

Scripture Text of the Followers of IESO

Cyrus Allows the Exiles to Return.

The decree of Cyrus the Persian.

Aleim stirs Cyrus to make a decree.

Chapter 1.

1. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of IEUE by the mouth of ierhemia might be fulfilled, IEUE stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

The decree Cyrus made.

2. Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, IEUE Aleim of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and He hath charged me to build Him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

3. Who is there among you of all His people? his Aleim be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of IEUE Aleim of Isrhael, (He is the Aleim) which is in Jerusalem.

4. And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of Aleim that is in Jerusalem.

The response of the people to the invitation to go back to Jerusalem.

Those returning to Jerusalem are encouraged.

5. Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit Aleim had raised, to go up to build the house of IEUE which is in Jerusalem.

6. And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered.

The return of the articles of the house of IEUE.

7. Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of IEUE, which Nebuchadnezzarh had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods;

8. Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzarh, the prince of Judah.

9. And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives,

10. Thirty basons of gold, silver basons of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand.

11. All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbazzarh bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem.

List of the Returning Exiles.

Those immediately associated with Zerhubbabel.

Chapter 2.

1. Now these are the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, everyone unto his city;
2. Which came with Zerhubbabel: Iesou, Neemia, Serhaia, Rheelaia, Morhdekai, Bilshan, Misparh, Bigvai, Rheum, Baana. The number of the men of the people of Israhel:

A listing of the families returning to Judah and Jerusalem.

3. The children of Parhos, two thousand an hundred seventy and two.
4. The children of Sephatia, three hundred seventy and two.
5. The children of Arha, seven hundred seventy and five.
6. The children of Paathmoab, of the children of Iesou and Ioab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve.
7. The children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.
8. The children of Zattu, nine hundred forty and five.
9. The children of Zakkai, seven hundred and threescore.
10. The children of Bani, six hundred forty and two.
11. The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty and three.
12. The children of Azgad, a thousand two hundred twenty and two.
13. The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and six.
14. The children of Bigvai, two thousand fifty and six.
15. The children of Adin, four hundred fifty and four.
16. The children of Aterh of Hezekia, ninety and eight.
17. The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty and three.
18. The children of Iorha, an hundred and twelve.
19. The children of Hasum, two hundred twenty and three.
20. The children of Gibbarh, ninety and five.
21. The children of Bethlehem, an hundred twenty and three.

22. The men of Netopha, fifty and six.
23. The men of Anathoth, an hundred twenty and eight.
24. The children of Azmaveth, forty and two.
25. The children of Kirhiatharim, Chephira, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty and three.
26. The children of Rhama and Gaba, six hundred twenty and one.
27. The men of Michmas, an hundred twenty and two.
28. The men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred twenty and three.
29. The children of Nebo, fifty and two.
30. The children of Magbish, an hundred fifty and six.
31. The children of the other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.
32. The children of Harhim, three hundred and twenty.
33. The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty and five.
34. The children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five.
35. The children of Senaa, three thousand and six hundred and thirty.

A listing of the priests, Levites and temple workers returning from exile.

36. The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Iesou, nine hundred seventy and three.
37. The children of Immer, a thousand fifty and two.
38. The children of Pasurh, a thousand two hundred forty and seven.
39. The children of Harhim, a thousand and seventeen.
40. The Levites: the children of Iesou and Kadmiel, of the children of Hodavia, seventy and four.
41. The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred twenty and eight.
42. The children of the porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Aterh, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Sobai, in all an hundred thirty and nine.
43. The Nethinims: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth,
44. The children of Kerhos, the children of Siaha, the children of Padon,
45. The children of Lebana, the children of Hagaba, the children of Akkub,
46. The children of Hagab, the children of Shalmal, the children of Hanan,
47. The children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, the children of Reaia,

- 48. The children of Rhezin, the children of Nekoda, the children of Gazzam,
- 49. The children of Uzza, the children of Pasea, the children of Besai,
- 50. The children of Asna, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephusim,
- 51. The children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhurh,
- 52. The children of Bazluth, the children of Mehida, the children of Harhsa,
- 53. The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Thama,
- 54. The children of Nezia, the children of Hatipha.
- 55. The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Peruda,
- 56. The children of Iaala, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,
- 57. The children of Sephatia, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Ami.

Two special groups who came back from exile.

- 58. All the Nethinims, and the children of Solomon's servants, were three hundred ninety and two.

Those among the priests with uncertain genealogies who returned from exile.

- 59. And these were they which went up from Telmela, Telharhsa, Cherhub, Addan, and Immerh: but they could not shew their father's house, and their seed, whether they were of Israel:

- 60. The children of Delaia, the children of Tobia, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty and two.

6. And of the children of the priests: the children of Habaia, the children of Koz, the children of Barhzillai; which took a wife of the daughters of Barhzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name:

- 62. These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.

- 63. And the Tirhsatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.

The summary of the returning exiles.

- 64. The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore,

- 65. Beside their servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing women.

66. Their horses were seven hundred thirty and six; their mules, two hundred forty and five;
67. Their camels, four hundred thirty and five; their asses, six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

The offerings made for the rebuilding of the temple.

68. And some of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of IEUE which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of Aleim to set it up in his place:

69. They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pound of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

The restoration of a substantial Isrhael presence in the Promised Land.

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

A Foundation for the New Temple.

The restoration of regular worship in Jerusalem.

Beginning in the seventh month.

Chapter 3.

1. And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israhel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.

The altar is rebuilt on its ancient foundation.

2. Then stood up Iesou the son of Ioizadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerhubbabel the son of Sealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the Aleim of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of MoUse the man of Aleim.

3. And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear was upon them because of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto IEUE, even burnt offerings morning and evening.

The feast is observed and regular sacrifice is resumed.

4. They kept also the feast of tabernacles, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required;

5. And afterward offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of IEUE that were consecrated, and of every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto IEUE.

6. From the first day of the seventh month began they to offer burnt offerings unto IEUE. But the foundation of the temple of IEUE was not yet laid.

Preparations for rebuilding the temple.

7. They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them of Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia.

Work begins on the temple.

Great Joy and worship as the work begins.

8. Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of Aleim at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerhubbabel the son of Sealtiel, and Iesou the son of Ioizadak, and the remnant of their brethren

the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of IEUE.

9. Then stood Iesou with his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Iouda (Judah), together, to set forward the workmen in the house of Aleim: the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brethren the Levites.

10. And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of IEUE, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise IEUE, after the ordinance of Daud king of Israhel.

11. And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto IEUE; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israhel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised IEUE, because the foundation of the house of IEUE was laid.

The mixed reaction among the people.

12. But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:

13. So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

Samaritan attempts to stop the work.

The offer of a dangerous alliance.

Adversaries try to join the work of building the temple.

Chapter 4.

1. Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto IEUE Aleim of Isrhael;

2. Then they came to Zerhubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your Aleim, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.

Zerhubbabel rightly refuses their offer.

3. But Zerhubbabel, and Iesou, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Isrhael, said unto them, You have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our Aleim; but we ourselves together will build unto IEUE Aleim of Isrhael, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.

The broad outline of Samaritan resistance to the work in Jerusalem.

The resistance under the reign of Cyrus.

4. Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,

5. And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

The resistance under the reign of Ahasuerho

6. And in the reign of Ahasuerho, in the beginning of his reign, wrote they unto him an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

The resistance under the reign of Artaxerxes I.

7. And in the days of Artaxerxes wrote Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of their companions, unto Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the writing of the letter was written in the Syrian tongue, and interpreted in the Syrian tongue.

8. Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king in this sort:

9. Then wrote Rheum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions; the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Susanchites, the Dehavites, and the Elamites,

10. And the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Asnapparh brought over, and set in the cities of Samaria, and the rest that are on this side the river, and at such a time.

11. This is the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, even unto Artaxerxes the king; Thy servants the men on this side the river, and at such a time.

12. Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up the walls thereof, and joined the foundations.

13. Be it known now unto the king, that, if this city be builded, and the walls set up again, then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so thou shalt endamage the revenue of the kings.

14. Now because we have maintenance from the king's palace, and it was not meet for us to see the king's dishonour, therefore have we sent and certified the king;

15. That search may be made in the book of the records of thy fathers: so shalt thou find in the book of the records, and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same of old time: for which cause was this city destroyed.

16. We certify the king that, if this city be builded again, and the walls thereof set up, by this means thou shalt have no portion on this side the river.

The king commands that they work stop until further notice.

17. Then sent the king an answer unto Rehum the chancellor, and to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their companions that dwell in Samaria, and unto the rest beyond the river, Peace, and at such a time.

18. The letter which ye sent unto us hath been plainly read before me.

19. And I commanded, and search hath been made, and it is found that this city of old time hath made insurrection against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made therein.

20. There have been mighty kings also over Jerusalem, which have ruled over all countries beyond the river; and toll, tribute, and custom, was paid unto them.

21. Give you now commandment to cause these men to cease, and that this city be not builded, until another commandment shall be given from me.

22. Take heed now that you fail not to do this: why should damage grow to the hurt of the kings?

23. Now when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power.

The previous work of rebuilding the temple in the days of Darius King of Persia.

24. Then ceased the work of the house of Aleim which is at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

The Construction is resumed.

Aleim helps His people.

Aleim helps by sending prophets to move the work again.

Chapter 5.

1. Then the prophets, Aggai the prophet, and Zecharhia the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the Aleim of Isrhael, even unto them.

2. Then rose up Zerhubbabel the son of Sealtiel, and Iesou the son of Ioizadak, and began to build the house of Aleim which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of Aleim helping them.

Aleim helps by protecting the work and allowing it to continue.

3. At the same time came to them Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai, and their companions, and said thus unto them, Who hath commanded you to build this house, and to make up this wall?

4. Then said we unto them after this manner, What are the names of the men that make this building?

5. But the eye of their Aleim was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease, till the matter came to Darius: and then they returned answer by letter concerning this matter.

The letter to king Darius.

The address of the letter.

6. The copy of the letter that Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai, and his companions the Apharsachites, which were on this side the river, sent unto Darius the king:

The message of the letter.

7. They sent a letter unto him, wherein was written thus; Unto Darius the king, all peace.

8. Be it known unto the king, that we went into the province of Judea, to the house of the great Aleim, which is builded with great stones, and timber is laid in the walls, and this work goeth fast on, and prospereth in their hands.

9. Then asked we those elders, and said unto them thus, Who commanded you to build this house, and to make up these walls?

10. We asked their names also, to certify thee, that we might write the names of the men that were the chief of them.

11. And thus they returned us answer, saying, We are the servants of the Aleim of heaven and earth, and build the house that was builded these many years ago, which a great king of Israel builded and set up.

12. But after that our fathers had provoked the Aleim of heaven unto wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzarh the king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house, and carried the people away into Babylon.

13. But in the first year of Cyrus the king of Babylon the same king Cyrus made a decree to build this house of Aleim.

14. And the vessels also of gold and silver of the house of Aleim, which Nebuchadnezzarh took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem, and brought them into the temple of Babylon, those did Cyrus the king take out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered unto one, whose name was Sheshbazzarh, whom he had made governor;

15. And said unto him, Take these vessels, go, carry them into the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of Aleim be builded in his place.

16. Then came the same Sheshbazzarh, and laid the foundation of the house of Aleim which is in Jerusalem: and since that time even until now hath it been in building, and yet it is not finished.

17. Now therefore, if it seem good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure house, which is there at Babylon, whether it be so, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of Aleim at Jerusalem, and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter.

The second Temple is Completed.

Darius responds to the request of the governor Tattenai.

A diligent search for the decree of Cyrus.

Chapter 6.

1. Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon.

2. And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written:

The text of the record found: Cyrus' decree.

3. In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of Aleim at Jerusalem, Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits;

4. With three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the king's house:

5. And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of Aleim, which Nebuchadnezzarh took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to his place, and place them in the house of Aleim.

The reply of Darius to Tattenai.

6. Now therefore, Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shetharboznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, which are beyond the river, be you far from thence:

7. Let the work of this house of Aleim alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of Aleim in his place.

8. Moreover I make a decree what you shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of Aleim: that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered.

9. And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the Aleim of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail:

10. That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the Aleim of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.

11. Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this.

12. And the Aleim that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this house of Aleim which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed.

The temple is finished and dedicated.

The temple is completed.

13. Then Tatnai, governor on this side the river, Shetharboznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so they did speedily.

14. And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Aggai the prophet and Zecharhia the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the Aleim of Isrhael, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

15. And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

The dedication ceremony of the second temple.

16. And the children of Isrhael, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of Aleim with joy,

17. And offered at the dedication of this house of Aleim an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Isrhael, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

18. And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of Aleim, which is at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of MoUse.

The first Passover celebrated in the second temple.

19. And the children of the captivity kept the passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month.

20. For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them were pure, and killed the passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.

21. And the children of Isrhael, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek IEUE Aleim of Israel, did eat,

22. And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for IEUE had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of Aleim, the Aleim of Isrhael.

Ezra's Return from Babylon.

An overview of Ezra's return.

The genealogy of Ezra the Scribe.

Chapter 7.

1. Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Serubbabel, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,

2. The son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,

3. The son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Merhath,

4. The son of Zerubbabel, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukkai,

5. The son of Abishai, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest:

Ezra, a skilled scribe.

6. This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which Jehovah Aleim of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of Jehovah his Aleim upon him.

Ezra's arrival to Jerusalem and his mission.

7. And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.

8. And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

9 For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his Aleim upon him.

10. For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of Jehovah, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

The letter of Artaxerxes.

The king commissions helpers, a copy of the Law and gifts for the temple to go with Ezra upon his return to Jerusalem.

11. Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of Jehovah, and of his statutes to Israel.

12. Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the Aleim of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time.

13. I make a decree, that all they of the people of Isrhael, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee.

14. Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy Aleim which is in thine hand;

15. And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the Aleim of Isrhael, whose habitation is in Jerusalem,

16. And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their Aleim which is in Jerusalem:

Providing for the temple and sacrificial expenses.

17. That thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house of your Aleim which is in Jerusalem.

18. And whatsoever shall seem good to thee, and to thy brethren, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the will of your Aleim.

19. The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the house of thy Aleim, those deliver thou before the Aleim of Jerusalem.

20. And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy Aleim, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the king's treasure house.

21. And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezrha the priest, the scribe of the law of the Aleim of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,

22. Unto an hundred talents of silver, and to an hundred measures of wheat, and to an hundred baths of wine, and to an hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much.

The motive of Arhtaxerhxes.

23. Whatsoever is commanded by the Aleim of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the Aleim of heaven: for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

Ezrha is given legal power to enforce Aleim's Law.

24. Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of this house of Aleim, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.

25. And thou, Ezrha, after the wisdom of thy Aleim, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy Aleim; and teach you them that know them not.

26. And whosoever will not do the law of thy Aleim, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.

Ezrha gives thanks.

27. Blessed be IEUE Aleim of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of IEUE which is in Jerusalem:

28. And hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of IEUE my Aleim was upon me, and I gathered together out of Isrhael chief men to go up with me.

Ezra Comes to Jerusalem.

The people who came with Ezra to Jerusalem.

A list of the families.

Chapter 8.

1. These are now the chief of their fathers, and this is the genealogy of them that went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king.

2. Of the sons of Phinehas; Gershom: of the sons of Ithamar; Danuel: of the sons of David; Hattus.

3. Of the sons of Sechania, of the sons of Pharhos; Zecharia: and with him were reckoned by genealogy of the males an hundred and fifty.

4. Of the sons of Pahathmoab; Eliezer the son of Zerhabiah, and with him two hundred males.

5. Of the sons of Sechania; the son of Iddai, and with him three hundred males.

6. Of the sons also of Adin; Ebed the son of Jonathan, and with him fifty males.

7. And of the sons of Elam; Ishaiah the son of Athalia, and with him seventy males.

8. And of the sons of Septhiah; Zebadiah the son of Michael, and with him fourscore males.

9. Of the sons of Joab; Obadiah the son of Jehiel, and with him two hundred and eighteen males.

10. And of the sons of Selomith; the son of Iosiphiah, and with him an hundred and threescore males.

11. And of the sons of Bebai; Zechariah the son of Bebai, and with him twenty and eight males.

12. And of the sons of Azgad; Ioanan the son of Hakatan, and with him an hundred and ten males.

13. And of the last sons of Adonikam, whose names are these, Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Semaiah, and with them threescore males.

14. Of the sons also of Bigvai; Uthai, and Zabbud, and with them seventy males.

The lack of Levites in the group.

15. And I gathered them together to the river that runneth to Ahava; and there abode we in tents three days: and I viewed the people, and the priests, and found there none of the sons of Levi.

Ezra addresses the problem of a lack of Levites.

16. Then sent I for Eliezer, for Arhiel, for Semaiah, and for Elnathan, and for Iarhib, and for Elnathan, and for Nathan, and for Zechariah, and for Mesullam, chief men; also for Iarhib, and for Elnathan, men of understanding.

17. And I sent them with commandment unto Iddo the chief at the place Kasiphia, and I told them what they should say unto Iddo, and to his brethren the Nethinims, at the place Kasiphia, that they should bring unto us ministers for the house of our Aleim .

18. And by the good hand of our Aleim upon us they brought us a man of understanding, of the sons of Mahli, the son of Leui, the son of Isrhael; and Serhebia, with his sons and his brethren, eighteen;

19. And Hasabia, and with him Iesaia of the sons of Merharhi, his brethren and their sons, twenty;

20. Also of the Nethinims, whom Daudid and the princes had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinims: all of them were expressed by name.

On the journey.

A prayer of protection.

21. Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our Aleim, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

22. For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our Aleim is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.

23. So we fasted and besought our Aleim for this: and he was intreated of us.

Distribution of articles to be offered among the tribul representatives.

24. Then I separated twelve of the chief of the priests, Serhebia, Hasabia, and ten of their brethren with them,

25. And weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, even the offering of the house of our Aleim, which the king, and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Isrhael there present, had offered:

26. I even weighed unto their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels an hundred talents, and of gold an hundred talents;

27. Also twenty basons of gold, of a thousand drams; and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold.

28. And I said unto them, You are holy unto IEUE; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto IEUE Aleim of your fathers.

29. Watch you, and keep them, until you weigh them before the chief of the priests and the Levites, and chief of the fathers of Isrhael, at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of IEUE.

30. So took the priests and the Levites the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem unto the house of our Aleim.

Summary of their departure and arrival in Jerusalem.

31. Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our Aleim was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way.

32. And we came to Jerusalem, and abode there three days.

Arrival in Jerusalem.

Precious articles offered to the Ruler.

33. Now on the fourth day was the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our Aleim by the hand of Merhemoth the son of Urhia the priest; and with him was Eleazarh the son of Phinea; and with them was Iozabad the son of Iesou, and Noadia the son of Binnui, Levites;

34. By number and by weight of everyone: and all the weight was written at that time.

Sacrificial offerings made to IEUE.

35. Also the children of those that had been carried away, which were come out of the captivity, offered burnt offerings unto the Aleim of Isrhael, twelve bullocks for all Isrhael, ninety and six rams, seventy and seven lambs, twelve he goats for a sin offering: all this was a burnt offering unto IEUE.

The orders from Arhtaxerhxes are related.

36. And they delivered the king's commissions unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors on this side the river: and they furthered the people, and the house of Aleim.

Isrhael' sin and Ezrha' Confession.

The problem is exposed.

The leaders report to Ezrha.

Chapter 9.

1. Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Isrhael, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.

2. For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.

Ezrha' complete astonishment.

3. And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished.

Ezrha is joined by others who were also grieved at Isrhael' sin.

4. Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the Aleim of Isrhael, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.

The prayer of Ezrha.

Ezrha' sense of shame.

5. And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto IEUE my Aleim,

6. And said, O my Aleim, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my Aleim: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

Ezrha remembers Aleim's past kindness to Isrhael in spite of their sins.

7. Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.

8. And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from IEUE our Aleim, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our Aleim may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.

9. For we were bondmen; yet our Aleim hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our Aleim, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

Ezra fears that Aleim's people are testing His mercy.

10. And now, O our Aleim, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments,

11. Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness.

12. Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever.

13. And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our Aleim hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this;

14. Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping?

15. O IEUE Aleim of Israel, thou art righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day: behold, we are before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this.

Confession and Repentance.

The people decide to forsake their sin.

The example of Ezrha' confession.

Chapter 10.

1. Now when Ezrha had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of Aleim, there assembled unto him out of Isrhael a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore.

Sechania exhorts the people to action.

2. And Sechania the son of leiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezrha, We have trespassed against our Aleim, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing.

3. Now therefore let us make a covenant with our Aleim to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our Aleim; and let it be done according to the law.

4. Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it.

Ezrha issues a proclamation.

5. Then arose Ezrha, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they sware.

6. Then Ezrha rose up from before the house of Aleim, and went into the chamber of Ioanan the son of Eliasib: and when he came thither, he did eat no bread, nor drink water: for he mourned because of the transgression of them that had been carried away.

7. And they made proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem unto all the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together unto Jerusalem;

8. And that whosoever would not come within three days, according to the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his substance should be forfeited, and himself separated from the congregation of those that had been carried away.

The spirit of repentance at the assembly of the people.

Ezrha' appeal to the trembling assembly.

9. Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together unto Jerusalem within three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month; and all the people sat in the street of the house of Aleim, trembling because of this matter, and for the great rain.

10. And Ezrha the priest stood up, and said unto them, You have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israhel.

11. Now therefore make confession unto IEUE Aleim of your fathers, and do His pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.

The response of the assembly.

12. Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do.

13. But the people are many, and it is a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand without, neither is this a work of one day or two: for we are many that have transgressed in this thing.

14. Let now our rulers of all the congregation stand, and let all them which have taken strange wives in our cities come at appointed times, and with them the elders of every city, and the judges thereof, until the fierce wrath of our Aleim for this matter be turned from us.

Each case is examined individually over a 3 month period.

15. Only Jonathan the son of Asael and Iahazia the son of Tikva were employed about this matter: and Mesullam and Sabbethai the Levite helped them.

16. And the children of the captivity did so. And Ezrha the priest, with certain chief of the fathers, after the house of their fathers, and all of them by their names, were separated, and sat down in the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter.

17. And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first day of the first month.

The list of those found guilty.

18. And among the sons of the priests there were found that had taken strange wives: namely, of the sons of Iesou the son of Iozadak, and his brethren; Maaseia, and Eliezerh, and Iarhib, and Gedalia.

19. And they gave their hands that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their trespass.

20. And of the sons of Immer; Hanani, and Zebadia.

21. And of the sons of Harhim; Maaseia, and Elia, and Semaia, and Iehiel, and Uzzia.

22. And of the sons of Pasurh; Elioenai, Maaseia, Ismael, Nethaneel, Iozabad, and Elasa.

23. Also of the Levites; Iozabad, and Simej, and Kelaia, (the same is Kelita,) Pethahia, Judah, and Eliezerh.

24. Of the singers also; Eliasib: and of the porters; Sallum, and Telem, and Urhi.

25. Moreover of Isrhael: of the sons of Parhos; Rhamia, and Iezia, and Malchia, and Miamin, and Eleazarh, and Malchia, and Benaia.
26. And of the sons of Elam; Mattania, Zecharhia, and Iehiel, and Abdi, and Ierhemoth, and Elia.
27. And of the sons of Zattu; Elioenai, Eliasib, Mattania, and Ierhemoth, and Zabad, and Aziza.
28. Of the sons also of Bebai; Ieoanan, Hanania, Zabbai, and Athlai.
29. And of the sons of Bani; Mesullam, Malluch, and Adaia, Iasub, and Seal, and Rhamoth.
30. And of the sons of Pahathmoab; Adna, and Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseia, Mattania, Bezaleel, and Binnui, and Manasse.
31. And of the sons of Harhim; Eliezerh, Isia, Malchia, Semaia, Shimeon,
32. Benjamin, Malluch, and Semaria.
33. Of the sons of Hasum; Mattenai, Mattatha, Zabad, Eliphelet, Ierhemai, Manasse, and Simei.
34. Of the sons of Bani; Maadai, Amrham, and Uel,
35. Benaia, Bedeia, Chellu,
36. Vania, Merhemoth, Eliasib,
37. Mattania, Mattenai, and Iasau,
38. And Bani, and Binnui, Simei,
39. And Selemia, and Nathan, and Adaia,
40. Machnadebai, Sasai, Sarhai,
41. Azarheel, and Selemia, Semarhia,
42. Sallum, Amarhia, and Ioseph.
43. Of the sons of Nebo; Ieiel, Mattithia, Zabad, Zebina, Iadau, and Ioel, Benaia.
44. All these had taken strange wives: and some of them had wives by whom they had children.