

**{15} Ezra**

**Chapter 1**

(1) Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia {3589 A.H./C- 453 B.C.}, that the word of the LORD {Jehovah} by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD {Jehovah} stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king<sup>a</sup> of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying,

(2) This is what Cyrus king of Persia says,

The LORD {Jehovah} God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and He has charged me to build Him a house {temple} at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

(3) Who *is there* among you of all His people? His God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house {temple} of the LORD {Jehovah} God of Israel, (He is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.

(4) And whoever remains in any place where he lives, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, besides the freewill offering for the house {temple} of God that is in Jerusalem.

(5) Then the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, rose up with all *those* whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house {temple} of the LORD {Jehovah} which is in Jerusalem.

(6) And all those who *were* around them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, besides all *that* was willingly offered.

(7) Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house {temple} of the LORD {Jehovah}, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods;<sup>b</sup>

(8) Even those Cyrus king of Persia brought forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

(9) And this *is* their number: thirty platters of gold, a thousand platters of silver, twenty-nine knives,

(10) Thirty bowls of gold, silver bowls of a second *sort* four hundred ten, and other vessels a thousand.

(11) All the vessels of gold and of silver *were* five thousand four hundred. All *these* Sheshbazzar brought up with *those of* the captivity who were brought up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

**Chapter 2**

(1) Now these *are* the children of the province who went up out of the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his city;

1:1a - First year of Cyrus sole reign over Babylon, end of 70 year exile [3589 A.H./C- 453 B.C.] See Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History - Ezra 5:13-15; Is. 44:28; Jer. 25:12 ; II Chr. 36:22-23  
1:7b – II Ki. 24:13; II Chr. 36:18

**{15} Ezra**

(2) Those who came with Zerubbabel: Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai,<sup>a</sup> Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

(3) The children of Parosh, two thousand one hundred seventy-two.

(4) The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy-two.

(5) The children of Arah, seven hundred seventy-five.

(6) The children of Pahath-moab, of the children of Jeshua *and* Joab, two thousand eight hundred twelve.

(7) The children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty-four.

(8) The children of Zattu, nine hundred forty-five.

(9) The children of Zaccai, seven hundred sixty.

(10) The children of Bani, six hundred forty-two.

(11) The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty-three.

(12) The children of Azgad, a thousand two hundred twenty-two.

(13) The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty-six.<sup>b</sup>

(14) The children of Bigvai, two thousand fifty-six.

(15) The children of Adin, four hundred fifty-four.

(16) The children of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety-eight.

(17) The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty-three.

(18) The children of Jorah, one hundred twelve.

(19) The children of Hashum, two hundred twenty-three.

(20) The children of Gibbar, ninety-five.

(21) The children of Bethlehem, one hundred twenty-three.

(22) The men of Netophah, fifty-six.

(23) The men of Anathoth, one hundred twenty-eight.

(24) The children of Azmaveth, forty-two.

(25) The children of Kirjath-arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty-three.

(26) The children of Ramah and Gaba, six hundred twenty-one.

(27) The men of Michmas, one hundred twenty-two.

(28) The men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred twenty-three.

(29) The children of Nebo, fifty-two.

(30) The children of Magbish, one hundred fifty-six.

(31) The children of the other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty-four.

(32) The children of Harim, three hundred twenty.

(33) The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty-five.

(34) The children of Jericho, three hundred forty-five.

2:2a - Mordecai - Esther 2:5

2:13b - six hundred sixty-six - this number only appears four times in scripture - here, I Ki. 10:14; II Chr. 9:13; Rev. 13:18 - See "[Use of Numbers in Scripture](#)" at [www.TheWordNotes.com](http://www.TheWordNotes.com)

**{15} Ezra**

(35) The children of Senaah, three thousand six hundred thirty.

(36) The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy-three.

(37) The children of Immer, a thousand fifty-two.

(38) The children of Pashur, a thousand two hundred forty-seven.

(39) The children of Harim, a thousand seventeen.

(40) The Levites: the children of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the children of Hodaviah, seventy-four.

(41) The singers: the children of Asaph, one hundred twenty-eight.

(42) The children of the porters {door/gate keepers}: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, *in* all one hundred thirty-nine.

(43) The Nethinims {temple servants}:<sup>c</sup> the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth,

(44) The children of Keros, the children of Siaha, the children of Padon,

(45) The children of Lebanah, the children of Hagabah, 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 Reaiah,

(48) The children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, the children of Gazzam,

(49) The children of Uzza, the children of Paseah, the children of Besai,

(50) The children of Asnah, the children of Mehunim, the children of Nephusim,

(51) The children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,

(52) The children of Bazluth, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,

(53) The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Thamah,

(54) The children of Neziah, 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 Jaalah, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,

(57) The children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Ami.

(58) All the Nethinims {temple servants}, and the children of Solomon's servants, *were* three hundred ninety-two.

(59) And these *were* those who went up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsa, Cherub, Addan, *and* Immer: but they could not show their father's house, and their ancestry, whether they *were* of Israel:

(60) The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty-two.

2:43c - the Nethinims {הַנְּתִינִיִּים}- temple servants

**{15} Ezra**

(61) And of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai; who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name:

(62) These sought their register *among* those who were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore they were considered as polluted, put out from the priesthood.

(63) And the Tirshatha said to them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, until there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.<sup>d</sup>

(64) The whole congregation together *was* forty-two thousand three hundred sixty,

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

(66) Their horses *were* seven hundred thirty-six; their mules, two hundred forty-five;

(67) Their camels, four hundred thirty-five; *their* donkeys, six thousand seven hundred twenty.

(68) And *some* of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house {temple} of the LORD {Jehovah} which *is* at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house {temple} of God to set it up in its place:

(69) They gave after their ability to the treasure of the work sixty-one thousand drams of gold<sup>e</sup> {about 587 lbs.; 266.6 kg.}, and five thousand pounds of silver, and one hundred priests' robes.

(70) So the priests, and the Levites, and *some* of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims {temple servants}, lived in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

**Chapter 3**

(1) And when the seventh month had come {Tishri [Sept./Oct.]},<sup>a</sup> and the children of Israel *were* in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.

(2) Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak stood up, and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brothers, and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings upon, as *it is* written in the law of Moses the man of God.

2:63d - Urim and with Thummim - Urim {אור} - flame, or light; Thummim

{תמיים} - perfections - See note on Ex. 28:30; Lev. 8:8; Num. 27:21

- used to determine God's will - there is no description in the Scripture that tells for sure what they were or what they looked like. Possibly, something like dice to answer yes or no, true or false type questions.

Josephus and other Jewish writers state they were the twelve stones on the high priest's breastplate.

2:69e - dram - about 0.154 ounces or about 4.37 grams – See [Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures](#)

3:1a – seventh month {Tishri [Sept./Oct.]} - See [Appendix L: The Modern Jewish Calendar and Holy Days](#). See also [The Jewish Calendar at www.TheWordNotes.com](#)

**{15} Ezra**

(3) And they set the altar upon its bases; because they were afraid because of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD {Jehovah}, *even* burnt offerings morning and evening.

(4) They also kept the Feast of Tabernacles,<sup>b</sup> 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 the LORD {Jehovah} that were consecrated, and of everyone who willingly offered a freewill offering to the LORD {Jehovah}.

(6) From the first day of the seventh month {Tishri [Sept./Oct.]}<sup>c</sup> they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD {Jehovah}. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD {Jehovah} was not *yet* laid.

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

(8) Now in the second year of their coming to the house {temple} of God at Jerusalem, in the second month {Iyar [Apr./May]}, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all those who had come out of the captivity to Jerusalem; began and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house {temple} of the LORD {Jehovah}.

(9) Then Jeshua {Joshua} stood *with* his sons and his brothers, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together, to set forward the workmen in the house {temple} of God: the sons of Henadad, *with* their sons and their brothers the Levites.

(10) And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD {Jehovah}, they set the priests in their priestly clothes with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD {Jehovah}, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.

3:4b - Feast of Tabernacles – Seventh month {Tishri [Sept./Oct.]}, 15<sup>th</sup> day {7/15} - Lev. 23:34f

3:6c – first day of the seventh month {Tishri [Sept./Oct.]} - later called Rosh Hashanah [Head of the year] – {New Year} – Feast of Trumpets – Lev. 23:24

**{15} Ezra**

(11) And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks to the LORD {Jehovah}; because *He is good*, because His mercy *endures* forever towards Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD {Jehovah}, because the foundation of the house {temple} of the LORD {Jehovah} was laid.

(12) But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, *who were* elders, who had seen the first house {temple}, 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: because the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise could be heard far away.

**Chapter 4**

(1) Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity were building the temple to the LORD {Jehovah} God of Israel;

(2) Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said to them, Let us build with you: because we seek your God, as you *do*; and we have sacrificed to Him since the days of Esar-haddon king of Assur, who brought us up here.

(3) But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua {Joshua}, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said to them, You have nothing to do with us to build a house {temple} to our God; but we ourselves together will build to the LORD {Jehovah} God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us.

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

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

(6) And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote *to him* an accusation against those who lived in Judah and Jerusalem.

(7) And in the days of Artaxerxes Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of their companions wrote to 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:<sup>a</sup>

(9) Then Rehum 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 wrote,

4:8a - Ez. 4:8-6:18; Ez.7:12-26; Jer. 10:11 ; Dan. 2:4b-7:28 are written in Aramaic [sometimes called Chaldee; sometimes called Syriac] rather than in Hebrew.

**{15} Ezra**

(10) And the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Asnappar 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 to him, *even* to Artaxerxes the king;

Your servants the men on this side {west} of the river {Jordan}, and at such a time.

(12) Let it be known to the king, that the Jews who came up from you to us have come to Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up its walls, and joined the foundations.

(13) Let it be known now to the king, that, if this city is rebuilt, and its walls set up *again*, *then* they will not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so you shall endanger 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 dishonor, therefore we have sent and certified the king;

(15) That search may be made in the book of the records of your fathers: so you shall find in the book of the records, and know that this city *is* a rebellious city, and hurtful to kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same in years past: it was for this reason this city was destroyed.

(16) We certify to the king that, if this city is rebuilt, and its walls set up, by this means you shall have no portion on this side {west of} the river {Jordan}.

(17) *Then* the king sent an answer to Rehum the chancellor, and *to* Shimshai the scribe, and *to* the rest of their companions who live in Samaria, and *to* the rest beyond the river, Peace, and at such a time.

(18) The letter which you sent to us has been plainly read before me.

(19) And I commanded, and search has been made, and it is found that this city has in years past made insurrection against kings, and *that* rebellion and sedition has been made in it.

(20) There have been mighty kings also over Jerusalem, who have ruled over all *countries* beyond the river {Jordan}; and toll, tribute {tax}, and custom, was paid to them.

(21) Give now commandment to cause these men to cease, and that this city not be rebuilt, until *another* commandment has been given from me.

(22) Take heed now that you not fail  
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 to the Jews, and made them by force and power to cease.

**{15} Ezra**

(24) Then the work ceased on the house {temple} of God which is at Jerusalem. So it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.<sup>b</sup>

**Chapter 5**

(1) Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who *were* in Judah and Jerusalem in the Name of the God of Israel, *even* to them.

(2) Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak rose up, and began to build the house {temple} of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them *were* the prophets of God helping them.

(3) At the same time Tatnai, governor on this side {west} of the river {Jordan}, and Shethar-boznai, and their companions came to them, and said this to them, Who has commanded you to rebuild this house {temple}, and to rebuild this wall?

(4) Then we spoke to them after this manner, What are the names of the men who make this building?

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

(6) The copy of the letter that Tatnai, governor on this side {west of} the river {Jordan}, and Shethar-boznai, and his companions the Apharsachites, who *were* on this side {west} of the river {Jordan}, sent to Darius the king:

(7) They sent a letter to him, in which was written;

To Darius the king, all peace.

(8) Let it be known to the king, that we went into the province of Judea, to the house {temple} of the great God, which is built with great stones, and timber is laid in the walls, and this work is quickly going on, and prospers in their hands.

(9) Then we asked those elders, *and* said to them, Who commanded you to rebuild this house {temple}, and to rebuild these walls?

(10) We asked their names also, to certify to you, that we might write the names of the men who *were* the chief of them.

(11) And so they returned an answer to us, saying, We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and build the house {temple} that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and set up.

(12) But after our forefathers had Provoked the God of heaven to anger, He gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house {temple}, and carried the people away into Babylon.

4:24b – Darius {Darius Hystaspes- Ahasuerus of the book of Esther} – see [Messiah: His First Coming Scheduled](#) by Dr. David Cooper, p. 436  
- see [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)

{15} Ezra

- (13) But in the first year of Cyrus the King of Babylon *the same* king Cyrus made a decree to build this house {temple} of God.
- (14) And the vessels also of gold and silver of the house {temple} of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that *was* in Jerusalem, and brought them into the temple of Babylon, those Cyrus the king took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered to *one*, whose name *was* Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor;
- (15) And said to him, Take these vessels, go, carry them into the temple that *is* in Jerusalem, and let the house {temple} of God be rebuilt in its place.
- (16) Then this same Sheshbazzar came, *and* laid the foundation of the house {temple} of God which *is* in Jerusalem: and since that time even until now it has been in process of being built, and *yet* it is not finished.
- (17) Now therefore, if *it seems* good to the king, let there be a search made in the king's treasure house, which *is* there at Babylon, whether these things are true, that a decree was made by Cyrus the king to build this house {temple} of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter.

**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 scroll, and in it *was* written this record:
- (3) In the first year of Cyrus the king *the same* Cyrus the king {3589 A.H./C- 453 B.C.} made a decree *concerning* the house {temple} of God at Jerusalem,  
Let the house {temple} be built, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let its foundations be strongly laid; its height sixty cubits {about 90 ft.; 27.4 m.},<sup>a</sup> *and* its width sixty cubits {about 90 ft.; 27.4 m.};
- (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 {temple} of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which *is* at Jerusalem, and brought to Babylon, be restored, and brought again to the temple which *is* at Jerusalem, *everyone* to its place, and place *them* in the house {temple} of God.

6:3a – cubit -- about 1.5 ft. or 0.457 meters -- 60 cubits would be about 90 feet or 27.4 meters - see [Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures](#)

**{15} Ezra**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>(6) Now <i>therefore</i>, Tatnai, governor beyond {west of} the river {Jordan}, Shetharboznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, who <i>are</i> beyond {west of} the river {Jordan}, get yourselves far from there:</p> <p>(7) Let the work of this house {temple} of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house {temple} of God in its place.</p> <p>(8) Furthermore I make a decree what you shall provide for the elders of these Jews for the building of this house {temple} of God: that of the king's goods, <i>even</i> of the tribute {taxes} beyond {west of} the river {Jordan}, that is the expenses be given to these men, that they not be hindered.</p> <p>(9) And that which they have need of, both young bulls, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which <i>are</i> at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail:</p> <p>(10) That they may offer sacrifices of sweet aromas to the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.</p> | <p>(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 upon it; and let his house be made a dunghill because of this.</p> <p>(12) And the God Who has caused His Name to live there destroy all kings and people, who shall put to their hand to alter <i>and</i> to destroy this house {temple} of God which <i>is</i> at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed.</p> <p>(13) Then Tatnai, governor on this side {west} of the river {Jordan}, Shethar-boznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so they did speedily.</p> <p>(14) And the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai<sup>a</sup> the prophet and Zechariah<sup>b</sup> the son of Iddo. And they built, and finished <i>it</i>, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.</p> <p>(15) And this house {temple} was finished on the third day of the month Adar {the twelfth month} [Feb./Mar.], which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king<sup>c</sup> {3609 A.H./C- 433 B.C.}.</p> |
|---|---|

6:14a – Hag. 1:1

6:14b – Zech. 1:1

6:15c - sixth year of Darius the king [3609 A.H./C- 433 B.C.] - the temple is completed 19 years after Cyrus decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem and the temple; 70 years after Solomon's temple was destroyed; - thus doubly fulfilling Jeremiah's prophecies - Jer. 25:11; 29:10. See also Est. 3:7-12 - See [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)

**{15} Ezra**

(16) And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house {temple} of God with joy,

(17) And offered at the dedication of this house {temple} of God one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve male 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 God, which is at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses.

(19) And the children of the captivity kept the Passover upon the fourteenth *day* of the first month {Nisan [Mar./Apr.]}.<sup>d</sup>

(20) Because 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 brothers the priests, and for themselves.

(21) And the children of Israel, who had come again out of captivity, and all those who had separated themselves from the filthiness of the heathen {ungodly} of the land, to seek the LORD {Jehovah} God of Israel, ate,

(22) And kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy: because the LORD {Jehovah} had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house {temple} of God, the God of Israel.

**Chapter 7**

(1) Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia,<sup>a</sup> Ezra the son of Seraiah, 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 Meraioth,

(4) The son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,

(5) The son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest:

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

6:19d - 14th day of the first month {Nisan [Mar./Apr.]} - the required time of the Passover - See Lev. 23:5-6 - See [Appendix L: The Modern Jewish Calendar and Holy Days](#). See also [The Jewish Calendar at www.TheWordNotes.com](#)

7:1a - Artaxerxes king of Persia - see note on Nehemiah 1:1 and [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)

**{15} Ezra**

(7) And there went up *some* of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters {door/gate keepers}, and the Nethinims {temple servants}, to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king {3603 A.H./C-439 B.C.}.<sup>b</sup>

(8) And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month {Ab [July/Aug.]}, which *was* in the seventh year of the king.

(9) Because upon the first *day* of the first month {Nisan [Mar./Apr]}<sup>c</sup> he began to *go up* from Babylon, and on the first *day* of the fifth month {Ab [July/Aug.]} he came to Jerusalem,<sup>d</sup> according to the good hand of his God upon him.

(10) Because Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD {Jehovah}, and to do *it*, and to teach in Israel laws and judgments.

(11) Now this *is* the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, *even* a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD {Jehovah}, and of His laws to Israel.

(12) Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect *peace*, and at such a time.

(13) I make a decree, that all those of the people of Israel, and *of* his priests and Levites, in my realm, who are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with you.

(14) Since you are sent by the king, and of his seven counselors, to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of your God which *is* in your hand;

(15) And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose home *is* in Jerusalem,

(16) And all the silver and gold that you can find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house {temple} of their God which *is* in Jerusalem:

(17) That you may buy speedily with this money bulls, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house {temple} of your God which *is* in Jerusalem.

(18) And whatever shall seem good to you, and to your brothers, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, who do according to the will of your God.

(19) The vessels also that are given you for the service of the house {temple} of your God, *those* you deliver before the God of Jerusalem.

(20) And whatever more shall be needful for the house {temple} of your God, which you shall have occasion to give, give *it* out of the king's treasure house.

7:7b -7<sup>th</sup> year of Artaxerxes [Ahasuerus]; 14 years after Cyrus decree to restore Jerusalem [3603 A.H./C-439 B.C.] - See [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)

7:9c - See [Appendix L: The Modern Jewish Calendar and Holy Days](#). See also [The Jewish Calendar at www.TheWordNotes.com](#)

7:9d - 1/1/3603 to 5/1/3603 - four months to complete the trip see Mat. 2:1

**{15} Ezra**

- (21) And I, *even* I Artaxerxes the king, make a decree to all the treasurers who *are* beyond {west of} the river {Jordan}, that whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,
- (22) Up to one hundred talents of silver {about 7,560 lbs.; 3,429 kg.},<sup>e</sup> and to one hundred measures of wheat {about 6,000 gal.; 625 bu.; 2,220 L.},<sup>f</sup> and to one hundred baths of wine {about 580 gal.; 2,200L.},<sup>g</sup> and to one hundred baths of oil {about 580 gal.; 2,200 L. }, and salt Without keeping record of *how much*.
- (23) Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house {temple} of the God of heaven: because why should there be wrath {anger; judgment} against the realm of the king and his sons?
- (24) Also we certify to you, that concerning any of the priests and Levites singers, porters {door keepers}, Nethinims {temple servants}, or ministers of this house {temple} of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute {tax}, or custom, upon them.

- (25) And you, Ezra, after the wisdom of your God, that *is* in your hand set magistrates and judges, who may judge all the people who *are* beyond {west of} the river {Jordan}, all such as know the laws of your God; and teach those who do not know *them*.
- (26) And whoever will not do the law of your God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether *it be* to death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.
- (27) Blessed is the LORD {Jehovah} God of our fathers, Who has put *such a thing* as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house {temple} of the LORD {Jehovah} which is in Jerusalem:
- (28) And has extended mercy to me before the king, and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD {Jehovah} my God *was* upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me.

**Chapter 8**

- (1) These *are* now the chief of their fathers, and *this is* the genealogy of those who went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king.

7:22e - a talent - about 75.6 lbs = 34.3 kilograms

7:22f - measures - homer {cor} [also spelled kor] = 10 ephahs = 222 liters = 6.25

bushels = 240 quarts = about 60 gallons

7:22g - bath - about 5.8 gallons = 22 liters – See [Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures](#)

**{15} Ezra**

(2) Of the sons of Phinehas; Gershom: of the sons of Ithamar; Daniel: of the sons of David; Hattush.

(3) Of the sons of Shechaniah, of the sons of Pharosh; Zechariah: and with him were reckoned by genealogy of the males one hundred fifty.

(4) Of the sons of Pahath-moab; Elihoenai the son of Zerahiah, and with him two hundred males.

(5) Of the sons of Shechaniah; the son of Jahaziel, 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; Jeshaiah the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy males.

(8) And of the sons of Shephatiah; Zebadiah the son of Michael, and with him eighty males.

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

(10) And of the sons of Shelomith; the son of Josiphiah, and with him one hundred sixty males.

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

(12) And of the sons of Azgad; Johanan the son of Hakkatan, and with him one hundred ten males.

(13) And of the last sons of Adonikam, whose names *are* these, Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah, and with them sixty males.

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

(15) And I gathered them together to the river that runs to Ahava; and there we stayed in tents three days: and I viewed the people, and the priests, and did not find there any of the sons of Levi.

(16) Then I sent for Eliezer, for Ariel, for Shemaiah, and for Elnathan, and for Jarib, and for Elnathan, and for Nathan, and for Zechariah, and for Meshullam, chief men; also for Joiarib, and for Elnathan, men of understanding.

(17) And I sent them with commandment to Iddo the chief at the place Casiphia, and I told them what they should say to Iddo, *and* to his brothers the Nethinims {temple servants}, at the place Casiphia, that they should bring to us ministers for the house {temple} of our God.

(18) And by the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a man of understanding, of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel; and Sherebiah, with his eighteen sons and his brothers;

(19) And Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiah of the sons of Merari, with twenty of his brothers and their sons;

(20) Also of the Nethinims {temple servants}, whom David and the princes had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred twenty Nethinims {temple servants}: all of them were expressed by name.

**{15} Ezra**

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

(22) Because I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy along the way: because we had spoken to the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him; but His power and His anger is against all those who forsake Him.

(23) So we fasted and sought our God for this: and He listened to us.

(24) Then I separated twelve of the chief of the priests, Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brothers with them,

(25) And weighed to them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, *even* the offering of the house {temple} of our God, which the king, and his counselors, and his lords, and all Israel *there* present, had offered:

(26) I even weighed to their hand six hundred fifty talents of silver {about 49,140 lbs.; 22,290 kg.}, and silver vessels one hundred talents {about 7,560 lbs.; 3,429 kg.}, and of gold one hundred talents {about 7,560 lbs.; 3,429 kg.};

(27) Also twenty bowls of gold, of a thousand drams<sup>a</sup> {about 9.6 lbs.; 4.4 kg.}; and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold.

(28) And I said to them, You *are* holy to the LORD {Jehovah}; the vessels *are* holy also; and the silver and the gold *are* a freewill offering to the LORD {Jehovah} God of your fathers.

(29) Watch, and keep *them*, until you weigh *them* before the chief of the priests and the Levites, and chief of the fathers of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house {temple} of the LORD {Jehovah}.

(30) So the priests and the Levites took the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring *them* to Jerusalem to the house {temple} of our God.

(31) Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth *day* of the first month {Nisan [Mar./Apr.]}<sup>b</sup> to go to Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of those who lay in wait by the way.

(32) And we came to Jerusalem, and stayed there three days.

(33) Now on the fourth day the silver and the gold and the vessels were weighed in the house {temple} of our God by the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him *was* Eleazar the son of Phinehas; and with them *was* Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, Levites;

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

8:27a - dram - about 0.154 ounces or about 4.37 grams -See [Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures](#)

8:31b - See [Appendix L: The Modern Jewish Calendar and Holy Days](#). See also [The Jewish Calendar](#) at [www.TheWordNotes.com](http://www.TheWordNotes.com)

**{15} Ezra**

(35) *Also* the children of those who had been carried away, who had come out of the captivity, offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel, twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, twelve male goats *for* a sin offering: all *this was* a burnt offering to the LORD {Jehovah}.

(36) And they delivered the king's commissions to the king's lieutenants, and to the governors on this side {west} of the river {Jordan}: and they supported the people, and the house {temple} of God.

**Chapter 9**

(1) Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, 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) Because they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy offspring has mingled themselves with the people of *those* lands: yes, the hand of the princes and rulers have been chief in this sin.

(3) And when I heard this thing, I tore my robe and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished.

(4) Then there were assembled to me every one who trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the sin of those who had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.

(5) And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having torn my robe and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands to the LORD {Jehovah} my God,

(6) And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to You, my God: because our sins are increased over *our* head, and our evil deeds have grown up to the heavens.

(7) Since the days of our forefathers we *have been* in a great sin to this day; and for our sins we, our kings, *and* our priests, have 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 while grace has been *shown* from the LORD {Jehovah} our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in His holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.

(9) Because we *were* slaves; yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery, but has extended mercy to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house {temple} of our God, and to repair its desolations, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

(10) And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? Because we have forsaken Your commandments,

**{15} Ezra**

(11) Which You have commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, **The land, to which you go to possess, 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 do not give your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters to your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth forever: that you may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.<sup>a</sup>**

(13) And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great sin, seeing that You our God have punished us less than our sins *deserve*, and have given us *such* deliverance as this;

(14) Should we again break Your commandments, and join in peace with the people of these abominations? would You not be angry with us until You have consumed *us*, so that *there should be* no remnant nor escaping?

(15) O LORD {Jehovah} God of Israel, You *are* righteous: because we remain yet escaped, as *it is* this day: Look, we *are* before You in our sins: because we cannot stand before You because of this.

**Chapter 10**

(1) Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house {temple} of God, there assembled to him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: because the people wept very greatly.

(2) And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, *one* of the sons of Elam, answered and said to Ezra, We have sinned against our God, and have taken strange {unbelieving} wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this matter.

(3) Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and those who were born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

(4) Arise; because *this* matter *belongs* to you: we also *will be* with you: be of good courage, and do *it*.

(5) Then Ezra arose, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they swore.

9:12a – see Ex. 34:16

**{15} Ezra**

(6) Then Ezra rose up from before the house {temple} of God, and went into the chamber of Johanan the son of Eliashib: and *when* he came there, he ate no bread, nor drank water: because he mourned because of the sin of those who had been carried away.

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

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

(9) Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together to Jerusalem within three days. It *was* the ninth month {Kislev [Nov./Dec.]},<sup>a</sup> on the twentieth *day* of the month; and all the people sat in the street of the house {temple} of God, trembling because of *this* matter, and because of the great rain.

(10) And Ezra the priest stood up, and said to them, You have sinned, and have taken strange {unbelieving} wives, to increase the sin of Israel.

(11) Now therefore make confession to the LORD {Jehovah} God of your fathers, and do His pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange {unbelieving} wives.

(12) Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As you have said, so we must do.

(13) But the people *are* many, and *it is* a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand outside, neither *is this* a work of one day or two: because we are many who have sinned in this matter.

(14) Let now our rulers of all the congregation stand, and let all those who have taken strange {unbelieving} wives in our cities come at appointed times, and with them the elders of every city, and its judges, until the fierce anger of our God concerning this matter is turned away from us.

(15) Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahaziah the son of Tikvah were employed concerning this *matter*: and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite helped them.

(16) And the children of the captivity did so. And Ezra 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 {Tebeth [Dec./Jan.]} to examine the matter.

(17) And they made an end with all the men who had taken strange {unbelieving} wives by the first day of the first month {Nisan [Mar./Apr.]}

(18) And among the sons of the priests there were found who had taken strange {unbelieving} wives: *namely*, of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brothers; Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah.

10:9a - See [Appendix L: The Modern Jewish Calendar and Holy Days](#). See also [The Jewish Calendar at www.TheWordNotes.com](http://www.TheWordNotes.com)

**{15} Ezra**

(19) And they gave their hands {raised hand as a promise} that they would put away their wives; and *being* guilty, *they offered* a ram of the flock for their sin.

(20) And of the sons of Immer; Hanani, and Zebadiah.

(21) And of the sons of Harim; Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uzziyah.

(22) And of the sons of Pashur; Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethaneel, Jozabad, and Elasaah.

(23) Also of the Levites; Jozabad, and Shimei, and Kelaiah, (the same is Kelita,) Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer.

(24) Of the singers also; Eliashib: and of the porters {door/gate keepers}; Shallum, and Telem, and Uri.

(25) Furthermore of Israel: of the sons of Parosh; Ramiah, and Jeziah, and Malchiah, and Miamin, and Eleazar, and Malchijah, and Benaiah.

(26) And of the sons of Elam; Mattaniah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Eliah.

(27) And of the sons of Zattu; Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, and Jeremoth, and Zabad, and Aziza.

(28) Of the sons also of Bebai; Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, *and* Athlai.

(29) And of the sons of Bani; Meshullam, Malluch, and Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, and Ramoth.

(30) And of the sons of Pahath-moab; Adna, and Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezaleel, and Binnui, and Manasseh.

(31) And *of* the sons of Harim; Eliezer, Ishijah, Malchiah, Shemaiah, Shimeon,

(32) Benjamin, Malluch, *and* Shemariah.

(33) Of the sons of Hashum; Mattenai, Mattathah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, *and* Shimei.

(34) Of the sons of Bani; Maadai, Amram, and Uel,

(35) Benaiah, Bedeiah, Chelluh,

(36) Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,

(37) Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jaasau,

(38) And Bani, and Binnui, Shimei,

(39) And Shelemiah, and Nathan, and Adaiah,

(40) Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai,

(41) Azareel, and Shelemiah, Shemariah,

(42) Shallum, Amariah, *and* Joseph.

(43) Of the sons of Nebo; Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jadau, and Joel, Benaiah.

(44) All these had taken strange {unbelieving} wives: and *some* of them had wives by whom they had children.

