

23 And the works or Yoshiyahu were upright before his Adon with a reverent heart.

24 As for that which came to be in his time, they were written in former times, concerning those who sinned, and acted wickedly against אלהים above all people and reigns, and how they grieved Him exceedingly, so that the words of אלהים rose up against Yisra'el.

25 Now after all these acts of Yoshiyahu, it came to be that Pharaoh the sovereign of Mitsrayim came to battle at Karkemish on the Perath; and Yoshiyahu went out against him.

26 But the sovereign of Mitsrayim sent to him, saying, "What have I to do with you, O sovereign of Yahudah?"

27 I am not sent out against you by אלהים Elohim; for my battle is at Perath. And now indeed, אלהים is with me. אלהים is with me urging me forward. Depart from me, and do not be against אלהים."

28 However Yoshiyahu did not turn back his chariot from him, but undertook to fight with him, not regarding the words of the nabi Yirmeyahu spoken by the mouth of אלהים;

29 but joined in battle against him in the plain of Megiddo, and the princes came against Sovereign Yoshiyahu.

30 Then the sovereign said to his servants, "Carry me away out of the battle; for I am very weak." And immediately his servants took him away out of the battle.

31 Then mounting his second chariot, and being brought back to Yerushalayim, he died and was buried in his father's tomb;

32 and all the Yahudim mourned for Yoshiyahu. Also Yirmeyahu the nabi lamented for Yoshiyahu, and the chief men with the women made lamentation for him to this day. And this was ordained for a law to be done continually in all the nation of Yisra'el.

33 These are written in the Book of the annals of the sovereigns of Yahudah, and every one of the acts that Yoshiyahu did, and his esteem and his

understanding in the Law of אלהים and that which he had done before and these now reported, are written in the Book of the sovereigns of Yisra'el and Yahudah.

34 And the people took Yaho'ahaz the son of Yoshiyahu, and made him sovereign instead of Yoshiyahu his father, when he was twenty-three years old.

35 And he reigned in Yahudah and in Yerushalayim three months; and then the sovereign of Mitsrayim removed him from the reign in Yerushalayim.

36 And he placed a tax over the land of a hundred kikars of silver and one kifar of gold.

37 The sovereign of Mitsrayim also made Sovereign Yahoyaqim his brother sovereign of Yahudah and Yerushalayim.

38 And Yahoyaqim imprisoned the nobles, but he seized Tseruyah his brother, and brought him out of Mitsrayim.

39 Yahoyaqim was twenty-five years old when he was made sovereign in the land of Yahudah and Yerushalayim; and he did evil before אלהים.

40 Therefore Nebukaḡnetstsar the sovereign of Babel came up against him, and bound him with chains of bronze, and carried away him to Babel.

41 Nebukaḡnetstsar also took the qodesh vessels of אלהים, and carried them away, and put them in his own temple at Babel.

42 And those matters that are written concerning him, and of his uncleanness and unrighteousness, are written in the annals of the sovereigns.

43 And Yoyaqim his son reigned in his place; he was made sovereign being eighteen years old;

44 and he reigned only three months and ten days in Yerushalayim; and did evil before אלהים.

45 So after a year, Nebukaḡnetstsar sent and had him brought to Babel along with the qodesh vessels of אלהים,

46 and made Tsidqiyahu sovereign of

Yahudāh and Yerushalayim, when he was twenty-one years old; and he reigned eleven years.

47 And he also did evil in the eyes of אֱלֹהִים, and took no heed of the words that were spoken to him by the nabi Yirmeyahu from the mouth of אֱלֹהִים.

48 And after Sovereign Neḅu-kaḏnetstsar had made him swear by the Name of אֱלֹהִים, he broke his oath, and rebelled; and hardening his neck and his heart, he transgressed the Laws of אֱלֹהִים Elohim of Yisra'el.

49 The governors of the people and of the kohenim also did much against the Laws, and surpassed all the abominations of the other nations, and defiled the Hēykal of אֱלֹהִים, which was qadosh in Yerushalayim.

50 Nevertheless the Elohim of their fathers sent His messenger to call them back, because He spared them and also His Mishkan.

51 But they mocked His messengers; and see, when אֱלֹהִים spoke to them, they mocked His neḅi'im

52 so much that He, being wroth with His people for their great unrighteousness, commanded the sovereigns of the Kasdites to come up against them;

53 who slew their young men with the sword, even also within the surroundings of their qodesh Hēykal, and spared neither young man nor maiden, old man nor child among them; for He delivered all into their hands.

54 And they took all the qodesh vessels of אֱלֹהִים, both small and great, with the vessels of the ark of Elohim, and the sovereign's treasures, and carried them away to Baḅel.

55 As for the House of אֱלֹהִים, they burned it, and broke down the walls of Yerushalayim, and lit her towers on fire.

56 And as for her esteemed objects, they never ceased till they had consumed and brought them all to naught. And the people that were not slain with the sword, he carried to Baḅel,

57 who became servants to him and

his children, till the Parasians reigned, to fill the word of אֱלֹהִים spoken by the mouth of Yirmeyahu:

58 "Until the land had enjoyed her Shabbathoth. As long as she lay waste she kept Shabbath, until seventy years were completed."

2 In the first year of Koresh sovereign of Paras, in order to accomplish the word of אֱלֹהִים by the mouth of Yirmeyahu,

2 אֱלֹהִים stirred up the spirit of Koresh sovereign of Paras, so that he called out in all his reign, and also put it in writing,

3 saying, "Thus said Koresh sovereign of Paras; אֱלֹהִים of Yisra'el, the Most High Ēl, has made me sovereign of the whole world,

4 and commanded me to build Him a House at Yerushalayim in Yahudāh.

5 "If therefore there are any of you who are of His people, let אֱלֹהִים, even his Aḏon, be with him, and let him go up to Yerushalayim that is in Yahudāh, and build the House of אֱלֹהִים of Yisra'el, for He is אֱלֹהִים who dwells in Yerushalayim.

6 "Whoever then dwells in the places round about, I say, let them help him - those who are his neighbours - with gold and with silver,

7 with gifts, with horses and with cattle, and other goods which have been presented with a vow, for the Hēykal of אֱלֹהִים at Yerushalayim."

8 Then the chiefs of the families of Yahudāh and of the tribe of Binyamin stood up; the kohenim also, and the Lēwites and all those whose heart אֱלֹהִים had moved to go up and to build a House for אֱלֹהִים at Yerushalayim.

9 And those who dwelt round about them helped them in all matters with silver and gold, with horses and cattle, and with very many gifts of a great number whose hearts were stirred up to do so.

10 Sovereign Koresh also brought out the qodesh vessels, which Neḅu-kaḏnetstsar had carried away from Yerushalayim, and had put up in his temple of idols.

11 Now when Koresh sovereign of

Paras had brought them out, he delivered them to Mithredath his treasurer;

12 And by him they were delivered to Shēshbatstsar the governor of Yahudāh.

13 And this was the number of them: one thousand gold cups, and one thousand of silver, twenty nine silver fire holders, thirty bowls of gold, and two thousand four hundred and ten of silver, and one thousand other vessels.

14 So all the vessels of gold and of silver which were carried away, were five thousand four hundred and sixty-nine.

15 These were brought back by Shēshbatstsar, together with those in captivity, from Babel to Yerushalayim.

16 But in the time of Artahshashta sovereign of Paras Bishlam, and Mithredath, and Taḇe'ēl, and Reḥum the governor, and Shimshai the scribe, with others that were in commission with them dwelling in Shomeron and other places, wrote to him against those who dwelt in Yahudāh and Yerushalayim these following words:

17 To Sovereign Artahshashta our master, your servants - Reḥum the governor, and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their council and the judges that are in Koēlē-Suria and Phoinikē.

18 Let it be known to our master the sovereign, that the Yahudim who came up from you to us, having come to Yerushalayim, that rebellious and wicked city, are building the market-places, and repairing the walls of it and laying the foundation of the Hēykal.

19 Now if this city and its walls are built up again, they shall not only refuse to give tribute, but also rebel against sovereigns.

20 And because that which pertains to the Hēykal are now in hand, we think it right not to neglect such a matter,

21 but to speak to our master the sovereign, to the intent that, if it be your pleasure, it may be sought out in the books of your fathers;

22 and you shall find in the annals which are written concerning these matters, and shall understand that this

city was rebellious, troubling both sovereigns and cities;

23 and that the Yahudim were rebellious, and raised continuous wars; which is the very reason this city was made desolate.

24 Therefore we do now declare unto you, O master the sovereign, that if this city be built again, and its walls rebuilt, you shall no longer have passage into Koēlē-Suria and Phoinikē.

25 Then the sovereign wrote back again to Reḥum the governor, to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their companions, and dwellers in Shomeron and Suria and Phoinikē, after this manner:

26 I have read the letter which you have sent to me; therefore I commanded to make diligent search, and it has been found that this city was from the beginning exercising against sovereigns;

27 And the men within were given to rebellion and fighting, and that mighty and harsh sovereigns were in Yerushalayim, who reigned and exacted tributes in Koēlē-Suria and Phoinikē.

28 Now therefore I have commanded to prevent those men from building the city, and take heed that there be no more done in it;

29 and that those wicked workers proceed no further to the annoyance of sovereigns.

30 Then when the letter from Sovereign Artahshashta had been read, Reḥum and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their companions hurried to Yerushalayim with a troop of horsemen, and a crowd of people in battle array began to hinder the builders; and the building of the Hēykal in Yerushalayim ceased until the second year of the reign of Dareyawesh sovereign of Paras.

3 Now when Dareyawesh reigned, he made a great feast for all his subjects and for all his household and for all the princes of Maḡai and Paras, 2 and for all the governors and captains and viceroys that were under

him, from Hodu to Kush, in a hundred and twenty-seven provinces.

3 And when they had eaten and drank, and being satisfied had gone home, then Dareyawesh the sovereign went into his bedroom and slept, and soon after awoke.

4 Then three young men who were of the guards that guarded the sovereign personally spoke one to another,

5 "Let each one of us speak a word of that which is strongest, and whose words shall seem wiser than the others, to him shall the Sovereign Dareyawesh give great gifts, and great esteem in overcoming;

6 to be clothed in purple, to drink from gold, and to sleep on gold, and a chariot with bridles of gold, and a turban of fine linen, and a chain about his neck.

7 "And he shall sit next to Dareyawesh because of his wisdom, and shall be called a relative of Dareyawesh."

8 And then every one wrote his words, sealed it, and laid it under the pillow of Sovereign Dareyawesh;

9 and said, "When the sovereign has risen, someone shall give him the writings; and of whose side the sovereign and the three princes of Paras shall judge his words to be the wisest, he shall have overcome, as was agreed."

10 The first wrote: Wine is the strongest.

11 The second wrote: The sovereign is strongest.

12 The third wrote: Women are strongest; but above all, truth shall overcome.

13 Now when the sovereign had risen, they took their writings, and delivered them to him, and so he read them.

14 And having sent, he called all the princes of Paras and Madai, and the governors, and the captains, and the viceroys, and the chief officers;

15 and he sat down on the royal seat of judgment; and the writings were read before them.

16 And he said, "Call the young men, and they shall declare their own words." So they were called, and came

in.

17 And he said to them, "Speak to us your thoughts concerning the writings." Then the first, who had spoken of the strength of wine, began,

18 and he said, "O you men, how exceedingly strong is wine! It causes all men who drink it to stray.

19 "It makes the mind of the sovereign and of the fatherless child to all be equal; of the slave and the free, of the poor and the wealthy.

20 "It also turns every thought into joy and rejoicing, so that a man remembers neither sorrow nor debt, 21 and it brings wealth to every heart, so that a man remembers neither sovereign nor governor; and it causes to speak of all in coins.

22 "And when they are in their cups, they forget their love to both friends and brothers, and a little after draw out swords.

23 "But when they are from the wine, they do not remember what they have done.

24 "O you men, is not wine, that forces to do this, the strongest?" And when he had so spoken, he remained silent.

4 Then the second, that had spoken of the strength of the sovereign, began to speak:

2 "O you men, do not men who reign over sea and land and all in them excel in strength?

3 "And yet the sovereign is mightier; for he is master of all these, and rules over them, and whatever he commands them they do.

4 "If he commands them to fight, one against the other, they do it; if he sends them out against their enemies, they go, and tear down mountains, walls and towers.

5 "They slay and are slain, but do not disobey the sovereign's command. If they overcome, they bring all to the sovereign, as well the spoil, and all other matters.

6 "Likewise for those who are not soldiers, and have naught to do with wars, but are farmers; when they have reaped again that which they had sown, they bring it to the sovereign,

and compel one another to pay tribute to the sovereign.

7 "And yet he is but one man. If he commands to kill, they kill; if he commands to spare, they spare;

8 "If he commands to smite, they smite; if he commands to destroy they destroy; if he commands to build, they build;

9 if he commands to cut down, they cut down; if he command to plant, they plant.

10 "So all his people and his armies obey him; furthermore he lies down, he eats and drinks, and takes his rest,

11 and these keep watch around about him, neither may anyone depart, and do his own business, nor do they disobey him in any matter.

12 "O you men, how should not the sovereign be mightiest, when he is obeyed in such a way?" And he kept silent.

13 Then the third, who had spoken of women, and of the truth - this was Zerubbabel - began to speak:

14 "O you men, it is not the great sovereign, nor the crowd of men, neither is it wine that excels. Who is it then that rules them, or has the rulership over them? Are they not women?"

15 "Women have borne the sovereign and all the people that reign by sea and land.

16 "Even from them they have come, and they nourished those who planted the vineyards, from where the wine comes.

17 "These also make garments for men; these bring esteem to men, and without women, men cannot be.

18 "Indeed, and if men have gathered together gold and silver, or any other luxury, do they not love a woman who is lovely in appearance and loveliness?"

19 "And letting all those go, do they not gape, and even with open mouth fix their eyes fast on her; and do not all men have more desire for her than for silver or gold, or any luxury whatever?"

20 "A man leaves his own father who raised him, and his own land, and

clings to his wife.

21 "He does not remain, and remembers neither father, nor mother, nor land, to spend his life with his wife.

22 "By this you also must know that women have rule over you. Do you not labour and toil, and bring and give all to the woman?"

23 Indeed, a man takes his sword, and goes his way to rob and to steal, to sail over the sea and upon rivers,

24 and faces a lion, and goes in the darkness; and when he has stolen, plundered, and robbed, he brings it to his love.

25 "Therefore a man loves his wife better than father or mother.

26 "Indeed, there are many that have lost their minds for women, and become servants for their sakes.

27 "Many also have perished, have strayed, and sinned, for women.

28 "And now do you not believe me? Is not the sovereign great in his power? Do not all countries fear to touch him?"

29 "Yet I saw him and Apamē the sovereign's concubine, the daughter of the admirable Bartakos, sitting at the right hand of the sovereign,

30 and taking the crown from the sovereign's head, and putting it upon her own head; she also struck the sovereign with her left hand.

31 "And yet for all this the sovereign gaped and gazed upon her with open mouth. If she laughed at him, he laughed also; but if she took any displeasure in him, the sovereign was eager to flatter, that she might be reconciled to him again.

32 "O you men, how could it be but women are strongest, seeing they do this?"

33 Then the sovereign and the princes looked at each other, so he began to speak of the truth:

34 "O you men, are not women strong? Great is the earth, high is the shamayim, swift is the sun in its course, for it makes the circuit of the shamayim, and follows its course again to its own place in one day.

35 "Is He who makes these not great? therefore the truth is great, and

stronger than all.

36 "All the earth calls upon the truth, and the shamayim barak it. All works shake and tremble at it, and there is no unrighteousness with it.

37 "Wine is wicked, the sovereign is wicked, women are wicked, all the children of men are wicked, and such are all their wicked works and there is no truth in them, and in their unrighteousness they shall also perish.

38 "As for the truth, it endures, and is always strong; it lives and overcomes forever.

39 "With her there is no partiality or preference; but she does that which is righteous, and refrains from all unrighteousness and wickedness; and all men approve of her works.

40 "Nor is there any unrighteousness in her judgment; but she is the strength, reign, power, and excellence, of all ages. Baruk be the Elohim of truth."

41 And with that he remained silent. And all the people then shouted, and said, "Great is Truth, and strongest of all!"

42 Then the sovereign said to him, "Ask what you would, more than what is appointed in the writing, and we shall give it to you, because you have been found wisest; and you shall sit next me, and shall be called my relative."

43 Then he said to the sovereign, "Remember your vow to build Yerushalayim, which you swore in the day when you came to your reign,

44 and to send all the vessels that were taken away from Yerushalayim, which Koresh put aside, when he vowed to destroy Babel, and to send them there again.

45 "You have also vowed to rebuild the Hëykal, which the Eđomites burned when Yahudah was laid waste by the Kasdites.

46 "And now, O master the sovereign, this is that which I require, and which I desire from you, and this is the princely kindness proceeding from yourself: I desire therefore that you fulfill the vow, the works of which you have vowed with your own mouth to

the Sovereign of the shamayim."

47 Then Dareyawesh the sovereign stood up, and kissed him, and wrote letters for him to all the treasurers and viceroys and captains and governors, that they should safely transfer both he, and all those who would go up with him to rebuild Yerushalayim.

48 He also wrote letters to the viceroys that were in Koěľ-Suria and Phoinikě, and to those in Lebanon, that they should bring cedar wood from Lebanon to Yerushalayim, and that they should build the city with him.

49 And he wrote for all the Yahudim that went out of his reign up into Yahudah, concerning their freedom, that no officer, no ruler, no viceroy, nor treasurer, should forcibly enter into their doors;

50 and that all the land which they hold should be free without tribute; and that the Eđomites should give up the villages of the Yahudim which they held;

51 even that there should be given twenty kıkars yearly toward the building of the Hëykal, until the time that it was built;

52 and another ten kıkars yearly, to maintain the burnt offerings on the altar every day, for they had a Command to offer seventeen;

53 and that all those who went from Babel to build the city should have freedom, they as well as their descendants, and all the kohenim that went away.

54 He also wrote concerning their support, and the garments of the kohenim in which they serve;

55 and also for the support of the Lëwites to be given to them until the day that the House was finished, and Yerushalayim built up.

56 And he commanded to give land and wages to all who guarded the city.

57 He also sent away all the vessels from Babel that Koresh had put aside; and all that Koresh had commanded to be given, he also commanded the same to be done, and sent to Yerushalayim.

58 Now when the young man went out,

he lifted up his face to the shamayim toward Yerushalayim, and praised the Sovereign of the shamayim,

59 and said, "From You comes deliverance, from You comes wisdom, and Yours is the esteem, and I am Your servant.

60 "Baruḵ are You, who has given me wisdom; for I give thanks to You, O אֱלֹהֵינוּ of our fathers."

61 And so he took the letters, and went out, and came to Baḅel, and told all his brothers,

62 and they praised the Elohim of their fathers, because He had given them release and freedom

63 to go up, and to build Yerushalayim, and the Hēyḵal which is called by His name. And they feasted with musical instruments and gladness seven days.

5 After this the heads of the families were chosen according to their tribes, to go up with their wives and sons and daughters, with their male servants and female servants, and their cattle.

2 And Dareyawesh sent a thousand horsemen with them, till they had brought them back to Yerushalayim safely, and with musical instruments tambourines and flutes.

3 And all their brothers played, and he made them go up together with them.

4 And these are the names of the men who went up, according to their families among their tribes, after their several heads.

5 The kohenim, the sons of Pineḥas the son of Aharon: Yēshua the son of Yotsaḡaq, the son of Serayah, and Yoyaḡim the son of Zerubbabel, the son of She'alti'ēl, of the house of Dawiḡ, from the relatives of Perets, of the tribe of Yahudaḡ;

6 who spoke wise words before Dareyawesh the sovereign of Paras in the second year of his reign, in the month of Nisan, which is the first month.

7 And these are those of the Yahudaḡim who came up from the captivity, where they dwelt as foreigners, whom Neḅu-ḡadnettsar the sovereign of Baḅel had carried away to Baḅel.

8 And they returned to Yerushalayim, and to the other parts of Yahudaḡ, every man to his own city, who came with Zerubbabel, with Yēshua, Neḡemyah and Zeḡaryah and Serayah, Naḡamani, Mordeḡai, Bilshan, Mispar, Re'ēlayah, Reḡum, and Ba'anah, their guides.

9 The number of those of the nation, and their governors: sons of Parosh, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two; the sons of Shaphat, four hundred and seventy-two;

10 the sons of Araḡ, seven hundred and fifty-six;

11 the sons of Paḡath-Mo'aḅ, two thousand eight hundred and twelve;

12 the sons of Ēylam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four; the sons of Zattu, nine hundred and forty-five; the sons of Zakkai, seven hundred and five; the sons of Bani, six hundred and forty-eight;

13 the sons of Bēḅai, six hundred and twenty-three; the sons of Azḡaḡ, three thousand two hundred and twenty-two;

14 the sons of Aḡoniḡam, six hundred and sixty-seven; the sons of Biḡwai, two thousand and sixty-six; the sons of Aḡin, four hundred and fifty-four;

15 the sons of Atēr of Ḥizḡiyah, ninety-two; the sons of Kilan and Azetah sixty-seven; the sons of Azzur, four hundred and thirty-two;

16 the sons of Ḥananyah, one hundred and one; the sons of Arom, thirty-two; and the sons of Bēsai, three hundred and twenty-three; the sons of Ḥariph, one hundred and two;

17 the sons of Bether, three thousand and five; the sons of Bēyth Leḡem, one hundred and twenty-three;

18 those of Netophah, fifty-five; those of Anathoth, one hundred and fifty-eight; those of Bēyth Shemesh, forty-two;

19 those of Qiryathayim, twenty-five; those of Kephirah and Be'ēroth, seven hundred and forty-three; those of Pira, seven hundred;

20 those of Qaḡēsh and Ḥumtah, four hundred and twenty-two; those of Ramah and Geḅa, six hundred and twenty-one;

- 21 those of Maḥlon, one hundred and twenty-two; those of Bēyth Ēl, fifty-two; the sons of Naphish, one hundred and fifty-six;
- 22 the sons of Loḡ, Ḥaḏiḡ and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-five; the sons of Yeriḥo, two hundred and forty-five;
- 23 the sons of Sena'ah, three thousand three hundred and thirty.
- 24 The kohenim: the sons of Yeḡayah, the son of Yēshua among the sons of Elyashiḡ, nine hundred and seventy-two; the sons of Immēr, one thousand and fifty-two;
- 25 The sons of Pashḥur, one thousand and forty-seven; the sons of Ḥarim, one thousand and seventeen.
- 26 The Lēwites: the sons of Yēshua, and Qaḡmi'ēl, and Ba'anah, and Hoḡawayah, seventy-four.
- 27 The qodesh singers: the sons of Asaph, one hundred and twenty-eight.
- 28 The gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Atēr, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Aqquḡ, the sons of Ḥatita, the sons of Shoḡai, one hundred and thirty-nine in all.
- 29 The Nethinim: the sons of Tsiḥa, the sons of Ḥasupha, the sons of Tabba'oth, the sons of Qēros, the sons of Si'aha, the sons of Paḡon, the sons of Leḡanah, the sons of Ḥaḡaḡah,
- 30 the sons of Aqquḡ, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Kataḡ, the sons of Ḥaḡaḡ, the sons of Shamlai, the sons of Ḥanan, the sons of Giddēl, the sons of Gaḥar,
- 31 The sons of Re'ayah, the sons of Retsin, the sons of Neḡoḡa, the sons of Ḥashuḡah, the sons of Gazzam, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Pasēah, the sons of Azaryah, the sons of Bēsai, the sons of Asnah, the sons of Me'unim, the sons of Nephusim, the sons of Baqbuḡ, the sons of Ḥaḡupha, the sons of Ḥarḥur, the sons of Pharaqim, the sons of Batsluth,
- 32 the sons of Meḥiḡa, the sons of Kutha, the sons of Ḥarsha, the sons of Barḡos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Tēmaḥ, the sons of Netsiyah, the sons of Ḥatipha.
- 33 The sons of the servants of Shelomoh: the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Peruḡa, the sons of Ya'ala, the sons of Darḡon, the sons of Yisra'ēl, the sons of Shephatyah,
- 34 The sons of Ḥattil, the sons of Poḡereth, the sons of Tseḡayim, the sons of Tsereth, the sons of Masias, the sons of Gar, the sons of Addus, the sons of Tsoḡa, the sons of Apherra, the sons of Barodis, the sons of Sheḡat, the sons of Allon.
- 35 All the Nethinim, and the sons of the servants of Shelomoh, were three hundred and seventy-two.
- 36 These came up from Tēl Melaḡ and Tēl Ḥarsha, Keruḡ, Addan, and Immēr;
- 37 though could not show their families, nor their seed, how they were of Yisra'ēl: the sons of Delayah, the son of Toḡiyah, the sons of Neḡoḡa, six hundred and fifty-two.
- 38 And of the kohenim that assumed the office of the kehunnah, and were not found: the sons of Ḥaḡayah, the sons of Qots, the sons of Yaddua, who married Ḥaggiyah one of the daughters of Barzillai, and was named after his name.
- 39 And when the genealogy of the relatives of these men was sought in the register, and was not found, they were removed from performing the office of the kehunnah;
- 40 for Neḥemyah the governor said to them that they should not be partakers of the qodesh matters, till there rose up a kohēn ha'gadol wearing the Urim and the Tummin.
- 41 So from those twelve years old and upward of Yisra'ēl, besides male and female servants, all numbered forty two thousand three hundred and sixty.
- 42 Their male and female servants were seven thousand three hundred and forty-seven; the male and female singers, two hundred and forty-five;
- 43 four hundred and thirty-five camels, seven thousand and thirty-six horses, two hundred and forty-five mules, five thousand five hundred and twenty-five beasts for the yoke.
- 44 And some of the chiefs of their families, when they came to the Hēyḡal of Elohim that is in

Yerushalayim, vowed to put up the House again in its place according to their ability,

45 and to give into the qodesh treasury, one thousand minas of gold, five thousand of silver for the work, and one hundred garments for the kehunnah.

46 And so the kohenim and the Lëwites and the people dwelt in Yerushalayim, and in the land; also the singers and the gatekeepers, and all Yisra'ël in their villages.

47 But when the seventh month came, and when the children of Yisra'ël were each in his own place, they all came together with one accord into the open place of the first gate which is toward the east.

48 Then Yëshua the son of Yotsadaq stood up, and his brothers the kohenim and Zerubbabel the son of She'alti'ël, and his brothers, and prepared the altar of the Elohim of Yisra'ël,

49 to offer burnt offerings upon it according to the Command in the Book of Mosheh, the man of Elohim.

50 And some from the other nations of the land were gathered to them. And they put up the altar in its place, because all the nations of the land were at enmity with them, and oppressed them; and they brought offerings at the appointed times, and burnt offerings to אלהים both morning and evening.

51 They also held the Feast of Sukkoth, as it is commanded in the Torah, and brought offerings daily, as appointed.

52 And after that, the continual offerings, and the offering of the Shabbathoth, and of the new moons, and of all qodesh Feasts.

53 And all those who had made any vow to Elohim began to offer offerings to Elohim from the first day of the seventh month, although the Hëykal of אלהים had not yet been built.

54 And they gave silver, food and drink to the masons and carpenters with gladness.

55 To those of Tsiḡon and Tsor they also gave by weight, that they should bring cedars from Leḡanon, which

would be brought by boat to the harbour of Yapho, according to the command given them by Koresh sovereign of Paras.

56 And in the second year and second month after their coming to the Hëykal of Elohim at Yerushalayim, Zerubbabel the son of She'alti'ël, and Yëshua the son of Yotsadaq, and their brothers, and the kohenim, and the Lëwites began, and all those who had come to Yerushalayim out of the captivity;

57 and they laid the foundation of the House of Elohim on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come to Yahuḡah and Yerushalayim.

58 And they appointed the Lëwites from twenty years old over the works of אלהים. Then Yëshua stood up, and his sons and brothers, and Qadmi'ël his brother, and the sons of Mëydeḡa, with the sons of Yaḡa the son of Elyada, with their sons and brothers; all Lëwites, with one accord pressed forward with the work, labouring to advance the work on the House of Elohim. So the workmen built the Hëykal of אלהים.

59 And the kohenim stood dressed in their garments with musical instruments and trumpets; and the Lëwites, the sons of Asaph had cymbals,

60 singing songs of thanksgiving, and praising אלהים, as directed by Dawiḡ the sovereign of Yisra'ël.

61 And they sang songs to the praise of אלהים with loud voices, because His kindness and esteem in all Yisra'ël is forever.

62 And all the people sounded trumpets, and shouted with a loud voice, singing songs of thanksgiving to אלהים for the raising of the House of אלהים.

63 Also of the kohenim and Lëwites, and of the chief of their families, the elders who had seen the former House came to the building with crying and great weeping.

64 And many with trumpets and joy shouted with a loud voice,

65 so that the trumpets could not be heard for the weeping of the people; yet the crowd sounded greatly, so that it was heard from afar.

66 Therefore when the enemies of the tribe of Yahudāh and Binyamin heard it, they came to know what the noise of trumpets meant.

67 And they perceived that those who were from the captivity had built the Hēykal to אלהים Elohim of Yisra'el.

68 So they went to Zerubbabel and Yēshua, and to the heads of the families, and said to them, "We shall build together with you,

69 for we also, as you, obey your Aḡon, and have slaughtered to Him from the days of Ēsarḡaddon the sovereign of Ashshur, who brought us here."

70 Then Zerubbabel and Yēshua and the heads of the families of Yisra'el said to them, "It is not for you and us to build a House to אלהים our Elohim together.

71 "We ourselves alone shall build to אלהים of Yisra'el, according to the command given us by Koresh the sovereign of Paras."

72 But the foreigners of the land relying heavily on the inhabitants of Yahudāh, and restricting their supplies, hindered their building;

73 and by their secret schemes, and popular persuasions and unrest, they hindered the completion of the building the whole time that Sovereign Koresh lived; so they were hindered from building for the space of two years, until the reign of Dareyawesh.

6 Now in the second year of the reign of Dareyawesh Ḥaggai and Zeḡaryah the son of Iddo, the neḡi'im, naḡa to the Yahudim in Yahudāh and Yerushalayim in the Name of אלהים Elohim of Yisra'el, which was upon them.

2 Then Zerubbabel the son of She'alti'el stood up, and Yēshua the son of Yotsaḡaq, and began to build the House of אלהים at Yerushalayim, assisted by the neḡi'im of אלהים who were with them.

3 At the same time Tattenai the governor of Suria came to them and

Phoinikē, with Shethar-Bozenai and his companions, and said to them,

4 "By whose decree do you build this House and this roof, and doing all these other matters? And who are the workmen that perform these?"

5 Nevertheless the elders of the Yahudim obtained favour, because אלהים had overseen the captivity;

6 and they were not hindered from building, until such time as word was given to Dareyawesh concerning them, and an answer received.

7 The copy of the letters which Tattenai, governor of Suria and Phoinikē, and Shethar-Bozenai, with their companions, rulers in Suria and Phoinikē, wrote and sent to Dareyawesh: To Sovereign Dareyawesh, greetings.

8 Let all matters be known to our master the sovereign, that having come into the land of Yahudāh, and entered into the city of Yerushalayim we found in the city of Yerushalayim the elders of the Yahudim who were of the captivity

9 building a great and new House to אלהים, of hewn and costly stones, and the timber already laid upon the walls.

10 And those works are done with great speed, and the work is prospering in their hands, and being done with all esteem and diligence.

11 Then we asked these elders, saying, "By whose command are you building this House, and laying the foundations of these works?"

12 Therefore with the purpose that we might make known to you in writing, we demanded of those who were the chief workers, and we required from them the names of their heads in writing.

13 So they gave us this answer, "We are the servants of אלהים who made the shamayim and earth.

14 "And as for this House, it was built many years ago by a great and strong sovereign of Yisra'el, and was finished.

15 "But when our fathers provoked Elohim to wrath, and sinned against אלהים of Yisra'el who is in the

shamayim, He gave them over to the power of Nebūkadnetstsar sovereign of Babel, of the Kasdites;

16 who pulled down the House, and burned it, and carried away the people captive to Babel.

17 "But in the first year that Sovereign Koresh reigned over the land of Babel, Koresh the sovereign wrote to build up this House.

18 "And the qodesh vessels of gold and silver that Nebūkadnetstsar had carried away out of the House at Yerushalayim, and had put them in his own temple; these Koresh the sovereign brought out again from the temple at Babel, and they were delivered to Zerubbabel and to Shēshbatstsar the ruler

19 with orders that he should take these same vessels, and put them in the Hēykal at Yerushalayim; and that the Hēykal of אֱלֹהִים should be built in its place.

20 "Then the same Shēshbatstsar, having come here, laid the foundations of the House of אֱלֹהִים at Yerushalayim; and from that time to this, is still under construction; it is not yet fully complete.

21 "Now therefore, if it seems good to the sovereign, let a search be made among the records of Sovereign Koresh;

22 and if it is found that the building of the House of אֱלֹהִים at Yerushalayim has been done with the consent of Sovereign Koresh, and if our master the sovereign approves, let him inform us of this."

23 Then Sovereign Dareyawesh commanded to search among the records at Babel; and so at Aḥmetha the palace, which is in the land of Maḏai, there was found a scroll in which these matters were recorded.

24 In the first year of the reign of Koresh, Sovereign Koresh ordered that the House of אֱלֹהִים at Yerushalayim should be built again, where they offer with continual fire;

25 the height of which shall be sixty ammah and the width sixty ammah, with three rows of hewn stones, and

one row of new wood from the land; and the expenses of it to be given out of the house of Sovereign Koresh;

26 and that the qodesh vessels of the House of אֱלֹהִים, both of gold and silver, that Nebūkadnetstsar took out of the House at Yerushalayim, and brought to Babel, should be restored to the House at Yerushalayim, and be put in the place where they were before.

27 And he also commanded that Tattenai the governor of Suria and Phoinikē, and Shethar-Bozenai, and their companions, and those who were appointed rulers in Suria and Phoinikē, should bear in mind not to strive with the place, but allow Zerubbabel, the servant of אֱלֹהִים, and governor of Yahudāh, and the elders of the Yahudim, to build the House of אֱלֹהִים in that place.

28 I have also commanded to have it built up complete again; and that they look diligently to help those who are of the captivity of the Yahudim, till the House of אֱלֹהִים is finished;

29 and out of the tribute of Koēlē-Suria and Phoinikē a portion diligently to be given to these men for the slaughterings of אֱלֹהִים, that is, to Zerubbabel the governor; for bulls and rams and lambs;

30 and also corn, salt, wine and oil, and continually every year without further question, what is required by the kohenim who are in Yerushalayim to be used daily;

31 that offerings may be made to the Most High Elohim for the sovereign and for his children, and that they may pray for their lives.

32 And he commanded that whoever would transgress, or even diminish any word spoken or written before, a timber should be taken out of his own house, and he be hanged upon it, and all his goods seized for the sovereign.

33 Therefore may אֱלֹהִים, whose Name is called upon there, utterly destroy every sovereign and nation, that stretches out his hand to hinder or damage the House of אֱלֹהִים in Yerushalayim.

34 I, Dareyawesh the sovereign have

ordained that it be done according to these words with diligence.

7 Then following the Commands of Sovereign Dareyawesh, Tattenai the governor of Koëlä-Suria and Phoinikë, and Shethar-Bozenai, with their companions,

2 oversaw the qodesh works, diligently assisting the elders of the Yahuđim and governors of the Hëykal.

3 And so the qodesh works prospered, when Haggai and Zeqaryah the nebi'im naḅa.

4 And they completed these by the Command of אלהים Elohim of Yisra'ël, and with the consent of Koresh, Dareyawesh, and Artahshashta, sovereigns of Paras;

5 and so, the qodesh House was finished in the and twenty-third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of Dareyawesh sovereign of Paras.

6 And the children of Yisra'ël, the kohenim and the Lëwites and others who were of the captivity that were added to them, did according to the words written in the book of Mosheh.

7 And for the dedication of the Hëykal of אלהים they offered a hundred bulls,

two hundred rams, four hundred lambs

8 and twelve goats for the sin of all Yisra'ël, according to the number of the heads of the tribes of Yisra'ël.

9 The kohenim and the Lëwites also stood dressed in their garments, according to their clans, in the service of אלהים Elohim of Yisra'ël, according to the Book of Mosheh; and the gatekeepers at every gate.

10 And the children of Yisra'ël who were of the captivity held the Pesah the fourteenth day of the first month, after the kohenim and the Lëwites were qadosh.

11 Those who were of the captivity were not all qadosh together; but the Lëwites were all qadosh together,

12 and so they offered the Pesah for all those of the captivity, and for their brothers the kohenim, and for themselves.

13 And the children of Yisra'ël that came out of the captivity ate, even all those who had separated themselves

from the abominations of the people of the land, and sought אלהים.

14 And they performed the Feast of Matstsoth seven days, rejoicing before אלהים,

15 for He had turned the counsel of the sovereign of Ashshur toward them, to strengthen their hands in the works of אלהים Elohim of Yisra'ël.

8 And after these matters, when Artahshashta the sovereign of Paras reigned, Ezra came, the son of Serayah, the son of Azaryah, the son of Hilqiyah, the son of Shallum,

2 The son of Tsadoq, the son of Ahitub, the son of Amaryah, the son of Azaryah, the son of Merayoth, the son of Zerahyah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Buqqi, the son of Abishua, the son of Pinehas, the son of Eli'ezer, the son of Aharon the chief kohën.

3 This Ezra went up from Babel, as a scribe, being very skilled in the Law of Mosheh, that was given by the Elohim of Yisra'ël.

4 And the sovereign esteemed him; for he found favour in his sight in all his requests.

5 There also went up with him to Yerushalayim, some of the children of Yisra'ël, of the kohënim of the Lëwites, of the qodesh singers, gatekeepers and servants of the Hëykal,

6 in the seventh year of the reign of Artahshashta, in the fifth month. This was the sovereign's seventh year; for they went from Babel in the first day of the first month, and came to Yerushalayim, according to the prosperous journey which אלהים gave them.

7 For Ezra had such great knowledge, that he omitted naught from the Torah and Commands of אלהים, but taught all Yisra'ël the Laws and Right-Rulings.

8 Now the copy of the commission, which was written from Artahshashta the sovereign, and came to Ezra the kohën and reader of the Law of אלהים, is as follows:

9 Sovereign Artahshashta, to Ezra the kohën and reader of the Law of אלהים, greetings.

10 Having determined to deal

favourably, I have given an order, that those of the nation of the Yahudim and of the kohenim and Lēwites being within our reign, who desire and are willing, should go with you to Yerushalayim.

11 As many therefore as have a heart to do so, let them depart with you, as it has seemed good both to me and my seven friends the counsellors;

12 that they may look to the affairs of Yahudah and Yerushalayim, agreeable to that which is in the Law of ~~אֱלֹהִים~~;

13 and carry the gifts to ~~אֱלֹהִים~~ of Yisra'el to Yerushalayim, which I and my friends have vowed, and all the gold and silver that is found in the land of Babel, to ~~אֱלֹהִים~~ in Yerushalayim;

14 also with that which is given from the people for the Hēykal of ~~אֱלֹהִים~~ their Elohim at Yerushalayim; and that silver and gold may be collected for bulls, rams, and lambs, and matters pertaining to it;

15 so that that they may offer slaughterings to ~~אֱלֹהִים~~ upon the altar of ~~אֱלֹהִים~~ their Elohim, which is in Yerushalayim.

16 And whatever you and your brothers do with the silver and gold, do so according to the desire of your Elohim.

17 And the qodesh vessels of ~~אֱלֹהִים~~, which have been given to you for the use of the Hēykal of your Elohim, which is in Yerushalayim, you shall put before your Elohim in Yerushalayim;

18 and whatever else you shall remember for the use of the Hēykal of your Elohim, you shall give it out of the sovereign's treasury.

19 And I Sovereign Artahshashta have also commanded the keepers of the treasuries in Suria and Phoinikē, that whatever Ezra the kohēn and the reader of the Law of the Most High Elohim shall send for, they should give it to him with haste,

20 to the sum of one hundred Kikars of silver, likewise also of wheat even to a hundred kors, and a hundred baths of wine, and other matters in abundance.

21 Let all be performed after the Law of Elohim diligently unto the Most High

Elohim, so that wrath does not come upon the reign of the sovereign and his sons.

22 I also command you, that you require no tax, nor any other tribute from any of the kohenim, or Lēwites, or qodesh singers, or gatekeepers, or servants of the Hēykal, or from any who are employed in this Hēykal, and that no man has authority to impose any matter upon them.

23 And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of Elohim, appoint judges and Right-Rulings, that they may judge in all Suria and Phoinikē all those who know the Law of your Elohim; and those who do not know it, you shall teach;

24 and whoever transgresses the Law of your Elohim, and of the sovereign, shall be strictly punished, whether it be by death, or other punishment, by penalty of silver, or by imprisonment.

25 Then Ezra the scribe said, "Baruk be the only Adon, Elohim of my fathers, who has put these into the heart of the sovereign, to esteem His House that is in Yerushalayim,

26 and has esteemed me in the sight of the sovereign, and his counsellors, and all his friends and nobles."

27 Therefore I was encouraged with the help of ~~אֱלֹהִים~~ my Elohim, and gathered together men of Yisra'el to go up with me.

28 And these are the heads according to their families and several nobles, that went up with me from Babel in the reign of Sovereign Artahshashta:

29 Of the sons of Pinehas, Gēreshon; of the sons of Ithamar, Dani'el; of the sons of Dawid, Hattush the son of Shekanyah;

30 of the sons of Perets, Zeqaryah; and a hundred and fifty men were counted with him.

31 Of the sons of Pahath-Mo'ab, Elyaho'eynai, the son of Zerahyah, and two hundred men with him.

32 Of the sons of Zattu, Shekanyah the son of Yahazi'el, and with him three hundred men. Of the sons of Adin, Obēd the son of Yahanathan, and two hundred and fifty men with him.

- 33 Of the sons of Ĕylam, Yoshiyahu son of Gedalyah, and seventy men with him.
- 34 Of the sons of Shephatyah, Tseruyah son of Miķa'ēl, and seventy men with him.
- 35 Of the sons of Yo'ab, Obadyah son of Yizli'ah, and two hundred and twelve men with him.
- 36 Of the sons of Shelomith, the son of Yosiphyah, and a hundred and sixty men with him.
- 37 Of the sons of Bēḅai, Zeķaryah son of Bēḅai, and twenty-eight men with him.
- 38 Of the sons of Azgaḍ, Yoḥanan son of Haqqatan, and a hundred and ten men with him.
- 39 Of the sons of Aḍoniqam the last, and these are the names of them: Eliphelet, Ye'i'ēl, and Shemayah, and seventy men with them.
- 40 Of the sons of Biḡwai, Uthai the son of Zabbuḍ, and seventy men with him.
- 41 And I gathered these together to the river called Ahawa, where we pitched our tents for three days; and then I inspected them.
- 42 But when I had found there none of the kohenim and Lēwites,
- 43 then I sent to Eli'ezer, and Deu'ēl, and Mishmannah,
- 44 and Elnathan, and Shemayah, and Yoyariḅ, and Nathan, Yonathan, Zeķaryah, and Meshullam, leaders and learned.
- 45 And I told them that they should go to Iddo the captain, who was treasurer in the place;
- 46 and ordered them that they should speak to Iddo, and to his brothers, and to the treasurers in that place, to send us such men who might execute the office of the kohenim in the House of ~~אֱלֹהִים~~.
- 47 And by the mighty hand of our Aḍon they brought to us skilled men of the sons of Maḥli the son of Lēwi, the son of Yisra'ēl: Shereḅyah, and his sons, and his brothers, eighteen.
- 48 And Ḥashaḅyah, and Bani, and Hoshēa his brother, of the sons of Ḥananyah, and their sons, were twenty men.
- 49 And of the servants of the Hēyḳal whom Dawiḍ had appointed, and the leaders of the service of the Lēwites, that is, the servants of the Hēyḳal: two hundred and twenty, the list of whose names were shown.
- 50 And there I proclaimed a fast to the young men before our Aḍon, to seek from Him a prosperous journey for both us and they who were with us, for our children, and for the cattle;
- 51 for I was ashamed to ask from the sovereign footmen and horsemen and conduct for safeguard against our adversaries.
- 52 For we had said to the sovereign, that the power of ~~אֱלֹהִים~~ our Elohim would be with those who seek him, to support them in all ways.
- 53 And again we sought our Aḍon regarding these, and found Him favourable to us.
- 54 Then I separated twelve of the heads of the kohenim, Shereḅyah, and Ḥashaḅyah, and ten men of their brothers with them;
- 55 and I weighed them the gold, and silver, and the qodesh vessels of the House of our Aḍon, which the sovereign and his council and the princes, and all Yisra'ēl, had given.
- 56 And when I had weighed it, I gave six hundred and fifty kiḳars of silver to them, and silver vessels of a hundred kiḳars, and a hundred kiḳars of gold,
- 57 and twenty golden vessels, and twelve vessels of bronze, even of fine bronze, glittering like gold.
- 58 And I said to them, "Both you and the vessels are qodesh to ~~אֱלֹהִים~~, and the gold and the silver is vowed to ~~אֱלֹהִים~~, the Aḍon of our fathers.
- 59 "Watch, and guard them till you deliver them to the heads of the kohenim and Lēwites, and to the leaders of the families of Yisra'ēl, in Yerushalayim, into the rooms of the House of our Elohim."
- 60 So the kohenim and the Lēwites, who had received the silver and gold and the vessels, brought them to Yerushalayim, into the Hēyḳal of ~~אֱלֹהִים~~.
- 61 And from the River Ahawa we

departed the twelfth day of the first month, and came to Yerushalayim by the mighty hand of our Aḏon, who was with us; and from the beginning of our journey אלהים delivered us from every enemy, and so we came to Yerushalayim.

62 And when we had been there three days, the gold and silver that was weighed was delivered on the fourth day into the House of our Aḏon, to Merēmoth the kohēn, the son of Uriyah.

63 And with him was Eli'ezer the son of Pineḥas, and with them were Yozaḇaḏ the son of Yēshua and No'aḏyah the son of Binnui, Lēwites - all was delivered to them by number and weight,

64 and all the weight of them was recorded that same hour.

65 And those who were come out of the captivity brought an offering to אלהים Elohim of Yisra'ēl, even twelve bulls for all Yisra'ēl, ninety-six rams,

66 seventy-two lambs, twelve goats for a peace offering; all of them slaughterings to אלהים.

67 And they delivered the sovereign's orders to the sovereign's trustees and to the governors of Koēlē-Suria and Phoinikē; and they esteemed the people and the Hēyḵal of Elohim.

68 Now when these matters were done, the rulers came to me, and said, 69 "The nation of Yisra'ēl, the princes, the kohanim and Lēwites, have not put away the foreigners of the land from them, nor the defilements of the gentiles that is, of the Kena'anites, Hittites, Perizzites, Yeḇusites, and the Mo'aḇites, Mitsrites, and Eḏomites.

70 For both they and their sons have married with their daughters, and the qodesh seed is mixed with the foreigners of the land; and from the beginning, the rulers and the great men have taken part in this wickedness.

71 And as soon as I had heard this, I tore my garments, and the qodesh garment, and pulled the hair from my head and beard, and sat down grieved and very heavy.

72 So all those who were then moved at the Word of אלהים Elohim of Yisra'ēl assembled to me, while I mourned for the wickedness; but I sat full of heaviness until the evening offering.

73 Then rising from the fast with my garments and the qodesh garment torn and bowing my knees and stretching out my hands to אלהים,

74 I said, "O אלהים, I am disappointed and ashamed before your face;

75 for our sins have multiplied above our heads, and our ignorances have reached up to the shamayim.

76 "For ever since the time of our fathers we have been and are in great sin, even to this day.

77 "And for ours and our fathers' sins, we with our brothers and our sovereigns and our kohanim were given up to the sovereigns of the earth, to the sword, and to captivity, and for a prey with shame, unto this day.

78 "And now in some measure, kindness has been shown to us from you, O אלהים, that there should be left to us a root and a name in the place of your Miqdash;

79 and to uncover for us a light in the House of אלהים our Elohim, and to give us food in the time of our service.

80 "Indeed, when we were in bondage, we were not forsaken by our Aḏon; but He made us favourable before the sovereigns of Paras, so that they gave us food;

81 and also esteemed the Hēyḵal of our Aḏon, and raised up Tsiyon that was laid waste, and they have given us a permanent place in Yahudaḥ and Yerushalayim.

82 "And now, O אלהים, what shall we say, having these? For we have transgressed Your Commands, which You gave by the hand of your servants the neḇi'im, saying,

83 'The land, which you enter in to possess as an inheritance, is a land defiled with the abominations of the gentiles of the land, and they have filled it with their uncleanness.

84 'Now therefore, you shall not join your daughters unto their sons, neither shall you take their daughters for your

sons.

85 'And you shall never seek to have peace with them, that you may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and that you leave the inheritance of the land to your children forever.'

86 "And all that has come to be has been done to us because of our wicked works and great sins! And You, O אֱלֹהִים, lifted our sins,

87 and gave to us a root, but we have turned back again to transgress Your Law, and to mingle ourselves with the uncleanness of the nations of the land.

88 "Were You not wroth with us to destroy us, till You had left us neither root, seed nor name?

89 "O אֱלֹהִים of Yisra'ël, You are true! For we are left a root this day.

90 "See, we are now before You in our wickednesses, for we cannot stand any longer by reason of these matters before You."

91 And as Ezra made his confession in his prayer, weeping and lying flat on the ground before the Hëykal, a very great crowd of men, women and children there gathered to him from Yerushalayim; for there was great weeping among the crowd.

92 Then Shekanyah the son of Yehi'ël, one of the sons of Yisra'ël, called out, and said, "O Ezra, we have sinned against אֱלֹהִים Elohim, we have married foreign women of the nations of the land, but now there is expectancy for all Yisra'ël!

93 "Let us make an oath to אֱלֹהִים, that we shall put away all our wives which we have taken from the gentiles, with their children,

94 as you have said, and as many who obey the Law of אֱלֹהִים.

95 "Arise and act on this; for this is your word, and we shall be with you. Be strong."

96 So Ezra arose, and made the chief of the kohenim and Lëwites of all Yisra'ël swear to do after these matters; and so they swore.

9 Then rising from the court of the Hëykal, Ezra went to the room of Yoħanan the son of Elyashiḅ,
2 and remained there, and ate no

bread nor drank water, mourning for the great wickednesses of the multitude.

3 And there was a call in all Yahudah and Yerushalayim to all those who were of the captivity, that they should be gathered together at Yerushalayim;

4 and that whoever did not meet there within two or three days according to when the ruling elders appointed, their cattle should be seized for the use of the Hëykal, and himself thrown out from those who were of the captivity.

5 And in three days, all those of the tribe of Yahudah and Binyamin were gathered together at Yerushalayim, the twentieth day of the ninth month.

6 And all the crowd sat shivering in the outer court of the Hëykal because of the bad weather present.

7 So Ezra arose up, and said to them, "You have transgressed the Law in marrying foreign wives, and so have increased the sins of Yisra'ël.

8 "And now in confessing, give esteem to אֱלֹהִים Elohim of our fathers,

9 and do His desire, and separate yourselves from the gentiles of the land, and from the foreign women.

10 Then the whole crowd spoke, and cried with a loud voice, "As you have spoken, so we shall do!

11 "But because the people are many, and it is bad weather, we cannot stand in the open, and this is not a work of a day or two, seeing our sin in this has spread far;

12 therefore let the rulers of the multitude stay, and let all those of our dwellings who have foreign wives come at the time appointed,

13 and the rulers and judges of every place with them, till we turn away the wrath of אֱלֹהִים from us for this matter."

14 Then Yonathan son of Asah'ël and Yahzeyah son of Tiqwah opposed this matter upon them, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Lëwite supported them.

15 But those who were of the captivity did according to all these matters.

16 And Ezra the kohën chose for

himself the leaders of their families, all by name; and on the first day of the tenth month they sat together to examine the matter.

17 So the cases of those who held foreign wives was brought to an end on the first day of the first month.

18 And the kohenim who had come together, and found to have foreign wives were:

19 Of the sons of Yēshua son of Yotsadaq, and his brothers; Ma'asēyah and Eli'ezer, and Yariḇ and Gedalyah.

20 And they gave their hand to put away their wives and to offer rams to make atonement for their sins.

21 And of the sons of Immēr; Ḥanani, and Zebaḏyah, and Ma'asēyah, and Shemayah, and Yeḥi'ēl, and Uzziyah.

22 And of the sons of Pashḥur; Elyo'ēynai, Ma'asēyah Yishma'ēl, and Nethan'ēl, and Yozabaḏ and El'asah.

23 And of the Lēwites: Yozabaḏ, and Shim'i, and Qēlayah, who was called Qelita, and Pethaḥyah, and Yahuḏah, and Eli'ezer.

24 Of the qodesh singers: Elyashiḇ, and Zakkur.

25 Of the gatekeepers; Shallum, and Telem.

26 Of those of Yisra'ēl, of the sons of Parosh: Ramyah, and Yizziyah, and Malkiyah, and Miyamin, and El'azar, and Malkiyah, and Benayah.

27 Of the sons of Ēylam: Mattanyah, Zeḡaryah, and Aḇdi, and Yerēmoth, and Ēliyah.

28 And of the sons of Zattu: Elyo'ēynai, Elyashiḇ, Mattanyah, Yerēmoth, and Zabaḏ, and Aziza.

29 Of the sons of Bēḇai; Yahoḥanan, and Ḥananyah and Zabbai, and Athlai.

30 Of the sons of Bani: Meshullam, Malluk, Aḏayah, Yashuḇ, She'al, and Ramoth.

31 And of the sons of Paḥath-Mo'aḇ; Aḡna, and Ma'asēyah, Kelal, and Benayah, and Mattanyah, and Betsal'ēl, Binnui, and Menashsheh.

32 And of the sons of Ḥarim; Eli'ezer and Yishshiyah, and Malkiyah, and Shemayah, and Shim'on.

33 And of the sons of Ḥashum; Mattenai, and Mattattah, and Zabaḏ,

Eliphelet, and Yirmeyah, Menashsheh, and Shim'i.

34 And of the sons of Bani; Ma'aḡai, Amram, U'ēl, Benayah, and Bēḡeyah, and Wanyah, Merēmoth, and Elyashiḇ, and Mattenai, Ya'asu, Bani, Binnui, Shim'i, Shelemyah, Nathan. And of the sons of Ezra; Shashai, Azar'ēl, Azi'ēl, Shemaryah, Amaryah, Yosēph.

35 And of the sons of Neḇo; Mattithyah, Zabaḏ, Yaddu, Yo'ēl, Benayah.

36 All these had taken foreign wives, and they put them away with their children.

37 And the kohenim and Lēwites, and those who were of Yisra'ēl, dwelt in Yerushalayim, and in the land on the first day of the seventh month; so the children of Yisra'ēl were in their dwellings.

38 And the whole crowd came together with one accord into the open place of the qodesh porch toward the east;

39 and they spoke to Ezra the kohēn and reader, to bring the Law of Mosheh, that was given of אלהים Elohim of Yisra'ēl.

40 So Ezra the chief kohēn brought the Law to the whole crowd from man to woman, and to all the kohenim, to hear the Law on the first day of the seventh month.

41 And he read in the open court before the qodesh porch from morning to noon, before both men and women; and the crowd gave heed to the Law.

42 And Ezra the kohēn and reader of the Law stood up on a wooden platform, which was made for that purpose.

43 And beside him stood Mattithyah, Shema, Anayah, Azaryah, Uriyah, Ḥilqiyah, Ma'asēyah, on the right hand; 44 And on his left hand stood Peḡayah, Misha'ēl, Malkiyah, Ḥashum, and Ḥashbaddanah and Zeḡaryah.

45 Then Ezra took the Book of the Law before the crowd - for he sat esteemed at the head in the sight of them all -

46 and when he opened the Law, they all stood straight up. So Ezra barak אלהים Elohim Most High, the Elohim of hosts, Almighty.

47 And all the people answered,

"Aměn!" And lifting up their hands they fell to the ground, and worshipped
 אָמֵן.

48 Also Yěshua, Bani, Shěřěbyah, Yamin, Aqqub, Shabbethai, Hodiyah, Ma'asěyah, and Qelita, Azaryah, and Yozabađ, and Hānan, Pelayah, the Lěwites, taught the Law of אָמֵן, making them all to understand it.

49 Then the Governor spoke to Ezra the chief kohēn and reader, and to the Lěwites that taught the crowd, even to all, saying,

50 "This day is qodesh to אָמֵן." - For they all wept when they heard the Law -

51 "Go then, and eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions to those who have none;

52 for this day is qodesh to אָמֵן, and be not sorrowful; for אָמֵן shall exalt you."

53 So the Lěwites proclaimed to all the people saying, "This day is qodesh to אָמֵן; do not be sorrowful."

54 Then they went their way, every one to eat and drink, and be joyful, and to give portions to those who had none, and to rejoice;

55 because they understood the Words in which they were instructed, and for the reason they had been assembled.