember now the word that you commanded your servant Moyses, saying, ‘You, if you are faithless, I will scatter you among the peoples, and 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.’ And they are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. Nay 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 give him over to feelings of compassion before this man!”

And I was cupbearer to the king.

13 (3.1) And the great priest Elisoub and his brothers the priests set out and built the
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 Jericho and at the hand of the sons of Zakhour 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. 4 And at their hand, one of Ramoth son of Ouria son of Hakkos took control. And at their hand Mesoulam son of Barachiou son of Maszebel took charge. And at their hand Sadouk son of Baana took charge. 5 And 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 Jasana; they covered it and set up its doors and its bars and its bolts. 7 And 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 beyond the river. 8 And 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 Jerusalem alone as far as the broad wall. 9 And at their hand Raphaia son of Hour, ruler of half the area around Keila, took control for his father Raoum son of Bani, and at his hand Hasabia, ruler of half the area around Bethsour, took control. And at their hand Sadouk son of Baana took charge. 10 And at their hand Maltias the priest, the men of Hachchechar, took control. And at their hand Sadouk son of Emmer took control opposite his house.

11 And a second Melchias son of Hasania took control. 11 And a second Melchias son of Heram and Hasoub son of Phaathmoab took control as far as the tower of the Thannourim. 12 And at his hand Salloum son of Halloes, ruler of half the area around Ierousalem, took control, and 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 David. 16 Behind him Neemias son of Azbouch, ruler of half the area around Bethsour, took control as far as the garden of the grave of David and as far as the artificial pool and as far as Bethaggaram. 17 Behind 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. 18 After him their brothers took control: Benei son of Hanadad, ruler of half the area around Keila. 19 And at his hand Azour son of Besoum of Besoum, took control of a second section of the tower of ascent, which joins the corner.

20 And after him Bani son of Henadad took control of the next section from the corner to the door of Bethelisoub the great priest. 21 And after him Meramoth son of Ouria son of Hakkos controlled a second section from the door of Bethelisoub to where Bethelisoub leaves off. 22 After him the priests, the men of Hachchechar, took control.

23 After him and the Levites took control opposite their house. And after him Azaria son of Maassias son of Anania took control beside his house. 24 After him Bani son of Henadad controlled a second section, from Bethazaria to the corner and as far as the bend of Phalal son of Euzai from opposite the corner—and b it is b the upper tower that projects from the house of the king at the court of the guard—and after him Paddia son of Phoros. 26 (And the nathinim were dwelling in Ophal as far as the garden of the gate of water to the east. And the tower is the one projecting.) 27 After 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. 29 After him Sadouk 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. 30 After 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. 31 After him Melchia son of Sarephi took control as far as Bethannahinitham and the hucksters opposite the gate of Maphekad and as far as the ascent at the bend. 32 And in the midst of the sheep gate the smiths 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. 2 And 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?”

3 And 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?” 4 Hear, O our God, for we have become despised. 5 And return their taunt to their heads, and give them over to sneering in a land of captivity, 6 and 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 becoming to be closed, and it looked very bad to them. 8 And they all gathered together to come and get ready to fight in Ierousalem. 9 And we prayed to our God and set up an
16 And loudas 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 their swords. 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 your young man, pass the night inside Ierousalem, his house and from his property who does not establish this word, and thus they will be shaken out and emptied.” 23And 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 ejection 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.

2ESDRAS 14-16

*(Possibly by means of)*
16-2 Esdras 16–17

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 Jerusalem as king in Judah. 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.

10And I went into the house of Semei son of Dalai, 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.

15And 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 Judah’s distinguished to Tobias, and those of Tobias were coming to them, 18because many in Judah were bound by oath to him, because he was the son-in-law of Sechena son of Er, 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 gatekeepers and the singers and the Levites were revealed. 2And I commanded my brother Hanania and Hanania, ruler of the bira in Jerusalem, because he was like a truthful man and feared God more than many, 3and I said to them, "The gates of Jerusalem will not be opened until at the same as the sun, and while they are still keeping watch, let the doors be shut and barred. And appoint advance guards from those living in Jerusalem, 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.

5And 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:

6And these are sons of the country who went up from the captivity of the exile which Nabuchodonosor, king of Babylon, had exiled, and they returned to Jerusalem and to Judah, a man to his city, 7with Zorobabel and Iesous, and Neemias, Azaria, Reelma, Naemani, Mardochaios, 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 Barachia, six hundred fifty-two. 11Sons of Phaththomao, in reference to the sons of Iesous and Ioab, two thousand eight hundred eighteen. 12Sons of Alam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four. 13Sons of Zaththouia, eight hundred forty-five. 14Sons of Zakchou, seven hundred sixty. 15Sons of Banou, six hundred forty-eight. 16Sons of Bebi, six hundred twenty-eight. 17Sons of Azzad, two thousand three hundred twenty-two. 18Sons of Adoniakam, six hundred sixty-seven. 19Sons of Bagouiai, two thousand sixty-seven. 20Sons of Edin, six hundred forty-five. 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 Harip, one hundred twelve. Sons of Hasen, two hundred twenty-three. 25Sons of Gabaon, ninety-five. 26Sons of Baithleen, 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 Bethroth, seven hundred forty-three. 30Men of Harama and Gabaa, six hundred twenty-two. 31Men of Machmas, one hundred twenty-two. 32Men of Bithel and Ai, one hundred twenty-three. 33Men of Nabiat, fifty-two. 34Sons of Magebos, one hundred fifty-six. 35Men of Elamaar, one thousand two hundred fifty-four. 36Sons of Heram, three hundred twenty. 37Sons of Iericho, three hundred forty-five. 38Sons of Lod, Hadid and Ono, seven hundred twenty-one. 39Sons of Sanana, three thousand nine hundred thirty.

39 The priests: sons of Iodae, for the house of Iesous, nine hundred seventy-two. 40Sons of Emmer, one thousand fifty-two. 41Sons of Phaseour,
one thousand two hundred forty-seven. 42 Sons of 
Haram, one thousand seventeen.

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

46 The nathinima: sons of Siaa, sons of Hasipha, 
sons of Tabboaith, sons of Kiras, sons of Siaia, sons 
of Phadon, 48 sons of Labana, sons of Hangaba, 
sons of Akoud, sons of Outa, sons of Ketar, sons of 
Hagab, sons of Selmeei, 49 sons of Hanan, sons of 
Sadel, sons of Gaar, 50 sons of Raia, sons of Rason, 
sons of Nekoda. 51 sons of Zezam, sons of Ozi, 
sons of Phese, 52 sons of Besi, sons of Meinom, sons 
of Nephosasim, 53 sons of Bakbouk, sons of Hachipha, 
sons of Harout, 54 sons of Basalothe, sons of 
Meida, sons of Hadasan, 55 sons of Barkous, sons 
of Sisarah, sons of Themia, 56 sons of Nisia, sons of 
Hatipha.

57 Sons of Salomon's slaves: sons of Soutei, 
sons of Sapharath, sons of Pherida, 58 sons of Ieale, 
sons of Nephosasim, 59 sons of Bakbouk, sons of 
Hachipha, sons of Harout, 60 sons of Basalothe, sons 
of Meida, sons of Hadasan, 61 sons of Barkous, sons 
of Sisarah, sons of Themia, 62 sons of Nisia, sons of 
Hatipha.

60 The nathinima and sons of Salomon's 
slaves, three hundred ninety-two.

61 And these went up from Thermelech, The-
laresa, Cheroub, Eron, Lemmer, and they could not 
declare their paternal houses and their seed, 
whether they were from Israel: 62 sons of Dalaia, 
sons of Boua, sons of Tobia, sons of Nekoda, six 
hundred forty-two. 63 And from the priests: sons 
of Hebia, sons of Hakkos, sons of Berzellai (because 
they had taken of the daughters of Berzellai the 
Galadide as wives and were called by their name).

64 These sought their registration of the company, 
and it was not found, and they were made near kin 
until the priest should arise to enlighten.

65 And Esdres opened the book before all 
the people, because he was above the people, and 
it happened, when he opened it, all the people 
stood. 66 And Esdres 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. 67 And Iesous and Banaias and Sarabia were 
inquiring: Akoub, Sabbathaioes, Kallitas, Azarias, 
Iozabad, Hanani, Phalaias and the Leuites tutored 
the people in the law, and the people kept their 
stance. 68 And they read from the book of the law 
of God, and Esdres was teaching and expanding on 
the knowledge of the Lord, and the people under-
stood during the reading.

69 And Neemias said, and Esdres the priest and 
scribe and the Leuites and those who were in-
structing 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. 70 And 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.” 71 And the 
Leuites tried to still all the people, saying, “Be 
quiet, because the day is holy, and do not be 
downcast.” 72 And 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.

73 And the priests and the Leuites and the gate-
keepers and the singers and those from the people 
and the nathinima and all Israel settled in their cit-
ies.

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 Esdres the scribe to bring the book of the law 
of Moyses, which the Lord had commanded Israel.

2 And Esdres 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, 3 and 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. 4 And Esdres the scribe stood on a 
wooden platform, and beside him stood Mattathias 
and Samaias and Hananias and Ouria and 
Helkia and Maasia on his right hand, and Phada-
rias and Misael and Melchias and Hosam and 
Hasabdam and Zacharias and Mesoulam on the 
left hand. 5 And Esdres opened the book before all 
the people, because he was above the people, and 
it happened, when he opened it, all the people 
stood. 6 And Esdres 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. 7 And Iesous and Banaias and Sarabia were 
instructing: Akoub, Sabbathaioes, Kallitas, Azarias, 
Iozabad, Hanani, Phalaias and the Leuites tutored 
the people in the law, and the people kept their 
stance. 8 And they read from the book of the law 
of God, and Esdres was teaching and expanding on 
the knowledge of the Lord, and the people under-
stood during the reading.

9 And Neemias said, and Esdres the priest and 
scribe and the Leuites and those who were in-
structing 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. 10 And 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.” 11 And the 
Leuites tried to still all the people, saying, “Be 
quiet, because the day is holy, and do not be 
downcast.” 12 And 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.

13 And on the second day the chiefs of paternal 
families of all the people, the priests and the 
Leuites, gathered together to Esdres the scribe, to 
give their attention to all the words of the law.

14 And 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

\[\text{Heb} = \text{temple servants} \quad \text{Heb} = \text{robes} \quad \text{one mina} = 100 \text{ drachmas}\]
month 15 and that they should sound with trumpets in all their cities and in Jerusalem. 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 housestop, 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 lesous 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. 2And 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. 3And 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. 4And lesous and the sons of Kadmiel, Sechenia the son of Sarabia, sons of Chanani, stood at the ascent of the Levites and cried out with a loud voice to the Lord their God. 5And the Levites, lesous 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 land of the Chaldeans and made him for a name, Abraam, and you found his heart faithful before you and made a covenant with him to give him and his seed the land of the Canaanites and Chettites and Amorrites and Pherezites and lebousites 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 Mosyes. 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 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 Canaanites 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
you heard from your heaven, and through your great mercies you gave them deliverers and delivered them from the hand of their oppressors. 28 And 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. 29 And 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. 30 And 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. 31 And 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 fathers and among all your people from the days of the kings of Assur even until this day. 33 And you are just in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt truthfully, and we did wrong. 34 And 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. 35 And 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 your law, which was given by the hand of Moses the slave of God, to observe and to do all the commandments of the Lord and his judgments, and in order not to give our daughters to the peoples of the land. And we will not take their daughters for our sons. 36 And 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. 37 And we will lay on ourselves the commandments to charge ourselves yearly one-third of a didrachma\(^a\) for the service of the house of our God for 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. 38 And we, the priests and the Levites 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, and 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, and 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. 39 And by all these things we are setting forth a pledge of faith and are writing it down, and all our rulers, our Levites, our priests are sealing it.

\(^{10,11}\) And over those affixing seals were Neemias son of Hachalia and Sedekias son of Saraia and Azaria and Jeremia, 4 Phasous, Amaria, Melchia, 4 Hattous, Sebani, Malouch, 5 Hiram, Meramoth, Abdia, 6 Daniel, Gaannathon, Barouch, 7 Mesoulam, Abia, Miamian, 8 Maazia, Belgai, Samaia—these are priests. 9 And the Levites were Iesous son of Azania, Banaioth of Banaioth's sons of Henadad's sons, Kadmiel 10 and his brothers, Sabania, Hodouia, Kaltian, Pheleia, Hanan, 11 Michia, Roob, Hesebias, 12 Zakchor, Sarabia, Sebania, 13 Hodouia, sons of Banounai. 14 The rulers of the people were Phoros, Ppaathmoab, Elam, Zath hutouia. The sons of Bani were 15 Aazgad, Bebai, 16 Adania, Bagoi, Edin, 17 Ater, Hezekia, Azour, 18 Hodouia, Hesam, Besi, 19 Harih, Anathoth, Nobai, 20 Magaphes, Mesoulam, Hezir, 21 Mesozebel, Sadouk, Ieddoua, 22 Phaltia, Hanan, Anvia, 23 Hosee, Hanania, Hasoub, 24 Haloes, Phalai, Sobek, 25 Raum, Hesaban, Maasaia 26 and Aia, Hainan, Enan, 27 Malouch, Reoum and Baana.

28 And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the nathimim\(^b\) 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, were 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 Moses the slave of God, to observe and to do all the commandments of the Lord and his judgments, and in order not to give our daughters to the peoples of the land. And we will not take their daughters for our sons. And 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\(^a\) for the service of the house of our God for 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. 34 And we, the priests and the Levites 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, and 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, and 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 And 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 Levites. And the Levites themselves are collecting the tithes in all the cities of our service, and the priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Leuite in the tithe of the Leuite, and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithe to the house of our God, to the treasure chambers at the house of God. And the sons of Israel and the sons of Levi 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.

\(^a\)Heb = temple servants  \(^b\)I.e. two-drachma coin
And the rulers of the people lived in Jerusalem, and the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in Jerusalem, the holy city, and nine-tenths remained in the other cities. And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem.

And these are the rulers of the province who lived in Jerusalem 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 and sons of Salomon's slaves. And in Jerusalem 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 Saphathia—he being a son of Maleeleel, and some sons of Phares. And Maasia son of Barouch—he being son of Chalaza—he being son of Ozia—he being son of Adaia—he being son of Ioiarib—he being son of Zacharias—he being a son of the Seloni. All the sons of Phares, who lived in Jerusalem, were four hundred sixty-eight men of power.

And these are sons of Beniamin: Selo son of Mesoulam—he being a son of lod—a son of Phadaia—he being a son of Kariatharbok—he being a son of Chalaza—he being a son of Ozia—he being son of Adaia—he being son of Ioiarib—he being son of Zacharias—he being a son of the Seloni. All the sons of Phares, who lived in Jerusalem, were four hundred sixty-eight men of power.

And from the priests: also Iadia son of Ioarim, Iachin, Saraia 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. And their brothers who did the work of the house: Amasi son of Zacharia—he being a son of Phaseour—he being a son of Maleleel, and some sons of Melchia, and his brothers, chiefs of paternal families, two hundred forty-two. And Amessai son of Esdriel and his brothers, powerful in battle, one hundred twenty-eight. And Joel son of Zechri was overseer over them, and Ioudas son of Hasana from the city was second.

And in the times of Peleti; for Balga, for Zebiraiah, for Semeias, for Melchia, 13 and his brothers, chiefs of paternal families, having been recorded in the book of the words of the days, even until the days of Ioakim son of Iesous son of Iosedek and in the days of Darius the Persian: sons of Levi 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 Eliseou. And the rulers of the Leuites, Hasabia and Sarabia and Iesou and sons of Kadiem, and their brothers were over against them, to sing hymns and to praise, by the commandment of Dauid the man of God, class with the singers in Jerusalem, to celebrate the rededication of the Leuites to the service of the king. And the Leuites were purified, and they purified the priests and their brothers in the reign of Darius the Persian.

And these are the priests and the Leuites who went up with Zorobabel son of Salathiel and Iesous: Saraia, Iermia, Esdra, Amaria, Malouch, Sechenia. These were the rulers of the priests and their brothers in the days of Iesous. And the Leuites: Iesou, Banou, Kadiem, Sarabia, Iodae, Matthanitha. He was over the hands, and their brothers were in the daily divisions. And Iesous begat Ioakim, and Ioakim begat Eliasib, and Eliasib, Iodae, Iodae. And Iodae begat Jonathan and Jonathan begat Iadou.

And in the days of Ioakim, his brothers, the priests and chiefs of paternal families were: for Saraia, Amaria; for Iermia, Hanania; for Esdra, Mesoulam; for Amaria, Ioanan; for Malouch, Ieronan; for Sechenia, Ioseph; for Harem, Hannas; for Marioth, Helkai; for Addai, Zacharias; for Ganathoth, Mesoulam; for Abia, Zechri; for Benjamin, in the times of Peleti; for Balga, Samoue; for Semeias, Ieronan; for Iarim, Matthanitha; for Idia, Ozi; for Salai, Kallai; for Amek, Abed; for Helkia, Hasabias; for Iedeiou, Nathanael.

22 And the Leuites, in the days of Eliasib, Ioad and Ioa and Ioanan and Iodou, were recorded as the chiefs of paternal families and priests in the reign of Darius the Persian: sons of Levi 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 Eliseou. And the rulers of the Leuites, Hasabia and Sarabia and Iesou and sons of Kadiem, and their brothers were over against them, to sing hymns and to praise, by the commandment of Dauid the man of God, class with the singers in Jerusalem, to celebrate the rededication of the Leuites to the service of the king. And the Leuites were purified, and they purified the priests and their brothers in the reign of Darius the Persian.

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And these are the priests and the Leuites who went up with Zorobabel son of Salathiel and Iesous: Saraia, Iermia, Esdra, Amaria, Malouch, Sechenia. These were the rulers of the priests and their brothers in the days of Iesous.
and the Levites were sanctifying for sons of Aaron.

38 And concerning praise, the second one

44 And on that day they appointed men over the
treasure chambers for stores, for the first fruits and
for the Levites, because there was joy in Jerusalem.

45 And they guarded the guard stations of
both over the priests and over the Levites that
stood.

46 Because in the days of David,
 according to the commandments of David and his
purification and the singers and the gatekeepers,
the house of their God and the guard stations for
the evening watchmen, and the treasure chambers
for stores, for the first fruits and of the
wine and of the oil (a commandment of the
Levites and of the singers and of the gatekeepers)
and the first fruits of the priests.

And in all this I was not in Jerusalem, because in the thirty-second
year of Arthasasta, king of Babylon, I went to
the king. And after the end of the days, I made a request
from the king and went to Jerusalem. 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. 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 manna and the frankincense.

10 And I knew that the portions of the Levites
had not been given, and the Levites 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 Louda brought the tithe of the
wheat and the wine and the oil into the storehouses
upon the hand of Selemia the priest and Sadok the scribe
and Phadaia from the Levites, and
upon their hand was Hanan son of Zakh- chour—he being son of Maththaniou, because they
were considered faithful to them to distribute
to their brothers. 13 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 Louda people treading
wine presses on the sabbath and bringing in
sheaves of grain and loading them on donkeys and
also bringing into Jerusalem 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, bringing fish and selling all kinds of
merchandise on the sabbath to the sons of Louda,
and in Jerusalem. 17 And I remonstrated with the
free sons of Louda and said to them, "What is this
evil matter that you are doing and profaning the
sabbath? 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 Jerus-
salem 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 Jerusalem 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 Levites who were purifying them-

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

4 And before this, Eliasib the priest, while liv-
ing in the treasure chamber of the house of our
God, being next of kin to Tobias, 2 also prepared for him a large treasure chamber, and there
they had previously put the manna and the frankin-
cense and the vessels and the tithe of grain and of
the wine and of the oil (a commandment of the
Levites and of the singers and of the gatekeepers)
and the first fruits of the priests.

Possibly company; Gk = fem
Possibly companies; Gk = fem
Heb = grain offering
Antecedent unclear
i.e. Jerusalem
Possibly were appointed
i.e. Israel
i.e. Tobias
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 set up women of Azotia, Ammanites, Moabites (and half of their sons speak Azotian and do not know how to speak Judean), 24 and 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!” 26 Did not Solomon, 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. 27 And shall we listen to you to do all this evil to be faithless with our God to set up 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. 29 Remember 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, 31 and the gift of the wood carriers, in seasons of the times and in the bakchouria. Remember me, O our God, for goodness.

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*a.e. married  b Heb = firstlings*