

APPENDIX:

THE FOUR BOOKS OF ESDRAS (EZRA) AND THE PRAYER OF MANASSEH AS THEY APPEAR IN THE SLAVONIC AND RUSSIAN BIBLES

1 ESDRAS

CHAPTER 1

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of the Persians, that the word of the Lord by Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of the Persians, and he issued a proclamation through all his kingdom, and that in writing, saying, ²Thus said Cyrus king of the Persians, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the earth; and He hath given me a charge to build Him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judea. ³Who is there among you of all His people? for his God shall be with him, and he shall go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judea, and let him build the house of the God of Israel, (He is the God Which is in Jerusalem). ⁴And every one that remaineth, let him go from every place where he sojourneth, and the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with cattle, together with the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem. ⁵Then rose up the chiefs of the families of Judah, and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, all whose spirit the Lord had stirred up to go up to build the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem. ⁶And all they that were round about strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with good, and with cattle, and with presents, beside the freewill offerings. ⁷Also king Cyrus brought forth the vessels, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought out from Jerusalem, and put in the house of his god. ⁸And them did Cyrus king of the Persians bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and he numbered them unto Sheshbazzar the chief man of Judah. ⁹And this is the number of them: thirty basons of gold, and a thousand basons of silver, nine and twenty changes, ¹⁰thirty goblets of gold, and four hundred and ten double silver vessels, and a thousand other vessels. ¹¹All the gold and silver vessels were five thousand four hundred, *even* all that went up with Sheshbazzar from the *place of* transportation, from Babylon unto Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 2

Now these are the people of the land that went up, of the number of prisoners which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon; and they came again unto Judah

and Jerusalem, every man unto his city, ²which came with Zerubbabel: Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mardeciai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah, the number of the men of Israel: ³the sons of Parosh, two thousand and hundred seventy and two. ⁴The sons of Shephathiah, three hundred seventy and two. ⁵The sons of Arah, seven hundred seventy and five. ⁶The sons of Pahath-Moab pertaining to the sons of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve. ⁷The sons of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four. ⁸The sons of Zattu, nine hundred forty and five. ⁹The sons of Zaccai, seven hundred and threescore. ¹⁰The sons of Bani, six hundred forty and two. ¹¹The sons of Bebai, six hundred twenty and three. ¹²The sons of Azgad, a thousand two hundred twenty and two. ¹³The sons of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and six. ¹⁴The sons of Bigvai, two thousand fifty and six. ¹⁵The sons of Adin, four hundred fifty and four. ¹⁶The sons of Ater the son of Hezekiah, ninety and eight. ¹⁷The sons of Bezai, three hundred twenty and three. ¹⁸The sons of Jorah, an hundred and twelve. ¹⁹The sons of Hashum, two hundred twenty and three. ²⁰The sons of Gibbar, ninety and five. ²¹The sons of Bethlehem, an hundred twenty and three. ²²The sons of Netophah, fifty and six. ²³The sons of Ananath, an hundred twenty and eight. ²⁴The sons of Azmaveth, forty and three. ²⁵The sons of Kirjath-jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty and three. ²⁶The sons of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty and one. ²⁷The sons of Michmas, an hundred twenty and two. ²⁸The men of Michmas, an hundred twenty and two. ²⁹The sons of Nebo, fifty and two. ³⁰The sons of Magbish, an hundred fifty and six. ³¹The sons of Elamer, a thousand two hundred fifty and four. ³²The sons of Elam, three hundred and twenty. ³³The sons of Lod and Ono, seven hundred twenty and five. ³⁴The sons of Jericho, three hundred forty and five. ³⁵The sons of Senaah, three thousand and six hundred and thirty. ³⁶And the priests: the sons of Jedaiah, pertaining to the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three. ³⁷The sons of Immer, a thousand fifty and two. ³⁸The sons of Pashhur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven. ³⁹The sons of Harim, a thousand and seven. ⁴⁰And the Levites, the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, pertaining to the sons of Hodvaiah, seventy and four. ⁴¹The sons of Asaph, singers, an hundred twenty and eight. ⁴²The sons of the porters, the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, in all an hundred thirty and nine. ⁴³The Nethinim: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth, ⁴⁴the sons of Keros, the sons of Siaha, the sons of Padon, ⁴⁵the sons of Lebanah, the sons of Hagabah, the sons of Akkub, ⁴⁶the sons of Hagab, the sons of Shalmal, the sons of Hanan, ⁴⁷the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, the sons of Reaiah, ⁴⁸the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, the sons of Gazzam, ⁴⁹the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, the sons of Besai, ⁵⁰the sons of Asnah, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephusim, ⁵¹the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur, ⁵²the sons of Bazluth, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha, ⁵³the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Tamah, ⁵⁴the sons of Nezhiah, the sons of Hatipha. ⁵⁵The sons of the servants of Solomon: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Peruda, ⁵⁶the

sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel, ⁵⁷the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth, the sons of Zebaim, the sons of Ami. ⁵⁸All the Nethinim, and the sons of Abdeselma, were three hundred ninety and two. ⁵⁹And these are they that went up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, Immer: but they could not shew their father's house, and their seed, whether they were of Israel: ⁶⁰the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Bua, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, six hundred fifty and two. ⁶¹And of the sons of the priests, the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Kos, the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife and daughter of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name. ⁶²These sought their genealogy as though they had been reckoned, but they were not found; therefore were they put away from the priesthood. ⁶³And Athersatha told them that they should not eat of the most holy things, until a priest should arise with Lights and Perfections. ⁶⁴And the whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore, ⁶⁵beside their menservants and their maidservants: and these were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven; and among these were two hundred singing men and singing women. ⁶⁶Their horses were seven hundred thirty and six; their mules, two hundred forty and five; ⁶⁷their camels, four hundred thirty and five; their asses, six thousand seven hundred and twenty. ⁶⁸And some of the chiefs of families, when they went into the house of the Lord which was in Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God, to establish it in the prepared place thereof. ⁶⁹According to their power they gave into the treasury of the work pure gold threescore and one pieces, and five thousand pounds of silver, and one hundred priests' garments. ⁷⁰So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinim, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

CHAPTER 3

And the seventh month came on, and the sons of Israel were in their cities, and the people gathered themselves together as one man at Jerusalem. ²Then stood up Joshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer whole burnt offerings thereon, according to the things that were written in the law of Moses the man of God. ³And they set up the altar on his place; for there was a terror upon them because of the people of the lands: and the whole burnt offering was offered up thereon unto the Lord morning and evening. ⁴They kept also the feast of tabernacles, according to that which was written, and offered whole burnt offerings daily by number, according to the ordinance, the exact daily rate; ⁵and after this the perpetual whole burnt offering, and for the season of new moon, and *offering* for all the hallowed feasts of the Lord, and for every one that offered a freewill offering unto the Lord. ⁶On the first day of the seventh month began they to offer whole burnt offerings unto the Lord: but the foundation of the house of the

Lord was not yet laid. ⁷They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat and drink, and oil, unto them of Sidon and of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant of Cyrus king of the Persians unto them. ⁸Now in the second year of their coming to the house of God in Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, over the workmen in the house of the Lord. ⁹Then stood Jeshua and his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, and the sons of Judah, over them that wrought in the house of the Lord: the sons of Henadad, their sons, and their brethren the Levites. ¹⁰And they laid a foundation for building the house of the Lord: and the priests in their apparel stood with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel. ¹¹And they answered with praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord; because He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a loud voice to praise the Lord, at the laying of the foundation of the house of the Lord. ¹²But many of the priests and Levites, and the elders, chiefs of families, that had seen the former house upon the foundation thereof, and who saw this house with their eyes, wept with a loud voice: but the multitude shouted with joy to raise a song. ¹³And the people did not discern the voice of the glad shout from the voice of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud voice, and the voice was heard from afar off.

CHAPTER 4

Now they that afflicted Judah and Benjamin heard that the sons of the captivity builded an house unto the Lord God of Israel. ²And they drew near unto Zerubbabel, and to the heads of the families, and said unto them, We will build with you: for we seek our God as you do; and we do sacrifice unto Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, which brought us hither. ³Then Zerubbabel, and Joshua, and the rest of the heads of the families of Israel said unto them, It is not for us and you to build an house unto our God; for we ourselves together will build unto the Lord our God, as Cyrus the king of the Persians hath commanded us. ⁴Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and hindered them in building, ⁵hiring *counsellors* against them also, plotting to frustrate their counsel, all the days of Cyrus king of the Persians, even until the reign of Darius king of the Persians.

⁶And in the reign of Ahasuerus, even in the beginning of his reign, they wrote a letter against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem. ⁷And in the days of Artaxerxes, wrote Tabeel unto Mithradates and unto the rest of his fellow servants; the tribute gatherer did write unto Artaxerxes king of the Persians a writing in the Syrian tongue, and *the same* interpreted. ⁸Rehum

the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe wrote an epistle against Jerusalem to king Artaxerxes, saying, ⁹Thus hath judged Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of our fellow servants, the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarphalaeans, the Apharsaeans, the Archuaeans, the Babylonians, the Susanites, the Davaites, ¹⁰and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnapper carried away, and settled them in the cities of Samaria, and the rest beyond the river. ¹¹This is the purport of the letter that they sent unto him: Thy servants the men beyond the river unto king Artaxerxes. ¹²Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem the rebellious and wicked city, which they are building; and the walls thereof are set in order, and they have exalted the foundations thereof. ¹³Now then be it known unto the king, that, if that city be builded up, and the walls thereof finished, thou shalt have no tribute, neither will they pay; and this injureth kings. ¹⁴And it is not lawful for us to see the dishonour of the king: therefore have we sent and certified *the matter* to the king; ¹⁵that examination may be made in the book of record of thy fathers: so shalt thou know that that city is rebellious, and do hurt unto kings and countries; and there are in the midst thereof refuges for slaves: therefore hath this city been made desolate. ¹⁶We therefore declare unto the king, that if the city be builded, and the walls thereof set up again, thou shalt not have peace. ¹⁷Then sent the king to Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their fellow servants that dwelt in Samaria, and the rest beyond the river, *saying*, Peace: and he saith, ¹⁸The tribute gatherer, whom ye sent to us, hath been called before me. ¹⁹And a decree hath been made by me, and we have examined and found that that city of old time exalteth herself against kings, and that rebellions and desertion take place therein. ²⁰There were powerful kings also in Jerusalem, and they ruled over all *the countries* beyond the river, and abundant revenues and tribute were given unto them. ²¹Now therefore make a decree to halt the work of those men; and that city shall be no more builded. ²²Be ye careful of the decree, not to be remiss concerning this matter; lest at any time destruction abound to the hurt of kings. ²³Then did the tribute gatherer of king Artaxerxes read the letter before Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and his fellow servants: and they went in haste to Jerusalem, and through Judea, and made them to cease, with horse and an armed force. ²⁴Then ceased the work of the house of God in Jerusalem; and it was at a stand unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of the Persians.

CHAPTER 5

And Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied a prophecy unto the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them. ²Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which was in Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them. ³At the

same time came there upon them Tattenai, the governor on this side of the river, and Shethar-boznai, and their fellow servants, and spake thus unto them, Who hath ordained a decree for you to build this house, and to *make this preparation*? ⁴Then spake they thus unto them, What are the names of the men that build this city. ⁵But the eyes of God were upon the captivity of Judah, and they did not cause them to cease, till the decree was brought to Darius: and then was sent by the tribute gatherer concerning this.

⁶The copy of a letter, which Tattenai, the governor of the part on this side the river, and Shethar-boznai, and their fellow servants the Apharsachites, which were on this side the river, sent unto king Darius. ⁷They sent an account unto him; and thus was written therein; All peace unto Darius the king. ⁸Be it known unto the king, that we went into the land of Judea, to the house of the great God; and it is building with choice stones, and they are laying timbers in the walls, and that work prospereth, and goeth favourably on in their hands. ⁹Then asked we those elders, and said unto them thus, Who gave you the order to build this house, and make this preparation? ¹⁰We asked them their names also, to declare them to thee, to write the names of their chief men unto thee. ¹¹And thus they returned us answer, saying, We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and build the house that was builded many years before this; and a great king of Israel builded it, and established it for them. ¹²But after that our fathers had provoked the God of heaven, He gave them into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar the Chaldean, king of Babylon; and he destroyed this house, and carried the people captive to Babylon. ¹³And in the first year of king Cyrus, Cyrus the king made a decree that this house of God should be builded. ¹⁴And the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar brought out of the house that was in Jerusalem, and carried them into the temple of the king, those did king Cyrus bring out from the temple of the king, and give them unto Sheshbazzar the treasurer, who was over the treasure; ¹⁵and said unto him, Take all the vessels, and go, put them into the house that is in Jerusalem in their place. ¹⁶Then came the same Sheshbazzar, and laid the foundations of the house of God in Jerusalem: and since that time even until now hath it been in building, and hath not been finished. ¹⁷Now therefore, if it seem good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure house at Babylon; that thou mayest know if that a decree was made by king Cyrus to build that house of God that was in Jerusalem, and let the king send to us when he hath learnt concerning this matter.

CHAPTER 6

Then Darius the king made a decree, and caused a search to be made in the houses of the rolls, where the treasure is laid up in Babylon. ²And there was found in the city, in the palace, a volume, and this was the record written therein. ³In the first year of king Cyrus, Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the holy house of God that was in Jerusalem, saying, Let the

house be builded, and the place where they sacrifice the sacrifices. (Also he appointed the elevation thereof, in height sixty cubits; the breadth thereof of sixty cubits.) ⁴And let there be three strong layers of stones, and one layer of timber; and the expenses shall be paid out of the king's house. ⁵And the silver and the gold vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar carried away out of the house that was in Jerusalem, and carried to Jerusalem, let them even be given, and carried again unto the temple, which is in Jerusalem, and placed in the place where they were set in the house of God. ⁶Now, ye rulers beyond the river, Shetharboznai, and their fellow servants the Persians, which are beyond the river, give these things, keeping far from that place. ⁷Now let the work of the house of God alone; let the rulers of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build that house of God in his place. ⁸Moreover a decree is made by me, if haply ye may do somewhat in concert with the elders of the Jews for the building of the house of God: to wit, out of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, let there be money to defray the expenses carefully granted unto those men, that they be not hindered. ⁹And whatsoever need, ye shall give both the young of bulls, and rams, and lambs, for whole burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt wine, and oil, according to the word of the priests which are in Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day whatsoever they shall ask; ¹⁰that they may offer sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and that they may pray for the life of the king and his sons. ¹¹And a decree is made by me, that every man that shall alter this word, timber shall be pulled down from his house, and let him be lifted up and slain thereon, and his house shall be confiscated. ¹²And may the God whose name dwelleth there, overthrow every king and people which is in Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be diligently attended to.

¹³Then Tattenai, the governor on this side beyond the river, Shetharboznai, and his fellow servants, according to that which king Darius had sent, so did they diligently. ¹⁴And the elders of the Jews, and Levites, builded, at the prophecy of Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo: and they builded, and finished it, by the decree of the God of Israel, and by the decree of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes, kings of the Persians. ¹⁵And they finished this house by the third day of the month Adar, which is the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king. ¹⁶And the sons of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the sons of the captivity, kept the dedication of the house of God with gladness. ¹⁷And they offered for the dedication of the house of God an hundred calves, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve kids of the goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. ¹⁸And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their separate orders, for the services of God in Jerusalem, according to the writing of the book of Moses.

¹⁹And the sons of the captivity kept the Passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month. ²⁰For the priests and Levites were purified; all were clean to a man; and they killed the Passover for all the sons of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. ²¹And the sons of Israel did eat the Passover, even they that were of the captivity, and every one

that had separated himself unto them from the uncleanness of the nations of the land, to seek the Lord God of Israel. ²²And they kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with gladness: for the Lord had made them glad, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the works of the house of the God of Israel.

CHAPTER 7

Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of the Persians, came up Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, ²the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, ³the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Maraioth, ⁴the son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, ⁵the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the first priest. ⁶This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given: and the king gave him *leave*, for the hand of the Lord his God was upon him in all things that he sought. ⁷And there went up some of the sons of Israel, and of the priests, and of the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinim, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. ⁸And they came to Jerusalem in the fifth month; this was the seventh year of the king. ⁹For in the first day of the first month began he the going up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came they to Jerusalem, for the good hand of the Lord his God was upon him. ¹⁰For Ezra had determined in his heart to seek the law, and to do and teach the ordinances and judgments in Israel.

¹¹Now this is the copy of the order that Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe of the book of the words of the commandments of the Lord, and of His ordinances to Israel. ¹²Artaxerxes, king of king, to Ezra, the scribe of the law of the Lord God of heaven, Let the order and the answer be accomplished. ¹³A decree is made by me, that every one that is willing in my kingdom of the people of Israel, and of the priests and the Levites, to go up to Jerusalem, let *them* go with thee. ¹⁴*One* hath been sent from the king and the seven counsellors, to visit Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of their God that is in thine hand; ¹⁵and to carry away even for the house of the Lord silver and gold, which the king and the counsellors have freely given unto the God of Israel, which dwelleth in Jerusalem; ¹⁶and all the silver and gold, whatsoever thou shalt find in all the land of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and the priests that offer freely for the house of God which is in Jerusalem. ¹⁷And as for every one that that arriveth there, speedily order him by this letter to bring calves, rams, lambs, and their meat offrings, and their drink offerings; and thou shalt offer them on the altar of you God, which is in Jerusalem. ¹⁸And whatsoever it shall seem good to thee and to thy brethren to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, do as it is pleasing unto your God. ¹⁹And deliver the vessels that are given thee for the service of the house of God, before God in Jerusalem. ²⁰And as to the rest of the need of the house

of thy God, thou shalt give from the king's treasure houses, ²¹and from me. I king Araxerxes have made a decree for all the treasuries that are in the *country* beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest and scribe of the God of heaven may ask you, it shall be done readily, ²²to the amount of an hundred talents of silver, and an hundred measures of wheat, and an hundred baths of wine, and an hundred baths of oil, and salt without reckoning. ²³Let whatsoever is in the decree of the God of heaven be done: take heed lest any one make an attack on the house of the God of heaven, lest at any time there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons. ²⁴Also this hath been certified unto you, touching all the priests, and Levites, the singers, porters, Nethinim, and ministers of the house of God, let no tribute be paid unto thee; thou shalt not have power to oppress them. ²⁵And thou, Ezra, as the wisdom of God is in thine hand, appoint scribes and judges, that they may judge for all the people beyond the river, all that know the law of the Lord thy God: and ye shall make it known to him that knoweth not. ²⁶And whosoever shall not do the law of God, and the law of the king readily, judgment shall be taken upon him, whether it be to death, or to chastisement, or to a fine of his property, or to casting into prison.

²⁷Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, Which hath put it thus in the king's heart, to glorify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem: ²⁸and hath given me favour in the sight of the king, and of his counsellors, and all the rulers of the king, the exalted ones. And I was strengthened according to the good hand of God upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me.

CHAPTER 8

And these are heads of the families, the leaders that went up with me in the reign of Artaxerxes the king of Babylon. ²Of the sons of Phinehas; Gershon: of the sons of Ithamar; Daniel: of the sons of David; Hattush. ³Of the sons of Shechaniah, and the sons of Parosh; Zechariah: and with him a company of an hundred and fifty. ⁴Of the sons of Pahath-moab; Eliehoenai the son of Zeremiah, and with him two hundred that were males. ⁵And of the sons of Zathoe; Shechaniah the son of Jahaziel, and with him three hundred males. ⁶And of the sons of Adin; Ebed the son of Jonathan, and with him fifty males. ⁷And of the sons of Elam; Jeshaiiah the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy males. ⁸And of the sons of Shephatiah; Zebadiah the son of Michael, and with him fourscore males. ⁹And of the sons of Joab; Obadiah the son of Jehiel, and with him two hundred and eighteen males. ¹⁰And of the sons of Baani; Shelomith the son of Josiphiah, and with him an hundred and threescore males. ¹¹And of the sons of Bebai; Zechariah the son of Babai, and with him twenty and eight males. ¹²And of the sons of Azgad; Johanan the son of Hakkatan, and with him an hundred and ten males. ¹³And of the sons of Adonikam last, and these were their names: Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah,

and with them threescore males. ¹⁴And of the sons of Bigvai; Uthai, and Zabud, and with him seventy males.

¹⁵And I gathered them together to the river that cometh to Ahava; and there we pitched three days: and I reviewed the people, and the priests, and found there none of the sons of Levi. ¹⁶And I sent men of understanding unto Eleazar, to Ariel, to Shimaiah, and to Elnathan, and to Jarib, and to Elnathan, and to Nathan, and to Zechariah, and to Meshullam, and to Joiarib, and to Elnathan. ¹⁷And I sent them to the rulers with the money of the place, and put words in their mouth to speak unto their brethren the Nethinim with the money of the place, that they should bring us singers for the house of our God. ¹⁸And they came unto us, as the good hand of our God was upon us, even a man of understanding of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel, and at the commencement came his sons and his brethren eighteen. ¹⁹And Hashabiah, and Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merari, his brethren and his sons, twenty. ²⁰And of the Nethinim, whom David and the princes had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim: all of them were gathered by their names. ²¹Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we should humble ourselves before our God, to seek of him a straight way for us, and for our sons, and for all our substance. ²²For I was ashamed to ask of the king a guard and horsemen to save us from the enemy in the way: for we have spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek Him; but His power and His wrath are upon all them that forsake Him. ²³So we fasted, and asked of our God concerning this: and He hearkened unto us. ²⁴And I gave charge to twelve of the chiefs of the priests, unto Sherebiah, to Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them. ²⁵And I weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of the firstfruits of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his princes, and all Israel that were found, had dedicated. ²⁶I even weighed into their hands six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and an hundred silver vessels, and an hundred talents of gold; ²⁷and twenty golden bowls, of about a thousand drachmas, and superior vessels of fine shining brass, precious as gold. ²⁸And I said unto them, Ye are holy unto the Lord; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are freewill offerings unto the Lord God of our fathers. ²⁹Be watchful, and keep them, until ye weigh them before the chief priests and the Levites, and the chiefs of the families in Jerusalem, at the chambers of the house of the Lord. ³⁰So the priests and the Levites took the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring to Jerusalem into the house of the Lord.

³¹Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the last month, to come unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and delivered us from the hand of the enemy and adversary in the way. ³²And we came to Jerusalem, and abode there three days. ³³And it came to pass on the fourth day, that we weighed the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, in the house of our God, into the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas, and with them Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, the Levites. ³⁴All things were

reckoned by number and weight; and all the weight was written down. ³⁵At that time the sons of the banishment that came from the captivity offered whole burnt offerings unto the God of Israel, twelve calves for all Israel, ninety and six rams, seventy and seven lambs, twelve goats for a sin offering: all whole burnt offerings unto the Lord. ³⁶And they gave the king's commission unto the king's lieutenants, and the governors beyond the river: and they honoured the people, and the house of God.

CHAPTER 9

Now when these things were done, the princes drew near to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands in their abominations, even the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, the Ammonite, the Moabite, and the Moserite, and the Amorite. ²For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: and the holy seed hath passed among the nations of the lands: yea, the hand of the princes hath been first in this transgression. ³And when I heard this thing, I rent my garments, and trembled, and plucked of the hairs of my head and of my beard, and sat down mourning. ⁴Then were assembled unto me all that followed the word of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of the captivity; and I remained mourning until the evening sacrifice. ⁵And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my humiliation; and when I had rent my garments, then I trembled, and I bowed myself on my knees, and spread out my hands unto the Lord God, ⁶and said, O Lord, I am ashamed and confounded, my God: for our transgressions are abounded over our head, and our trespasses are increased even unto heaven. ⁷Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our sons, been delivered in the hand of the kings of the nations, by the sword, and by captivity, and by spoil, and with shame of our face, as at this day. ⁸And now our God hath dealt mercifully with us, to leave us to escape, and to give us an establishment in the place of His sanctuary, to lighten our eyes, and to give a little quickening in our servitude. ⁹For we are bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our servitude, but hath extended favour unto us in the sight of the kings of the Persians, to give us a reviving, that they should raise up the house of our God, and restore the desolate places thereof, and to give us a fence in Judah and Jerusalem. ¹⁰O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken Thy commandments, ¹¹which Thou hast given us by the hand of Thy servants the prophets, saying, 'The land, into which ye go to inherit it, is a land subject to disturbance by the removal of the people of the nations for their abominations, wherewith they have filled it from one end to the other by their uncleannesses. ¹²Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, and take not of their daughters for your sons, neither shall ye seek their peace or their good for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and give it as an inheritance unto your sons for ever. ¹³And

after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, *it is clear* that there is none like unto our God, for Thou hast lightly visited our iniquities, and given us deliverance; ¹⁴whereas we have again broken Thy commandments, and joined in affinity with the people of the lands: be not very angry with us unto our utter destruction, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping. ¹⁵O Lord God of Israel, Thou art righteous: for we remain *yet* escaped, as at this day: behold, we are before Thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before Thee because of this.

CHAPTER 10

So when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and praying before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and youths: for the people wept, and wept aloud. ²And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have broken covenant with our God, and have taken strange wives of the nations of the land: yet now there is patience *of hope* unto Israel concerning this thing. ³Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and all such as are born of them, as thou shalt advise: ⁴arise, and alarm them with the commandments of our God; and let it be done according to the law. Arise, for the matter is upon thee; and we are with thee: be strong, and do. ⁵Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. ⁶Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went unto the treasury of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib; he even went thither: he did eat no bread, and drank no water: for he mourned over the unfaithfulness *of them* of the captivity. ⁷And they made proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem unto all the sons of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together unto Jerusalem, saying, ⁸Every one that shall not arrive within three days, as is the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his substance shall be forfeited, and himself separated from the congregation of the captivity.

⁹So all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together at Jerusalem within the three days. This was the ninth month: on the twentieth day of the month all the people sat down in the street of the house of the Lord, because of their alarm concerning the word, and for the storm. ¹⁰And Ezra the chief priest arose, and said unto them, Ye have broken covenant, and have taken strange wives, to add to the trespass of Israel. ¹¹Now therefore give praise unto the Lord God of our fathers, and do that which is pleasing in His sight: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives. ¹²Then all the congregation answered and said, This thy word is powerful upon us, to do it. ¹³But the people is many in number, and the season is stormy, and there is no power to stand without, and the work is more than enough for one day or for two: for we have greatly

sinned in this matter. ¹⁴Let now our rulers stand, and for all in our cities that have taken strange wives, let them come at appointed times, and with them elders from every several city, and judges, to turn away the fierce wrath of our God from us concerning this matter. ¹⁵Only Jonathan the son of Asahel, and Jahaziah the son of Tikvah were with me concerning this; and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite helped them. ¹⁶And the sons of the captivity did so: and Ezra the priest, and heads of families according to their house were separated, and all by their names, for they returned in the first day of the month to examine the matter. ¹⁷And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first day of the first month.

¹⁸And of the priests there were found that had taken strange wives: of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren; Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah. ¹⁹And they gave their hands that they would put away their wives, and offered a ram of the flock for a trespass offering because of their trespass. ²⁰And of the sons of Immer; Hanani, and Zebadiah. ²¹And of the sons of Harim; Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uziah. ²²And of the sons of Pashhur; Elioenai, Maaseiah, and Ishmael, and Nethaneel, and Jozabad, and Elasah. ²³And of the Levites; Jozabad, and Shimei, and Kelaiah (the same is Kelita), and Pethahiah, and Judah, and Eliezer. ²⁴And of the singers; Eliashib: and of the porters; Shallum, and Telem, and Uri. ²⁵Also of Israel: of the sons of Parosh; Ramiah, and Jeziah, and Malchiah, and Mijamin, and Eleazar, and Asabia, and Benaiah. ²⁶And of the sons of Elam; Mattaniah, and Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Eliah. ²⁷And of the sons of Zattu; Elioenai, Eliashib, and Mattanaih, and Jeremoth, and Zabad, and Aziza. ²⁸And of the sons of Bebai; Jehohanan, Hananiah, and Zabbai, and Athlai. ²⁹And of the sons of Bani; Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, and Ramoth. ³⁰And of the sons of Pahath-moab; Adna, and Chelal, and Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, and Binnui, and Manasseh. ³¹And of the sons of Harim; Eliezer, Ishijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon, ³²Benjamin, Malluch, Shemariah. ³³And of the sons of Hashum; Mattenai, Mattattah, Zadab, Eliphelet, Jereamai, Manasseh, Shimei. ³⁴And of the sons of Bani; Maadai, Amram, Uel, ³⁵Benaiah, Badeiah, Cheluh, ³⁶Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib, ³⁷Mattaniah, Mattenai: ³⁸and so did the sons of Bani, and the sons of Shimei, ³⁹and Shelemiah, and Nathan, and Adaiah, ⁴⁰Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai, ⁴¹Azarel, and Shelemiah, and Shemariah, ⁴²and Shallum, Amariah, Joseph. ⁴³Of the sons of Nebo; Jeiel, Matithiah, Zebed, Zebina, Jaddai, and Joel, and Benaiah. ⁴⁴All these had taken strange wives, and begat sons of them.

NEHEMIAH

CHAPTER 1

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah: and it came to pass in the month Chisleu, of the twentieth year, that I was in Shushan the citadel. ²And Hanani one of my brethren, came, he and some men of Judah; and I asked them concerning them that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. ³And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity are there in the land, in great affliction and reproach: the walls also of Jerusalem are thrown down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. ⁴And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, and continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ⁵And I said, Nay, I pray Thee, O Lord God of heaven, the mighty, the great and terrible, that keepeth Thy covenant and mercy unto them that love Him, and to them that keep His commandments: ⁶let Thine ear now be attentive, and Thine eyes open, that Thou mayest hear the prayer of Thy servant, which I pray before Thee at this time, this day both day and night, for the sons of Israel Thy servants, and make confession for the sins of the sons of Israel, which we have sinned against Thee: both I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷We have altogether broken covenant with Thee, and have not kept the commandments, and the ordinances, and the judgments, which Thou commandedst Thy servant Moses. ⁸Remember, I pray Thee, the word wherewith Thou didst charge Thy servant Moses, saying, If ye break covenant, I will scatter you abroad among the nations. ⁹But if ye turn again unto Me, and keep My commandments, and do them; though ye be scattered under the uttermost *part* of heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them into the place that I have chosen to cause My name to dwell there. ¹⁰Now they are Thy servants and thy people, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy great power, and with Thy strong hand. ¹¹O Lord, I pray Thee, *turn not away*, but let Thine ear be attentive to the prayer of Thy servant, and to the prayer of Thy servants, who desire to fear Thy name: and prosper, I pray Thee, Thy servant this day, and grant him to find mercy in the sight of this man. Now I was the king's cupbearer.

CHAPTER 2

And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of king Artaxerxes, that wine was before me: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king: and there was not another before him. ²And the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad; and art thou not sick? and now this is nothing

else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid, ³and said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, forasmuch as the city, the house of my fathers' sepulchres, hath been laid waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire? ⁴Then the king said unto me, For what seekest thou thus? So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵And I said unto the king, If it seem good to the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send him into Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres; then shall I rebuild it. ⁶And the king, and his concubine that sat next to him, said unto me, For how long shall thy journey be, and when wilt thou return? And it was pleasing before the king, and he sent me; and I set him a time. ⁷Moreover I said unto the king, If it seem good to the king, let him give me letters to the governors beyond the river, that I may take my journey till I come to Judah; ⁸and a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the garden that pertaineth to the king, that he may give me timber to cover the gates, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king gave me, according to the good hand of the Lord upon me. ⁹Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me. ¹⁰And Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobias the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, and it grieved them that there was come a man to seek good for the sons of Israel.

¹¹So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days. ¹²And I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; neither told I any man what God had put into my heart to do along with Israel: neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon. ¹³And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, and to the mouth of the well of fig trees, and to the dung port: and I mourned over the wall of Jerusalem which they were destroying; and her gates were devoured with fire. ¹⁴Then went I on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: and there was no room for the beast that was under me to pass. ¹⁵Then went I up in the night by the wall of the brook, and mourned over the wall, and passed through the gate of the valley, and returned. ¹⁶And the sentinels knew not why I went, or what I did; and until that time I told it not to the Jews, or to the priests, or to the nobles, or to the captains, or to the rest that did the works. ¹⁷Then said I unto them, Ye see the trouble that we are in, how Jerusalem is desolate, and the gates thereof are given to fire: come, let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, and we shall no more suffer reproach. ¹⁸Then told I them of the hand of God which was good upon me; as also about the king's words that he had spoken unto me: and I said, Let us rise up and build. And their hands were strengthened for the good work. ¹⁹And Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobias the servant, and Geshem the Arabian heard it, and they laughed us to scorn, and came against us, and said, What is the thing that ye are doing? do ye rebel against the king? ²⁰Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, He will prosper us; and we are His pure servants, and we will build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 3

Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of the hundred they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananel. ²And they builded it at the side of the men of Jericho, and at the side of the sons of Zaccur, the son of Imri. ³But the fish gate did the sons of Hassenaah build; they roofed it, and covered in the doors thereof, and the bars thereof, and the bolts thereof. ⁴And at their hand one of Meremoth the son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, took his place; and at their hand Meshullam the son of Berachiah took his place: and at their hand Zadok the son of Baana took his place. ⁵And at their hand the Tekoites took their place; but the Adorites put not their neck to their service. ⁶Moreover the gate of Jasana repaired Jehoiada the son of Paseah, and Meshullam the son of Basodeiah; they covered it in, and set up the doors thereof, and the bolts thereof, and the bars thereof. ⁷And at their hand repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, unto the throne of the governor on this side the river. ⁸And at their hand repaired Uzziel the son of Arachiah of the smiths: next unto them also repaired Hananiah the son of one of the apothecaries, and they finished Jerusalem unto the broad wall. ⁹And next unto them repaired Rephaiah the son of Zur, the ruler of the half part of the district round about Jerusalem. ¹⁰And next unto them repaired Jedaiah the son of Harumaph, even over against his house: and next unto him repaired Hattush the son of Hashabniah. ¹¹And Malchijah the son of Harim, and Hashub the son of Pahath-moab, repaired even unto the tower of the furnaces. ¹²And next unto him repaired Shallum the son of Hallohesh, the ruler of the half part of the area round about Jerusalem, he and his daughters. ¹³The valley gate repaired Hanun, and the inhabitants of Zanoah; they built it, and set up the doors thereof, and the bolts thereof, and the bars thereof, and a thousand cubits of the wall unto the dung gate. ¹⁴But the dung gate repaired Malchijah the son of Rechab, the ruler of the district round about Beth-haccerim, he and his sons; and they covered it, and set up the doors thereof, and the bolts thereof, and the bars thereof. ¹⁵But the gate of the fountain repaired Solomon the son of Cholezah, the ruler of part of Mizpah; he built it, and covered it, and set up the doors thereof, and the bars thereof, and the wall of the pool of the skins by the king's meadow, and unto the steps that lead down from the city of David. ¹⁶After him repaired Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of the half part of the area round about Beth-zur, unto the garden of the sepulchre of David, and to the pool that was made, and unto the house of the mighty. ¹⁷After him repaired the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani: next unto him repaired Hashabiah, the ruler of the half part of the area round about Keilah, in his district. ¹⁸And after him repaired his brethren, Bavai the son of Henadad, the ruler of the half part of the area round about Keilah. ¹⁹And next to him repaired Ezer the son of

Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, another piece of the tower of going up, where it meeteth the corner. ²⁰After him repaired Baruch the son of Zabbai, a second piece, from the corner unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest. ²¹And after him repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah the son of Koz, a second part from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the end of the house of Eliashib. ²²And after him repaired the priests, the men of Achechar. ²³And after him repaired Benjamin and Hasshub over against their house: and after him repaired Azariah the son of Maaseiah the son of Ananiah, near to his house. ²⁴After him repaired Binnui the son of Henadad, another piece, from the house of Azariah unto the corner and to the turning, ²⁵of Palai the son of Uzai, over against the corner, and also the tower that lieth out from the king's house, even the upper one of the prison house: and after him Pedaiiah the son of Parosh. ²⁶Moreover the Nethinim, which dwelt in Ophel, repaired unto the garden of the water gate eastward, and the tower that lieth out. ²⁷And after them the Tekoites repaired another piece, over against the great tower that lieth out, even unto the wall of Ophel. ²⁸From above the horse gate repaired the priests, every man over against his own house. ²⁹And after him repaired Zadok the son of Immer over against his own house: and after him repaired Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the guard of the east gate. ³⁰After him repaired Hananiaha the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, another piece: after him repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah over against his treasury. ³¹After him repaired Malchijah the son of Saraphi unto the house of the Nethinim, and of the merchants, over against the gate of Miphkad, and unto the steps of the corner. ³²And between that and the sheep gate repaired the smiths and the merchants.

³³Now it came to pass, when Sanaballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews. ³⁴And he said before his brethren, Is this the power of Samaria, that these Jews do build them the city? do they indeed sacrifice? will they then be strong? and will they this day revive the stones which are burned, after they had been the heap of rubbish of the land? ³⁵And Tobias the Ammonite came near to him, and they said unto themselves, Will they sacrifice, or eat in their place? shall not a fox go up, and even break down their stone wall? ³⁶Hear, O our God; for we are despised; and return their reproach upon their own head, and make them a scorn in a land of captivity: and cover not their iniquity.

CHAPTER 4

But it came to pass, that when Sanaballat, and Tobias, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, heard that the height of the walls of Jerusalem increased, for that the breaches began to be stopped, it seemed very evil to them. ²And they gathered all of them together to come and fight against Jerusalem, and to destroy it utterly. ³Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set watchmen against them day and night, because of them. ⁴And Judah said, The strength of the enemy is broken, and there is much

rubbish; and we shall not be able to build upon the wall. ⁵And they that afflicted us said, They shall not know, neither shall they see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease. ⁶And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us, They come up against us from all places. ⁷Therefore set I in the lowest parts of the place behind the wall, in the covered places, I even set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. ⁸And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be ye not afraid of them: remember our God, *Which is great and terrible*, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses. ⁹And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had scattered their counsel, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work. ¹⁰And it came to pass from that day forth, that the half of them that had been driven forth wrought the work, and half of them kept watch; and *there were* spears, and shields, and bows, and breastplates, and rulers behind all the house of Judah, ¹¹even of them which builded the wall. And they that carried the burdens *were* under arms; each with one hand wrought his work, and with the other held his dart. ¹²And the builders wrought each man having his sword girt upon his loins, and so they built: and the trumpeter with his trumpet next to him. ¹³And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and abundant, and we are scattered upon the wall, each at a great distance from the other. ¹⁴In what place soever ye shall hear the sound of the trumpet, gather ye together thither unto us: and our God shall fight for us. ¹⁵So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared. ¹⁶And at that time said I unto the people, Lodge ye every man with his servant in the midst of Jerusalem, and let the night be a time of watch to you, and the day a time of work. ¹⁷And I was there, and the watchman behind me, and there was not a man of us that put off his clothes.

CHAPTER 5

And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Jews. ²For there were some that said, We, with our sons, and our daughters, are many: therefore we will take up corn, and eat, and live. ³Some also there were that said, Our fields, and our vineyards, and our houses, let us mortgage them; and we will take corn, and eat. ⁴And some said, As for our fields, and our vineyards, and houses, we have borrowed money for the king's tributes. ⁵Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and lo, we do bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be slaves: and there is no power of our hands, for our fields and our vineyards pertain unto the nobles. ⁶And I was much grieved when I heard their cry and these words. ⁷And my heart took counsel within me, and I contended with the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto

them, Shall every man demand of his brother that ye demand? And I set a great assembly against them. ⁸And I said unto them, We of our own freewill have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the nations; and do ye even sell your brethren? and shall they be delivered unto us? Then held they their peace, and found no answer. ⁹And I said, The thing that ye do is not good; not thus; ye shall depart in the fear of our God by reason of the reproach of the nations our enemies. ¹⁰And my brethren, and mine acquaintance, and I, have lent them money and corn: let us now leave off this exaction. ¹¹Restore, I pray you, unto them, even as at this day, their fields, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, and bring forth to them corn, and wine, and oil, of the money. ¹²And they said, We will restore, and we will not exact of them; so we will do as thou sayest. Then I called the priests, and bound them by oath to do according to this word. ¹³And I shook out my garment, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that shall not keep to this word; even thus shall he be shaken out as an outcast and empty. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the Lord: and the people did this thing.

¹⁴From the day that he charged me to be their ruler in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes, that is, twelve years, I and my brethren ate not provision extorted from them. ¹⁵But as for the former acts of extortion wherein those that were before me oppressed them, they even took of them their last money, forty didrachmas for bread and wine; yea the very outcasts of them exercised authority over the people: but so did not I, because of the fear of God. ¹⁶Yea, also in the work of the wall treated I not them with rigour; I bought not land: and all that were gathered together came thither unto the work. ¹⁷And the Jews, to the number of five hundred and fifty men, beside those that came unto us from among the nations round about, *were* at my table. ¹⁸And there came unto me for one day one calf, and I had six choice sheep and a goat, and every ten days wine in abundance of all sorts: yet with these required I not the bread of extortion, because the bondage was heavy upon this people. ¹⁹Remember me, O God, for good, in all that I have done for this people.

CHAPTER 6

Now it came to pass, when Sanaballat, and Tobias, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though up to that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) ²that Sanaballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, and let us meet together in the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. ³And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, and I shall not be able to come down, lest the work cease: when I have finished it, I shall come down to you. ⁴Yet they sent again unto me after this sort; and I sent them word after the same manner. ⁵Then sent Sanaballat his servant unto me with an open letter in his hand.

⁶And therein was written, It is reported among the nations that thou and the Jews do plan to revolt: for which cause thou buildest the wall, and thou wilt be a king unto them. ⁷And moreover thou hast appointed prophets unto thyself, that thou mightest dwell in Jerusalem as a king over Judah: and now shall these words be reported to the king. Come now therefore, let us take counsel together. ⁸Then sent I unto him, saying, It hath not happened as thou sayest, for thou feignest them out of thine own heart. ⁹For they all tried to make us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from this work, and it shall not be done. Now therefore have I strengthened my hands.

¹⁰And I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabel, and he was shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, in the midst thereof, and let us shut the doors of it: for they are coming by night to slay thee. ¹¹And I said, Who is the man that shall enter into the house, that he may live? ¹²And I perceived; and lo, God had not sent him, for the prophecy was a fable against us: ¹³and Tobias and Sanaballat had hired a multitude against me, that I should be afraid, and do this, and sin, and become unto them an ill name, that they might reproach me. ¹⁴Remember, O God, Tobias and Sanaballat according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets that tried to put me in fear.

¹⁵So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days. ¹⁶And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, all the nations that were round about us feared, and great fear fell upon them: and they perceived that it was of our God that this work should be finished. ¹⁷And in those days letters came unto Tobias from many nobles of Judah, and those of Tobias came unto them. ¹⁸For many in Judah were bound unto him by oath, because he was the son in law of Shechaniah the son of Arah; and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah to wife. ¹⁹Also they reported his words unto me, and carried out my words to him: and Tobias sent letters to put me in fear.

CHAPTER 7

Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed, ²that I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God beyond many. ³And I said unto them, The gates of Jerusalem shall not be opened until the sun be hot; and while they still watch, let the doors be shut and barred; and appoint watches of them that dwell in Jerusalem, every man at his post, and every man over against his house.

⁴Now the city was large and great: but the people were few therein, and the houses were not builded. ⁵And God put it into mine heart, and I gathered together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, into companies: and I found a register of the company that came up first, and found written therein

as follows: ⁶Now these are the children of the country, that came up out of captivity, of the number which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away, and came again to Jerusalem and Judah, every man unto his city; ⁷with Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and Nehemiah, Azariah, and Raaemia, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Ezra, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah, Masphar, men of the people of Israel. ⁸The children of Parosh, two thousand and hundred seventy and two. ⁹The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy and two. ¹⁰The children of Arah, six hundred fifty and two. ¹¹The children of Pahath-moab, with the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand and six hundred and eighteen. ¹²The children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four. ¹³The children of Zattu, eight hundred forty and five. ¹⁴The children of Zaccai, seven hundred and threescore. ¹⁵The children of Binnui, six hundred forty and eight. ¹⁶The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty and eight. ¹⁷The children of Azgad, two thousand three hundred twenty and two. ¹⁸The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and seven. ¹⁹The children of Bigvai, two thousand threescore and seven. ²⁰The children of Adin, six hundred fifty and five. ²¹The children of Ater, the son of Hezekiah, ninety and eight. ²²The children of Hashum, three hundred twenty and eight. ²³The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty and four. ²⁴The children of Hariph, an hundred and twelve: the children of Asen, two hundred twenty and three. ²⁵The children of Gibeon, ninety and five. ²⁶The children of Bethlehem, an hundred twenty and three: the children of Netophah, fifty and six. ²⁷The children of Ananath, an hundred twenty and eight. ²⁸The men of Beth-azmaveth, forty and two. ²⁹The men of Kirjath-jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty and three. ³⁰The men of Ramah and Geba, six hundred and twenty. ³¹The men of Michmas, an hundred twenty and two. ³²The men of Bethel and Ai, an hundred twenty and three. ³³The men of Nebo, an hundred fifty and two. ³⁴The men of Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty and two. ³⁵The children of Harim, three hundred and twenty. ³⁶The children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five. ³⁷The children of Lod, Hadid and Ono, seven hundred twenty and one. ³⁸The children of Senaah, three thousand nine hundred and thirty. ³⁹The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, pertaining to the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three. ⁴⁰The children of Immer, one thousand fifty and two. ⁴¹The children of Phashur, one thousand two hundred forty and seven. ⁴²The children of Harim, a thousand and seventeen. ⁴³The Levites: the children of Jeshua, the son of Kadmiel, with the children of Hodevah, seventy and four. ⁴⁴The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred forty and eight. ⁴⁵The porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, an hundred thirty and eight. ⁴⁶The Nethinim: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth, ⁴⁷the children of Keros, the children of Sia, the children of Padon, ⁴⁸the children of Lebana, the children of Hagaba, the children of Salmi, ⁴⁹the children of Hanan, the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, ⁵⁰the children of Reaiah, the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, ⁵¹the children of Gazzam, the children of Uzza, the children of Paseah, ⁵²the

children of Besai, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephishesim, ⁵³the children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur, ⁵⁴the children of Bazlith, the children of Mehida, the children of Adashan, ⁵⁵the children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Tamah, ⁵⁶the children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha. ⁵⁷The children of the servants of Solomon: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Perida, ⁵⁸the children of Jaala, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel, ⁵⁹the children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth, the children of Zebaim, the children of Amon. ⁶⁰All the Nethinim, and children of the servants of Solomon, were three hundred ninety and two. ⁶¹And these went up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon, Immer: but they could not shew their father's house, nor their seed, whether they were of Israel. ⁶²The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobias, the children of Nekoda, six hundred forty and two. ⁶³And of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, for they took wives of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and were called after their name. ⁶⁴These sought the register of their company, and it was not found, and they were removed from the priesthood. ⁶⁵And the governor said that they should not eat of the most holy things, until a priest should stand up to give light. ⁶⁶And the whole congregation was about forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore, ⁶⁷beside their menservants and their maidservants: these were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and the singing men and singing women two hundred forty and five. *(no verse 68)* ⁶⁹Two thousand seven hundred asses. ⁷⁰And part of the heads of the families gave into the treasury to Nehemiah for the work a thousand pieces of gold, fifty basons, and thirty priests' garments. ⁷¹And some of the heads of families gave into the treasuries of the work twenty thousand pieces of gold, and two thousand three hundred pounds of silver. ⁷²And the rest of the people gave twenty thousand pieces of gold, and two thousand two hundred pounds of silver, and threescore and seven priests' garments. ⁷³And the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and some of the people, and the Nethinim, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities.

CHAPTER 8

And the seventh month came, and the sons of Israel were in their tents; and all the people were gathered together as one man unto the broad place before the water gate, and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded Israel. ²And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and every one that had understanding to hear, on the first day of seventh month. ³And he read therein from the time of sunrise until the mid of the day, before the men and women; and they understood it, and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law. ⁴And Ezra the scribe stood upon a stage of wood; and next to him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Ananiah, and

Urijah, and Hiliah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchijah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, and Zechariah, and Meshullam. ⁵And Ezra opened the book before all the people; (for he was above the people;) and it came to pass, when he opened it, that all the people stood up. ⁶And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God: and all the people answered, and said Amen, lifting up their hands: and they bowed down and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁷Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah instructed the people in the law: and the people stood in their place. ⁸And they read in the book of the law of God, and Ezra taught and instructed them distinctly in the knowledge of the Lord; and the people understood in the reading. ⁹And Nehemiah, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites, and they that instructed the people, spake and said unto all the people, It is an holy day unto the Lord our God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the word of the law. ¹⁰Then he said unto them, Go, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them that have nothing: for the day is holy unto the Lord: and faint not, for the Lord is our strength. ¹¹And the Levites caused all the people to be silent, saying, Hold your peace, for this is an holy day; neither be ye despondent. ¹²And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that he made known unto them.

¹³And on the second day were gathered together the heads of the families with all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to attend unto all the words of the law. ¹⁴And they found written in the law which the Lord had commanded by Moses, that the sons of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast in the seventh month: ¹⁵and that they should sound with trumpets in all their cities, and in Jerusalem. And Ezra said, Go forth into the mount, and fetch olive branches, and branches of cypress trees, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick tree, to make booths, according to that which was written. ¹⁶And the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, each one upon his roof, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the streets of the city, and unto the gate of Ephraim. ¹⁷And all the congregation that had come again from the captivity made booths, and dwelt in booths: for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the sons of Israel done so: and there was great gladness. ¹⁸Also Ezra read in the book of the law of God daily, from the first day even unto the last day: and they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the ordinance.

CHAPTER 9

Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the sons of Israel were assembled with fasting, and in sackcloths, and with ashes upon their head. ²And the sons of Israel separated themselves from every stranger, and stood

and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers. ³And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the Lord their God: and they confessed their sins unto the Lord, and worshipped the Lord their God. ⁴Then stood up upon the stairs, of the Levites, Jeshua, and the sons of Kadmiel, Shebaniah the son of Sherebiah, the sons of Chenani; and they cried with a loud voice unto the Lord their God. ⁵Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, said, Rise up and bless the Lord our God for ever and ever: and let them bless Thy glorious name, and exalt it with all blessing and praise. ⁶And Ezra said, Thou art the only Lord Himself; Thou madest the heavens, and the heaven of heavens, and all their array, the earth, and all things that are therein; and Thou quickenest all things, and the hosts of heaven worship Thee. ⁷Thou art the Lord God, Thou didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of the land of the Chaldeans, and gavest him the name of Abraham: ⁸and Thou foundest his heart faithful before Thee, and madest a covenant with him to give unto him and his seed the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Gergashites; and Thou hast confirmed Thy words, for Thou art righteous. ⁹And Thou didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heardest their cry by the Red Sea. ¹⁰And Thou shewdst signs and wonders in Egypt upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all the people of his land: for Thou knowest that they behaved themselves insolently against them: and Thou madest Thee a name, as at this day. ¹¹And Thou didst cleave the sea before them, and they went through the midst of the sea on dry land; and them that were about to pursue them Thou threwest into the deep, as a stone into the mighty water. ¹²Moreover Thou guidedst them by day by a pillar of cloud, and by night a pillar of fire; to give them light for the way wherein they should walk. ¹³Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and laws of truth, ordinances, and good commandments. ¹⁴And Thou madest known unto them Thy holy sabbaths, and enjoinedst upon them commandments, and ordinances, and a law, by the hand of Thy servant Moses. ¹⁵And Thou gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and badest them go in to inherit the land, over which Thou stretchedst forth Thine hand to give it them. ¹⁶But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their neck, and hearkened not to Thy commandments, ¹⁷and refused to hearken, neither were they mindful of Thy wonders that Thou wroughtest with them; but they hardened their neck, and appointed a leader to return to their bondage in Egypt: but Thou, O God, art merciful and compassionate, and abundant in mercy, and forsookest them not. ¹⁸And still farther, they even made them a molten calf, and said, These are the gods that brought us up out of the land of Egypt: and they wrought great provocations. ¹⁹Yet Thou in Thy great compassions forsook them not in the wilderness: Thou didst not away from them the pillar of the cloud by day, to guide them in the way, nor the pillar of fire by night, to enlighten for them the way wherein they should walk. ²⁰Thou gavest also Thy good Spirit to instruct them, and withheldst not Thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them

water for their thirst. ²¹Yea, forty years didst Thou sustain them in the wilderness; Thou sufferdst not any thing to fail them; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet were not bruised. ²²Moreover Thou gavest them kingdoms and nations, and didst divide nations unto them: and they inherited the land of Sihon king of Heshbon, and the land of Og king of Bashan. ²³Their children also multipliedst Thou as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land, concerning which Thou spakest to their fathers; ²⁴and they inherited it: and Thou destroyedst from before them that dwelt in the land of the Canaanites, and gavest into their hands them and their kings, and the nations of the land, that they might do unto them as it pleased them. ²⁵And they took lofty cities, and inherited houses full of all good things, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and every fruit tree in abundance: so that they did eat, and were filled, and grew fat, and rioted in Thy great goodness. ²⁶Nevertheless they turned, and revolted from Thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew Thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to Thee, and they wrought great provocations. ²⁷Then Thou gavest them into the hand of them that afflicted them, and they did afflict them: and in the time of their affliction they cried unto Thee, and Thou heardest them from Thy heaven; and in Thy great compassion Thou gavest them deliverers, and didst save them out of the hand of them that afflicted them. ²⁸But when they rested, they did evil again before Thee: so Thou leftest them in the hands of their enemies, and they ruled over them: and they cried again unto Thee, and Thou heardest them from heaven, and didst deliver them in Thy great compassions. ²⁹And Thou testifiedst against them, that Thou mightest bring them back unto Thy law: yet they hearkened not, but sinned against Thy commandments, and Thy judgments, (which if a man do, he shall live in them;) and turned their back, and hardened their neck, and heard not. ³⁰Yet many years didst Thou bear long with them, and testifiedst to them by the Spirit by the hand of the prophets: ye they hearkened not: so Thou gavest them into the hand of the nations of the land. ³¹But Thou in Thy many mercies didst not appoint them unto destruction, nor forsake them; for Thou art strong, and merciful, and full of pity. ³²And now, O Lord our God, the powerful, the great, the mighty, and the terrible, keeping Thy covenant and mercy, let not all the affliction seem little before Thee, that hath come upon us, and our kings, and our princes, and our priests, and our prophets, and our fathers, and upon all Thy people, since the days of the kings of Assur unto this day. ³³Howbeit Thou art just in all the things that come upon us; for Thou hast done faithfully, but we have sinned greatly. ³⁴And our kings, and our princes, and our priests, and our fathers, have not performed Thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and Thy testimonies, which Thou didst testify unto them. ³⁵And they served Thee not in Thy kingdom, and in Thy great goodness which Thou gavest unto them, and in the great and fat land which Thou furnishedst before them, neither turned they from their evil devices. ³⁶Behold, we are servants this day, and for the land that Thou gavest unto our fathers to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we are servants in it: ³⁷and the produce thereof is abundant for the

kings whom Thou didst appoint over us because of our sins: also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, as it pleaseth them, and we are in great affliction. ³⁸And in all these things we ordained a trust, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, put their seal unto it.

CHAPTER 10

And over them that sealed were Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hachaliah, and Zedekiah, ²the son of Seraiah, and Azariah, and Jeremiah, ³Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah, ⁴Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, ⁵Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, ⁶Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, ⁷Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, ⁸Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah: these were priests. ⁹And the Levites: Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel, ¹⁰and his brethren, Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, ¹¹Micha, Rehob, Hashabiah, ¹²Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, ¹³Hodijah, the sons of Beninu. ¹⁴The heads of the people: Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, ¹⁵the sons of Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, ¹⁶Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, ¹⁷Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, ¹⁸Hodijah, Hashum, Bezai, ¹⁹Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, ²⁰Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, ²¹Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua, ²²Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah, ²³Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub, ²⁴Hallohesh, Pilhah, Shobek, ²⁴Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, ²⁶and Ahijah, Hanan, Anan, ²⁷Malluch, Harim, Baanah. ²⁸And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinim, and every one that had drawn off from the nations of the land unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and the daughters, every one having knowledge and understanding, ²⁹who were urgent with their brethren, and bound them under a curse, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God; to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord, and His judgments, and His ordinances; ³⁰and that we will not give our daughters unto the people of the land, nor take their daughters to our sons. ³¹And the people of the land, who bring wares and all merchandise to sell on the sabbath, we will not buy of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day: and we will leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt. ³²Also we will impose ordinances upon ourselves, to levy on ourselves year the third part of a didrachma for the service of the house of our God; ³³for the loaves of presentation, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual whole burnt offering, of the sabbaths, of the new moon, for the feasts, and for the holy things, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and for the works of the house of our God. ³⁴And we cast lots for the office of wood bearing, the priests, and the Levites, and the people, to bring it into the house of our God, according to the house of our families, at certain times appointed year by year, to burn upon the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the law: ³⁵and to bring the firstfruits of our land, and the firstfruits of every tree year by year, into the house of the Lord: ³⁶the firstborn of our sons, and of our cattle, as it is written in the law, also the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks to bring

unto the house of the Lord, for the priests that minister in the house of the Lord. ³⁷And the firstfruits of our corn, and the fruit of every tree, of wine, and of oil, we will bring unto the priests to the treasury of the house of God; and a tithe of our land unto the Levites: for the same Levites shall receive tithes in all the cities of the land we till. ³⁸And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites in the tithe of the Levite: and the Levites shall bring up a tenth part of their tithe unto the house of our God, into the treasuries of the house of God. ³⁹For the sons of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring into the treasuries the firstfruits of the corn, and wine, and oil; and there are the holy vessels, and the priests, and them that minister, and the porters, and the singers: and we will not forsake the house of our God.

CHAPTER 11

And the chiefs of the people dwelt at Jerusalem: the rest of the people also cast lots, to bring one of ten to dwell in Jerusalem the holy city, and nine parts in the other cities. ²And the people blessed all the men, that willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem. ³Now these are the chiefs of the province that dwelt in Jerusalem and in the cities of Judah: every man dwelt in his possession in their cities, to wit, Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the Nethinim, and the children of Solomon' servants. ⁴And at Jerusalem dwelt certain of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin. Of the children of Judah; Athaiah the son of Uzziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel, and of the children of Perez; ⁵and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Col-hozeh, the son of Hazaiiah, the son of Adaiiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of Shiloni. ⁶All the sons of Perez that dwelt in Jerusalem were four hundred fourscore and eight men of might. ⁷And these were the children of Benjamin; Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jeshaiiah. ⁸And after him Gabbai, Sallai, nine hundred twenty and eight. ⁹And Joel the son of Zichri was overseer over them: and Judah the son of Asana was second in the city. ¹⁰Of the priests: both Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, and Jachin. ¹¹Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, was over the house of God. ¹²And their brethren that did the work of the house were eight hundred twenty and two: and Adaiiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Passhur, the son of Malchijah, ¹³and his brethren, the chiefs of families, two hundred forty and two: and Amashai the son of Azarel, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer, ¹⁴and his brethren, mighty men of war, an hundred twenty and eight: and their overseer was Zabdiel, the son of one of the great men. ¹⁵And of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Azrikam, *(no verse 16)* ¹⁷Mattaniah the son of Micha, and Jobebah the son of Zamui, ¹⁸two hundred eighty and four. ¹⁹And the porters: Akkub, Talmon, and their brethren, an hundred seventy and two. *(no verses 20-21)* ²²And the

overseer of the Levites was the son of Bani, the son of Uzzi, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Micah. Of the sons of Asaph the singers some were over the house of God, ²³for so was the king's commandment concerning them. ²⁴And Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel was in attendance on the king in every matter for the people, ²⁵and with regard to the villages in their country district: and some of the children of Judah dwelt in Kirjath-arba, ²⁶and in Jeshua, ²⁷and in Beersheba: *(no verses 28-9)* ³⁰and their villages were Lachish and her lands: and they pitched their tents in Beersheba. ³¹And the children of Benjamin dwelt from Geba unto Michmash. *(no verses 32-5)* ³⁶And of the Levites there were divisions unto Judah, and to Benjamin.

CHAPTER 12

Now these are the priests and the Levites that went up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, ²Amariah, Malluch, ³Shecheniah. *(no verses 4-6)* ⁷These were the chiefs of the priests and of their brethren in the days of Joshua. ⁸Moreover the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, Mattaniah: he was over the bands, and his brethren were appointed to the daily courses. *(no verse 9)* ¹⁰And Jeshua begat Joiakim, and Joiakim begat Eliashib, and Eliashib begat Joiada, ¹¹and Joiada begat Jonathan, and Jonathan begat Jaddua. ¹²And in the days of Joiakim, his brethren the priests and the heads of families were: to Seraiah, Meraiah; to Jeremiah, Hananiah; ¹³to Ezra, Meshullam; to Amariah, Jehohanan; ¹⁴to Melichu, Jonathan; to Shebaniah, Joseph; ¹⁵to Harim, Adna; to Meraioth, Helkai; ¹⁶to Iddo, Zechariah; to Ginnethon, Meshullam; ¹⁷to Abijah, Zichri; to Minjamin, Moadiah; to Piletai, one; ¹⁸to Bilgah, Shammua; to Shemaiah, Jonathan; ¹⁹to Joiarib, Mattenai to Jedaiah, Uzzi; ²⁰to Sallai, Kallai; to Amok, Eber; ²¹to Hilkiyah, Hashabiah; to Jedaiah, Nethanael. ²²The Levites in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Jaddusa, and Joanan, and Idua, were recorded heads of families: also the priests, in the reign of Darius the Persian. ²³And the sons of Levi, heads of families, were written in the books of the chronicles, even until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib. ²⁴And the heads of the Levites were Hashabiah, and Sherebiah, and Jeshua: and the sons of Kadmiel, and their brethren over against them, were to sing hymns of praise, according to the commandment of David, the man of God, course by course. ²⁵When I gathered the porters, ²⁶it was in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah: and Ezra the priest was scribe.

²⁷And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep a feast of dedication and gladness with thanksgiving; and they sounded cymbals with songs, and psalteries, and harps. ²⁸And the sons of the singers were assembled both from the neighbourhood round about unto Jerusalem, and from the villages, ²⁹and from the country: for the singers had builded them villages by Jerusalem. ³⁰And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and

purified the people, and the porters, and the wall. ³¹And they brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall, and appointed two great companies for thanksgiving, and they passed on the right hand of the wall of the dung gate. ³²And after them went Hoshaiah, and half the princes of Judah, ³³and Azariah, and Ezra, and Meshullam, ³⁴and Judah, and Benjamin, and Shemaiah, and Jeremiah. ³⁵And some of the sons of the priests with trumpets, Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph: ³⁶and his brethren, Shemaiah, and Uzziel, Gilalai, Jamah, Maai, Nethanael, and Judah, Hanani, to praise with the hymns of David the man of God; ³⁷and Ezra the scribes was before them, at the gate, to praise before them; and they went up by the steps of the city of David, in the ascent of the wall, above the house of David, even unto the water gate (*no verse 38*) ³⁹of Ephraim, and unto the fish gate, and by the tower of Hananel, and unto the sheep gate. (*no verses 40-1*) ⁴²And the singers were heard, and were numbered. ⁴³And in that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for God had made them exceeding joyful: and their wives and their children rejoiced: and the joy in Jerusalem was heard even afar off.

⁴⁴And in that day they appointed men over the treasuries, for the treasures, the firstfruits, and the tithes, and for the chiefs of the cities that waited. ⁴⁵And they kept the charges of their God, and the charges of the purification, and the singers and the porters, according to the commandments of David and his son Solomon. ⁴⁶For in the days of David Asaph was of old the first of the singers, and they sang hymns and praise unto God. ⁴⁷And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, a daily rate: and they consecrated them unto the Levites: and the Levites consecrated them unto the sons of Aaron.

CHAPTER 13

In that day they read in the book of Moses in the ears of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonites and the Moabites should not enter into the congregation of God for ever; ²because they met not the sons of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them, to curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing. ³Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they were separated, every mixed one in Israel. ⁴And before this time, Eliashib the priest dwelt in the treasury of the house of our God, allied unto Tobias: ⁵and he had made him a great treasury, and they were aforetime in the habit of bestowing the offerings, and the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithe of the corn, and the wine, and the oil, the commanded portion of the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the firstfruits of the priests. ⁶But in all this time was I not in Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after a certain time made my request of the king: ⁷and I came to

Jerusalem, and understood the mischief which Eliashib had done in the case of Tobias, in making him a treasury in the court of the house of God. ⁸And it appeared very evil to me: so I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobias out of the treasury. ⁹Then I commanded, and they cleansed the treasuries: and thither restored I the vessels of the house of God, and the offerings, and the frankincense. ¹⁰And I perceived that the portion of the Levites had not been given them: and the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field. ¹¹Then contended I with the commanders, and said, Wherefore is the house of God forsaken? and gathered them together, and set them in their place. ¹²Then brought all Judah a tithe of the wheat and the wine and the oil unto the treasuries, ¹³into the charge of Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiiah: and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: for they were counted faithful; their office was to distribute unto their brethren. ¹⁴Remember me, O Lord, in this, and let not my kindness be forgotten, which I have wrought for the house of the Lord God. ¹⁵In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and carrying sheaves, and lading asses with both wine, and grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, and bringing them into Jerusalem on the sabbath: ¹⁶and I testified in the day of their sale. There dwelt also men of Tyre also therein, bringing fish, and selling on the sabbath all manner of ware unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. ¹⁷Then I contended with the free children of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day? ¹⁸Did not your fathers thus, and our God did bring all these evils upon them, and upon this city? and do ye bring yet more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath? ¹⁹And it came to pass, when the gates were set up in Jerusalem, before the sabbath, that I spake, and they shut the gates; and I charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates, that none should bring in burdens on the sabbath day. ²⁰So all the merchants lodged, and carried on traffic without Jerusalem once or twice. ²¹Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye before the wall? if ye do so again, I will stretch out mine hand upon you. From that time forth came they not on the sabbath. ²²And I told the Levites that purified themselves, and came, and kept the gate, that they should sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O God, for these things, and spare me according to the abundance of Thy mercy. ²³In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: ²⁴and their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and knew not how to speak in the Jewish language. ²⁵And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, and ye shall not take of their daughters unto your sons. ²⁶Did not Solomon king of Israel sin thus? though among many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved of God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless him did strange women turn aside. ²⁷So will we not hearken unto you to do all this evil, to break covenant with our God, and to marry strange wives. ²⁸And Elishub the high

priest, one of the sons of Jehoaida, being son in law to Sanballat the Horonite, did I chase from me. ²⁹Remember them, O God, for they were against the right of inheritance of the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites. ³⁰So I cleansed them from all strange connection, and established courses for the priests and the Levites, every man according to his work. ³¹And for the wood offering, at the time appointed, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O our God, for good.

2 ESDRAS

CHAPTER 1

And Josiah held the feast of the Passover in Jerusalem unto his Lord, and offered the Passover the fourteenth day of the first month; ²having set the priests according to their daily courses, being arrayed in long garments, in the temple of the Lord. ³And he spake unto the Levites, the holy ministers of Israel, that they should hallow themselves unto the Lord, to set the holy ark of the Lord in the house that king Solomon the son of David had built: ⁴*and said*, Ye shall no more bear the ark upon your shoulders: now therefore serve the Lord your God, and minister unto His people Israel, and prepare you after your families and kindreds, according as David the king of Israel prescribed, and according to the magnificence of Solomon his son. ⁵And standing in the temple according to the several dignity of the families of you the Levites, who minister in the presence of your brethren the sons of Israel, ⁶offer the Passover in order, and make ready the sacrifices for your brethren, and keep the Passover according to the commandment of the Lord, which was given unto Moses. ⁷And unto the people that was found there Josiah gave thirty thousand lambs and kids, and three thousand calves: these things were given of the king's allowance, according as he promised, to the people, to the priests, and to the Levites. ⁸And Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, the governors of the temple, gave to the priests for the Passover two thousand and six hundred sheep, and three hundred calves. ⁹And Jechoniah, and Shemaiah, and Nathanael his brother, and Hashabiah, and Ochiel, and Joram, captains over thousands, gave to the Levites for the Passover five thousand sheep, and seven hundred calves. ¹⁰And when these things were done, the priests and the Levites, having the unleavened bread, stood in very comely order according to the kindreds, and according to the several dignities of the fathers, before the people, to offer to the Lord, as it is written in the book of Moses: and thus *did they* in the morning. ¹¹And they roasted the Passover with fire, as appertaineth: as for the sacrifices, they sod them in brass pots and pans with a good savour, and set them before all the people. ¹²And after these things they prepared for themselves, and for the priests their brethren, the sons of Aaron: ¹³for the priests offered the fat until night, and the Levites prepared for themselves, and the priests their brethren, the sons of Aaron. ¹⁴The holy singers also, the sons of Asaph, were in their order, according to the appointment of David, to wit, Asaph, Zechariah, and Eddinus, who was of the king's retinue. ¹⁵Moreover the porters were at every gate; it was not lawful for any to go from his ordinary service: for their brethren the Levites prepared for them. ¹⁶Thus were the things that belonged to the sacrifices of the Lord accomplished in that day, that they might hold the Passover, and offer sacrifices upon the altar of the Lord, according to the commandment of king Josiah. ¹⁷So the sons of Israel which were present held the Passover at that time, and the feast of sweet bread seven days.

¹⁸And such a Passover was not kept in Israel since the time of the prophet Samuel. ¹⁹Yea, all the kings of Israel held not such a Passover as Josiah, and the priests, and the Levites, and the Jews, held with all Israel that were found dwelling at Jerusalem. ²⁰In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah was this Passover kept. ²¹And the works of Josiah were upright before his Lord with an heart full of godliness. ²²As for the things that came to pass in his time, they were written in former times, concerning those that sinned, and did wickedly against the Lord above all people and kingdoms, and how they grieved Him exceedingly, so that the words of the Lord rose up against Israel.

²³Now after all these acts of Josiah it came to pass, that Pharaoh the king of Egypt came to raise war at Carchemish upon the Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him. ²⁴But the king of Egypt sent to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, O king of the Judeans? ²⁵I am not sent out from the Lord God against thee; for my war is upon the Euphrates: and now the Lord is with me; yea, the Lord is with me hasting me forward: depart from me, and be not against the Lord. ²⁶Howbeit Josiah did not turn back his chariot from him, but undertook to fight with him, not regarding the words of the prophet Jeremiah spoken by the mouth of the Lord: ²⁷but joined battle with him in the plain of Megiddo, and the princes came against king Josiah. ²⁸Then said the king unto 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. ²⁹Then gat he upon his second chariot; and being brought back to Jerusalem died, and was buried in his father's sepulchre. ³⁰And in all Judah they mourned for Josiah, yea, Jeremiah the prophet lamented for Josiah, and the chief men with the women made lamentation for him unto this day: and this was given out for an ordinance to be done continually in all the nation of Israel. ³¹These things are written in the book of the stories of the kings of the Judeans, and every one of the acts that Josiah did, and his glory, and his understanding in the law of the Lord, and the things that he had done before, and the things now recited, are reported in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

³²And the people took Jechoniah the son of Josiah, and made him king instead of Josiah his father, when he was twenty and three years old. ³³And he reigned in Israel and Jerusalem three months. And then the king of Egypt deposed him from reigning in Jerusalem: ³⁴and he set a tax upon the land of an hundred talents of silver and one talent of gold. ³⁵The king of Egypt also made king Jehoiakim his brother king of the Judeans and Jerusalem. ³⁶And he bound Jehoiakim and the nobles: but Zarius his brother he apprehended, and brought him out of Egypt.

³⁷Five and twenty years old was Jehoiakim when he was made king in the land of Judah and Jerusalem; and he did evil before the Lord. ³⁸Wherefore against him Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came up, and bound him with a chain of brass, and carried him unto Babylon. ³⁹Nebuchadnezzar also took of the holy vessels of the Lord, and carried them away, and set them in his own temple at Babylon. ⁴⁰But those things that are

recorded of him, and his uncleanness and impiety, are written in the chronicles of the kings.

⁴¹And Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead: he was made king being eighteen years old. ⁴²And he reigned but three months and ten days in Jerusalem; and did evil before the Lord.

⁴³So after a year Nebuchadnezzar sent and caused him to be brought into Babylon with the holy vessels of the Lord; ⁴⁴and made Zedekiah king of the Judeans and Jerusalem, when he was one and twenty years old; and he reigned eleven years; ⁴⁵and he did evil also in the sight of the Lord, and cared not for the words that were spoken unto him by the prophet Jeremiah from the mouth of the Lord. ⁴⁶And after that king Nebuchadnezzar had made him to swear by the name of the Lord, he forswore himself, and rebelled; and hardening his neck, and his heart, he transgressed the laws of the Lord God of Israel. ⁴⁷The governors also of the people and of the priests did many things against the laws, and passed all the pollutions of all nations, and defiled the temple of the Lord, which was sanctified in Jerusalem. ⁴⁸And the God of their fathers sent by His messenger to call them back, because He spared them and His tabernacle also. ⁴⁹But they had His messengers in derision; and, look, when the Lord spake unto them, they made a sport of His prophets: so far forth, that He, being wroth with His people for their great ungodliness, commanded the kings of the Chaldeans to come up against them: ⁵⁰who slew their young men with the sword, yea, even within the compass of their holy temple, and spared neither young man nor maid, old man nor child, among them; for He delivered all into their hands. ⁵¹And they took all the holy vessels of the Lord, both great and small, with the vessels of the ark of God, and the king's treasures, and carried them away into Babylon. ⁵²As for the house of the Lord, they burnt it, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem, and set fire upon her towers: ⁵³and as for all her glorious things, they never ceased till they had consumed and brought them to nought: and the people that were not slain with the sword he carried into Babylon. ⁵⁴And they became servants to him, and to his children, till the Persians reigned, to fulfil the word of the Lord spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah: ⁵⁵Until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths, the whole time of her desolation shall she rest, until the full term of seventy years.

CHAPTER 2

In the first year of Cyrus king of the Persians, that the word of the Lord might be accomplished, that He had promised by the mouth of Jeremiah; ²the Lord raised up the spirit of Cyrus the king of the Persians, and he made proclamation through all his kingdom, and also by writing, saying, ³Thus saith Cyrus king of the Persians; The Lord of Israel, the Most high Lord, hath made me king of the whole world. ⁴And He hath commanded me to build Him an house at Jerusalem in Judea. ⁵If therefore there be any of you that are of His people, let the Lord, even his Lord, be with him, and let him go up to

Jerusalem that is in Judea, and build the house of the Lord of Israel: (for He is the Lord that dwelleth in Jerusalem). ⁶Whosoever then dwell in the places round about, let them help him, (those, I say, that are his neighbours,) with gold, and with silver, with gifts, with horses, and with cattle, and other things, which have been set forth by vow, for the temple of the Lord at Jerusalem. ⁷Then the chief of the families of Judah and of the tribe of Benjamin stood up; the priests also, and the Levites, and all they whose mind the Lord had moved to go up, and to build an house for the Lord at Jerusalem, ⁸and they that dwelt round about them, and helped them in all things with silver and gold, with horses and cattle, and with very many free gifts of great number whose minds were stirred up thereto. ⁹King Cyrus also brought forth the holy vessels, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem, and had set up in his temple of idols. ¹⁰Now when Cyrus king of the Persians had brought them forth, he delivered them to Mithridates his treasurer: ¹¹and by him they were delivered to Sheshbazzar the governor of Judah. ¹²And this was the number of them; A thousand golden cups, and a thousand of silver, censers of silver twenty nine, vials of gold thirty, and of silver two thousand four hundred and ten, and a thousand other vessels. ¹³So all the vessels of gold and of silver, which were carried away, were five thousand four hundred threescore and nine. ¹⁴These were brought back by Sheshbazzar, together with them of the captivity, from Babylon to Jerusalem.

¹⁵But in the time of Artaxerxes king of the Persians, Bishlam, and Mithridates, and Tabeel, and Rehum, Beltethmus, and Shimshai the secretary, with the rest that were in commission with them, dwelling in Samaria and other places, wrote unto him against them that dwelt in Judea and Jerusalem this letter following; ¹⁶To king Artaxerxes our lord, Thy servants Rehum the storywriter, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their council, and the judges that are in Coelesyria and Phoenicia. ¹⁷Be it now known to the lord the king, that the Jews that are come up from you to us, being come into Jerusalem, (that rebellious and wicked city,) do build the marketplaces, and repair the walls of it, and do lay the foundations of the temple. ¹⁸Now if this city and the walls thereof be made up again, they will not only refuse to give tribute, but also rebel against kings. And forasmuch as the things pertaining to the temple are now in hand, we think it meet not to neglect such a matter, but to speak unto our lord the king, to the intent that, if it be thy pleasure, it may be sought out in the books of thy fathers: ¹⁹and thou shalt find in the chronicles what is written concerning these things, and shalt understand that the city was rebellious, troubling both kings and cities: and that the Jews were rebellious, and raised always wars therein; for the which cause even this city was made desolate. ²⁰Wherefore now we do declare unto thee, O lord the king, that if this city be built again, and the walls thereof set up anew, thou shalt from henceforth have no passage into Coelesyria and Phoenicia. ²¹Then the king wrote back again to Rehum the storywriter, to Beltethmus, to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest that were in commission, and dwellers in Samaria and Syria and Phoenicia, after this manner: ²²I have read the epistle which ye have sent unto me:

therefore I commanded to make diligent search, and it hath been found that the city was from the beginning practising against kings; ²³and the men therein were given to rebellion and war: and that mighty kings and fierce were in Jerusalem, who reigned and exacted tributes in Coelesyria and Phoenicia. ²⁴Now therefore I have commanded to hinder those men from building the city, and heed to be taken that there be no more done in it; and that those wicked workers proceed no further to the annoyance of kings. ²⁵Then king Artaxerxes his letters being read, Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest that were in commission with them, removing in haste toward Jerusalem with a troop of horsemen and a multitude of people in battle array, began to hinder the builders; and the building of the temple in Jerusalem ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of the Persians.

CHAPTER 3

Now when Darius the king reigned, he made a great feast unto all his subjects, and unto all his household, and unto all the princes of Media and Persia, ²and to all the governors and captains and lieutenants that were under him, from India unto Ethiopia, in the hundred twenty and seven provinces. ³And when they had eaten and drunken, and being satisfied were gone home, then Darius the king went into his bedchamber, and slept, and soon after awaked. ⁴Then three young men, that were of the guard that kept the king's body, spake one to another; ⁵Let every one of us speak a sentence: he that shall overcome, and whose sentence shall seem wiser than the others, unto him shall the king Darius give great gifts, and great things in token of victory, ⁶as to be clothed in purple, to drink in gold, and to sleep upon gold, and a chariot with a bridle of gold, and an headtire of fine linen, and a chain about his neck: ⁷and he shall sit next to Darius because of his wisdom, and shall be called Darius his cousin. ⁸And then every one wrote his sentence, sealed it, and laid it under king Darius his pillow; and said, ⁹When the king is risen, some will give him the writings; and of whose side the king and the three princes of Persia shall judge that his sentence is the wisest, to him shall victory be given, as was appointed. ¹⁰The first wrote, Wine is the strongest. ¹¹The second wrote, The king is strongest. ¹²The third wrote, Women are strongest: but above all things Truth beareth away the victory. ¹³Now when the king was risen up, they took their writings, and delivered them unto him, and so he read them: ¹⁴and sending forth he called all the princes of Persia and Media, and the governors, and the captains, and the lieutenants, and the chief officers; and sat him down in the royal seat of judgment; and the writings were read before them. ¹⁵And he said, Call the young men, and they shall declare their own sentences: so they were called, and came in. ¹⁶And he said unto them, Declare unto us your mind concerning the writings.

¹⁷Then began the first, who had spoken of the strength of wine; and he said thus, O ye men, how exceeding strong is wine! it causeth all men to err that drink it: ¹⁸it maketh the mind of the king and of the fatherless child to be

all one; of the bondman and of the freeman, of the poor man and of the rich: ¹⁹it turneth also every thought into jollity and mirth, so that a man remembereth neither sorrow nor debt: ²⁰and it maketh every heart rich, so that a man remembereth neither king nor governor; and it maketh to speak all things by talents. ²¹And when they are in their cups, they forget their love both to friends and brethren, and a little after draw out swords: ²²but when they are far from the wine, they remember not what they have done. ²³O ye men, is not wine the strongest, that enforceth to do thus? And when he had so spoken, he held his peace.

CHAPTER 4

Then the second, that had spoken of the strength of the king, began to say, ²O ye men, do not men excel in strength, that bear rule over sea and land, and all things in them? ³But yet the king is most mighty: for he is the lord of all these things, and hath dominion over them; and whatsoever he commandeth them they do. ⁴If he bid them make war the one against the other, they do it: if he send them out against the enemies, they go, and break down mountains, walls, and towers. ⁵They slay and are slain, and transgress not the king's commandment: if they get the victory, they bring all to the king, as well the spoil, as all things else. ⁶Likewise for those that are no soldiers, and have not to do with wars, but use husbandry, when they have reaped again that which they had sown, they bring it to the king, and compel one another to pay tribute unto the king. ⁷And yet he is but one man: if he command to kill, they kill; if he command to spare, they spare; ⁸if he command to smite, they smite; if he command to make desolate, they make desolate; if he command to build, they build; ⁹if he command to cut down, they cut down; if he command to plant, they plant. ¹⁰So all his people and his armies obey him: furthermore he lieth down, he eateth and drinketh, and taketh his rest: ¹¹and these keep watch round about him, neither may any one depart, and do his own business, neither disobey they him in any thing. ¹²O ye men, how should not the king be mightiest, when in such sort he is obeyed? And he held his tongue.

¹³Then the third, who had spoken of women, and of the truth, (this was Zerrubabel) began to speak. O ye men, ¹⁴it is not the great king, nor the multitude of men, neither is it wine, that excelleth; who is it them that ruleth them, or hath the lordship over them? are they not women? ¹⁵Women have borne the king and all the people that bear rule by sea and land. ¹⁶Even of them came they: and they nourished them up that planted the vineyards, from whence the wine cometh. ¹⁷These also make garments for men; these bring glory unto men; and without women cannot men be. ¹⁸Yea, and if men have gathered together gold and silver, or any other goodly thing, do they not love a woman which is comely in favour and beauty? ¹⁹And letting all those things go, do not they gape, and even with open mouth fix their eyes fast on her; and have not all men more desire unto her than unto silver or gold, or

any goodly thing whatsoever? ²⁰A man leaveth his own father that brought him up, and his own country, and cleaveth unto his wife. ²¹He sticketh not to spend his life with his wife, and remembereth neither father, nor mother, nor country. ²²By this also ye must know that women have dominion over you: do ye not labour and toil, and give and bring all to the woman? ²³Yea, a man taketh his sword, and goeth his way to rob and to steal, to sail upon the sea and upon rivers; ²⁴and looketh upon a lion, and goeth in the darkness; and when he hath stolen, spoiled, and robbed, he bringeth it to his love. ²⁵Wherefore a man loveth his wife better than father or mother. ²⁶Yea, many there be that have run out of their wits for women, and become servants for their sakes. ²⁷Many also have perished, have erred, and sinned, for women. ²⁸And now do ye not believe me? is not the king great in his power? do not all regions fear to touch him? ²⁹Yet did I see him and Apame the king's concubine, the daughter of the admirable Bartacus, sitting at the right hand of the king, ³⁰and taking the crown from the king's head, and setting it upon her own head; she also struck the king with her left hand. ³¹And yet for all this the king gaped and gazed upon her with open mouth: if she laughed upon him, he laughed also: but if she took any displeasure at him, the king was fain to flatter, that she might be reconciled to him again. ³²O ye men, how can it be but women should be strong, seeing they do thus? ³³Then the king and the princes looked one upon another: so he began to speak of the truth. ³⁴O ye men, are not women strong? great is the earth, high is the heaven, swift is the sun in his course, for he compasseth the heavens round about, and fetcheth his course again to his own place in one day. ³⁵Is he not great that maketh these things? therefore great is the truth, and stronger than all things. ³⁶All the earth calleth upon the truth, and the heaven blesseth it: all works shake and tremble at it, and with it is no unrighteous thing. ³⁷Wine is wicked, the king 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: in their unrighteousness also they shall perish. ³⁸As for the truth, it endureth, and is always strong; it liveth and conquereth for evermore. ³⁹With her there is no accepting of persons or rewards; but she doeth the things that are just, and refraineth from all unjust and wicked things; and all men do well like of her works: neither in her judgment is any unrighteousness. ⁴⁰And she is the strength, kingdom, power, and majesty, of all ages. Blessed be the God of truth. ⁴¹And with that he held his peace. And all the people then shouted, and said, Great is Truth, and mighty above all things.

⁴²Then said the king unto him, Ask what thou wilt more than is appointed in the writing, and we will give it thee, because thou art found wisest; and thou shalt sit next me, and shalt be called my cousin. ⁴³Then said he unto the king, Remember thy vow, which thou hast vowed to build Jerusalem, in the day when thou camest to thy kingdom, ⁴⁴and to send away all the vessels that were taken away out of Jerusalem, which Cyrus set apart, when he vowed to destroy Babylon, and to send them again thither. ⁴⁵Thou hast also vowed to build up the temple, which the Edomites burned when

Judea was made desolate by the Chaldeans. ⁴⁶And now, O lord the king, this is that which I require, and which I desire of thee, and this is the princely liberality proceeding from thyself: I desire therefore that thou make good the vow, the performance whereof with thine own mouth thou hast vowed to the king of heaven. ⁴⁷Then Darius stood up, and kissed him, and wrote letters for him unto all the treasurers and lieutenants and captains and governors, that they should safely convey on their way both him, and all those that go up with him to build Jerusalem. ⁴⁸He wrote letters also unto the lieutenants that were in Coelesyria and Phoenicia, and unto them in Lebanon, that they should bring cedar wood from Lebanon unto Jerusalem, and that they should build the city with him. ⁴⁹Moreover he wrote for all the Jews that went up out of his realm up into Judea, concerning their freedom, that no officer, no ruler, no lieutenant, nor treasurer, should forcibly enter into their doors; ⁵⁰and that all the country which they hold should be free without tribute; and that the Edomites should give over the villages of the Jews which then they held: ⁵¹yea, that there should be yearly given twenty talents to the building of the temple, until the time that it were built, and other ten talents yearly, ⁵²to maintain the burnt offerings upon the altar every day, (as they had a commandment to offer seventeen:) ⁵³and that all they that went from Babylon to build the city should have free liberty, as well they as their posterity, and all the priests that went away. ⁵⁴He wrote also concerning the charges, and the priests' vestments wherein they minister; ⁵⁵and likewise for the charges of the Levites, to be given them until the day that the house were finished, and Jerusalem builded up. ⁵⁶And he commanded to give to all that kept the city pensions and wages. ⁵⁷He sent away also all the vessels from Babylon, that Cyrus had set apart; and all that Cyrus had given in commandment, the same charged he also to be done, and sent unto Jerusalem.

⁵⁸Now when this young man was gone forth, he lifted up his face to heaven toward Jerusalem, and praised the king of heaven, and said, ⁵⁹From Thee cometh victory, from Thee cometh wisdom, and Thine is the glory, and I am Thy servant. ⁶⁰Blessed art Thou, who hast given me wisdom: and to Thee I give thanks, O Lord of our fathers. ⁶¹And so he took the letters, and went out, and came unto Babylon, and told it all his brethren. ⁶²And they praised the God of their fathers, because He had given them freedom and liberty ⁶³to go up, and to build Jerusalem, and the temple which is called by His name. And they feasted with instruments of musick and gladness seven days.

CHAPTER 5

After this were the principal men of the families chosen according to their tribes, to go up with their wives and sons and daughters, with their menservants and maidservants, and their cattle. ²And Darius sent with them a thousand horsemen, till they had brought them back to Jerusalem safely, and with musical instruments, tabrets and flutes. ³And all their brethren played, and he made them go up together with them.

⁴And these are the names of the men which went up, according to their families among their tribes, after their several heads. ⁵The priests, the sons of Phinehas the son of Aaron: Jeshua the son of Jozadak, the son of Seraiah, and Joakim the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel of the house of David, out of the kindred of Phares of the tribe of Judah; ⁶who spake wise sentences before Darius the king of Persia in the second year of his reign, in the month Nisan, which is the first month. ⁷And these are they of Judah that came up from the captivity, where they dwelt as strangers, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon. ⁸And they returned unto Jerusalem, and to the other parts of Judea, every man to his own city, who came with Zerubbabel, with Jeshua, Nehemiah, and Zariah, and Resaiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Aspharasu, Elijah, Roimah, and Baanah, their guides. ⁹The number of them of the nation, and their governors, sons of Parosh, two thousand an hundred seventy and two; the sons of Shephatiah, four hundred seventy and two: ¹⁰the sons of Arah, seven hundred fifty and six: ¹¹the sons of Phahath-Moab, among the sons of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve. ¹²The sons of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four: the sons of Zattu, nine hundred seventy and five: the sons of Chorbe, seven hundred and five: the sons of Bani, six hundred forty and eight. ¹³The sons of Bebai, six hundred thirty and three: the sons of Azgad, one thousand three hundred twenty and two. ¹⁴The sons of Adonikam, six hundred thirty and seven: the sons of Bigvai, two thousand six hundred and six: the sons of Adin, four hundred fifty and four. ¹⁵The sons of Ater, the son of Hezekiah, ninety and two: the sons of Kilan and Azetus, threescore and seven: the sons of Azaru, four hundred thirty and two. ¹⁶The sons of Annias, an hundred and one: the sons of Arom, thirty two: the sons of Bezai, three hundred twenty and three: the sons of Hariph, an hundred and two. ¹⁷The sons of Baiterus, three thousand and five: the sons of Bethlomon, an hundred twenty and three. ¹⁸They of Netophah, fifty and five: they of Ananath, an hundred fifty and eight: they of Beth-Azmaveth, forty and two. ¹⁹They of Kirjath-jearim, twenty and five: they of Chephirah and Beeroth, seven hundred forty and three. ²⁰They of Chadius and Ammidias, four hundred twenty and two: they of Kirama and Geba, six hundred twenty and one. ²¹They of Macalon, an hundred twenty and two: they of Betolio, fifty and two: the sons of Nephish, an hundred fifty and six. ²²The sons of Calamolalus and Ono, seven hundred twenty and five: the sons of Jerechus, two hundred forty and five. ²³The sons of Senaah, three thousand three hundred and one. ²⁴The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, the son of Jeshua, among the sons of Anasib, eight hundred seventy and two: the sons of Immer, two hundred fifty and two. ²⁵The sons of Pashur, a thousand forty and seven: the sons of Charme, two hundred and seventeen. ²⁶The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, and Kadmiel, and Bannas, and Sudias, seventy and four. ²⁷The holy singers: the sons of Asaph, an hundred twenty and eight. ²⁸The porters: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Atar, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, in all an hundred thirty and nine. ²⁹The servants of the temple: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,

the sons of Keros, the sons of Sua, the sons of Padon, the sons of Lebana, the sons of Hagabah. ³⁰The sons of Akkub, the sons of Uthai, the sons of Ketab, the sons of Hagab, the sons of Subai, the sons of Hana, the sons of Cathua, the sons of Geddur. ³¹The sons of Jairus, the sons of Daisan, the sons of Noeba, the sons of Chezib, the sons of Gazera, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Phinoe, the sons of Hasrah, the sons of Basthai, the sons of Asnah, the sons of Maani, the sons of Nephisim, the sons of Acuph, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Asur, the sons of Pharakim, the sons of Bazluth, ³²the sons of Mehida, the sons of Cutha, the sons of Harsha, the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Tamah, the sons of Neziah, the sons of Hatipha. ³³The sons of the servants of Solomon: the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Perida, the sons of Jaala, the sons of Lozon, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Shephatiah. ³⁴The sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, the sons of Sabi, the sons of Sarothie, the sons of Masia, the sons of Gas, the sons of Addus, the sons of Subas, the sons of Apherra, the sons of Barodis, the sons of Shaphat, the sons of Allom. ³⁵All the ministers of the temple, and the sons of the servants of Solomon, were three hundred seventy and two. ³⁶These came up from Tel-melah, and Tel-haresha, Cherub leading them, and Immer: ³⁷they could not shew their families or their stock, how they were of Israel: the sons of Delaiah, the son of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, six hundred fifty and two. ³⁸And of the priests that usurped the office, and were not found: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Koz, the sons of Jaddus, who married Agia one of the daughters of Barzillai, and was named after his name. ³⁹And when the description of the kindred of these men was sought in the register, and was not found, they were removed from executing the office of the priesthood: ⁴⁰for unto them said Nehemiah and Attharias, that they should not be partakers of the holy things, till there rose up an high priest clothed with doctrine and truth. ⁴¹So of Israel, from them of twelve years old and upward, besides menservants and womenservants, they were all in number forty thousand two thousand three hundred and sixty: their menservants and handmaids were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: the singing men and singing women, two hundred forty and five: ⁴²four hundred thirty and five camels, seven thousand thirty and six horses, two hundred forty and five mules, five thousand five hundred twenty and five beasts used to the yoke. ⁴³And certain of the chief of their families, when they came to the temple of God that is in Jerusalem, vowed to set up the house again in his own place according to their ability, ⁴⁴and to give into the holy treasury of the works a thousand pounds of gold, five thousand of silver, and an hundred priestly vestments. ⁴⁵And so dwelt the priests and the Levites and the people in Jerusalem, and in the country, the singers also and the porters; and all Israel in their villages.

⁴⁶But when the seventh month was at hand, and when the sons of Israel were every man in his own place, they came altogether with one consent into the open space of the first gate which is toward the east. ⁴⁷Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and made ready the altar of the God of Israel, ⁴⁸to offer burnt sacrifices upon it, according as it is expressly

commanded in the book of Moses the man of God. ⁴⁹And there were gathered unto them out of the other nations of the land, and they erected the altar upon his own place, because all the nations of the land were at enmity with them, and oppressed them; and they offered sacrifices according to the time, and whole burnt offerings to the Lord both morning and evening. ⁵⁰Also they held the feast of tabernacles, as it is commanded in the law, and offered sacrifices daily, as was meet: ⁵¹and after that, the continual oblations, and the sacrifice of the sabbaths, and of the new moons, and of all holy feasts. ⁵²And all they that had made any vow to God began to offer sacrifices to God from the first day of the seventh month, although the temple of the Lord was not yet built. ⁵³And they gave unto the masons and carpenters money, meat, and drink, with cheerfulness: unto them of Sidon also and Tyre they gave carrs, that they should bring cedar trees from Lebanon, which should be brought by floats to the haven of Joppa, according as it was commanded them by Cyrus king of the Persians. ⁵⁴And in the second year and second month after his coming to the temple of God at Jerusalem began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and their brethren, and the priests, and the Levites, and all they that were come unto Jerusalem out of the captivity: ⁵⁵and they laid the foundation of the house of God in the first day of the second month, in the second year after they were come to Judea and Jerusalem. ⁵⁶And they appointed the Levites from twenty years old over the works of the Lord: then stood up Jeshua, and his sons and brethren, and Kadmiel his brother, and the sons of Emadabun, with the sons of Joda the son of Iliadun, with their sons and brethren, all Levites, with one accord setters forth of the business, labouring to advance the works in the house of the Lord. So the builders built the temple of the Lord. ⁵⁷And the priests stood arrayed in their vestments with musical instruments and trumpets; and the Levites the sons of Asaph had cymbals, singing songs of thanksgiving, and praising the Lord, according as David the king of Israel had ordained. ⁵⁸And they sung with loud voices songs to the praise of the Lord, because His mercy and glory is for ever in all Israel. ⁵⁹And all the people sounded trumpets, and shouted with a loud voice, singing songs of thanksgiving unto the Lord for the rearing up of the house of the Lord. ⁶⁰Also of the priests and Levites, and of the chief of their families, the elders who had seen the former house came to the building of this with weeping and great crying. ⁶¹But many with trumpets and joy shouted with loud voice, ⁶²insomuch that the trumpets might not be heard for the weeping of people; yet the multitude sounded marvellously, so that it was heard afar off.

⁶³Wherefore when the enemies of the tribe of Judah and Benjamin heard it, they came to know what the noise of trumpets *should mean*. ⁶⁴And they perceived that they that were of the captivity did build the temple unto the Lord God of Israel. ⁶⁵So they went to Zerubbabel and Jeshua, and to the chief of the families, and said unto them, We will build together with you: ⁶⁶for we likewise, as ye, do obey your Lord, and do sacrifice unto Him from the days of Esarhaddon the king of the Assyrians, who brought us hither. ⁶⁷Then Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the chief of the families of Israel said unto them,

It is not for us and you to build together an house unto the Lord our God. ⁶⁸We ourselves alone will build unto the Lord of Israel, according as Cyrus the king of the Persians hath commanded us. ⁶⁹But the nations of the land lying heavy upon the inhabitants of Judea, and holding them strait, hindered their building. ⁷⁰And by their secret plots, and popular persuasions and commotions, they hindered the finishing of the building all the time that king Cyrus lived: so that they were hindered from building for the space of two years, until the reign of Darius the king.

CHAPTER 6

Now in the second year of the reign of Darius the king, Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, the prophets, prophesied unto the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the Lord God of Israel, which was upon them. ²Then stood up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, the prophets of the Lord being with them, *and* helping them. ³At the same time came unto them Tattenai the governor of Syria and Phoenicia, with Shethar-boznai and his companions, and said unto them, ⁴By whose appointment do ye build this house and this roof, and perform all the other things? and who are the workmen that perform these things? ⁵Nevertheless the elders of the Jews obtained favour, because the Lord had visited the captivity; ⁶and they were not hindered from building, until such time as signification was given unto Darius concerning them, and an answer received.

⁷The copy of the letters which Tattenai, governor of Syria and Phoenicia, and Shethar-boznai, with their companions, rulers in Syria and Phoenicia, wrote and sent unto Darius: To king Darius, greeting. ⁸Let all things be known unto our lord the king, that being come into the country of Judea, and entered into the city of Jerusalem, we found in the city of Jerusalem the elders of the Jews that were of the captivity building an house unto the Lord, great and new, of hewen and costly stones, and the timber already laid upon the walls. ⁹And these works are done with great speed, and the work goeth on prosperously in their hands, and with all glory and diligence is it made. ¹⁰Then asked we these elders, saying, By whose commandment build ye this house, and lay the foundations of these works? ¹¹Therefore to the intent that we might give knowledge unto thee by writing, we demanded of them who were the chief doers, and we required of them the names in writing of their principal men. ¹²So they gave us this answer, saying, We are the servants of the Lord which made the heaven and the earth. ¹³And as for this house, it was builded many years ago by a king of Israel great and strong, and was finished. ¹⁴But when our fathers provoked God unto wrath, and sinned against the Lord of Israel which is in heaven, He gave them over into the power of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of the Chaldees; ¹⁵who pulled down the house, and burned it, and carried away the people captives into Babylon. ¹⁶But in the first year that king Cyrus reigned over the country of

Babylon, Cyrus the king wrote to build this house. ¹⁷And the holy vessels of gold and of silver, that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away out of the house at Jerusalem, and had set them in his own temple, those Cyrus the king brought forth again out of the temple at Babylon, and they were delivered to Zerubbabel, *that is* to Sheshbazzar the ruler, ¹⁸with the commandment that he should carry away the same vessels, and put them in the temple at Jerusalem; and that the temple of the Lord should be built in that place. ¹⁹Then the same Sheshbazzar, being come hither, laid the foundations of the house of the Lord at Jerusalem; and from that time to this being still a building, it is not yet finished. ²⁰Now therefore, if it seem good unto the king, let search be made among the records of king Cyrus: ²¹and if it be found that the building of the house of the Lord at Jerusalem hath been done with the consent of king Cyrus, and if our lord the king be so minded, let him signify unto us thereof.

²²Then commanded king Darius to seek among the records at Babylon: and so at Ekbatana the palace, which is in the country of Media, there was found a roll wherein these things were recorded: ²³In the first year of the reign of Cyrus, king Cyrus commanded that the house of the Lord should be built again, where they do sacrifice with continual fire: ²⁴whose height shall be sixty cubits, and the breadth sixty cubits, with three rows of hewn stones, and one row of new wood of that country; and the expenses thereof to be given out of the house of king Cyrus: ²⁵and that the holy vessels of the house of the Lord, both of gold and silver, that Nebuchadnezzar took out of the house at Jerusalem, and brought to Babylon, should be restored to the house at Jerusalem, and be set in the place where they were before. ²⁶And also commanded he that Tattenai the governor of Syria and Phoenicia, and Shethar-boznai, and their companions, and those which were appointed rulers in Syria and Phoenicia, should be careful to stay away from the place, but suffer Zerubbabel the servant of the Lord, and governor of Judea, and the elders of the Jews, to build the house of the Lord in that place. ²⁷I have commanded also to have it built up whole again; and that they look diligently to help those that be of the captivity of the Jews, till the house of the Lord be finished: ²⁸and out of the tribute of Coelesyria and Phoenicia a portion carefully to be given these men for the sacrifice of the Lord, that is, to Zerubbabel the governor, for calves, and rams, and lambs; ²⁹and also corn, salt, wine, and oil, and that continually every year without further question, according as the priests that be in Jerusalem shall signify to be daily spent: ³⁰that offerings may be made to the Most High God for the king and for his children, and that they may pray for their lives. ³¹And he commanded that whosoever should transgress, yea, or make light of any thing herein written, out of his own house should a tree be taken, and he thereon hanged, and all his goods seized for the king. ³²The Lord therefore, Whose name is there called upon, utterly destroy every king and nation, that stretcheth out his hand to hinder or endamage that house of the Lord in Jerusalem. ³³I Darius the king have ordained that according unto these things it be done with diligence.

CHAPTER 7

Then Tattenai the governor of Coelesyria and Phoenicia, and Shetharboznai, with their companions, following the commandments of king Darius, ²did very carefully oversee the holy works, assisting the elders of the Jews and governors of the temple. ³And so the holy works prospered, when Haggai and Zechariah the prophets prophesied. ⁴And they finished these things by the commandment of the Lord God of Israel; and with the consent of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia, ⁵the holy house was finished in the three and twentieth day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of king Darius. ⁶And the sons of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and others that were of the captivity, that were added unto them, did according to the things written in the book of Moses. ⁷And to the dedication of the temple of the Lord they offered an hundred calves, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; ⁸and twelve goats for the sin of all Israel, according to the number of the chief of the tribes of Israel. ⁹The priests also and the Levites stood arrayed in their vestments, according to their kindreds, in the service of the Lord God of Israel, according to the book of Moses, and the porters at every gate. ¹⁰And the sons of Israel that were of the captivity held the Passover the fourteenth day of the first month, after that the priests and the Levites were sanctified, ¹¹together with all the children of the captivity; for they were sanctified, because the Levites were all sanctified together. ¹²And so they offered the Passover for all them of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. ¹³And the sons of Israel that came out of the captivity did eat, even all they that had separated themselves from the abominations of the people of the land, and sought the Lord. ¹⁴And they kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days, making merry before the Lord, ¹⁵for that He had turned the counsel of the king of Assyria toward them, to strengthen their hands in the works of the Lord God of Israel.

CHAPTER 8

And after these things, when Artaxerxes the king of the Persians reigned, came Ezra *the son* of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, the son of Shallum, ²the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, the son of Amariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest. ³This Ezra went up from Babylon, as a scribe, being very ready in the law of Moses, that was given by the Lord God of Israel. ⁴And the king did him honour: for he found grace in his sight in all his requests. ⁵There went up with him also certain of the sons of Israel, of the priests, of the Levites, of the holy singers, porters, and ministers of the temple, unto Jerusalem, ⁶in the seventh year of the reign of Artaxerxes, in the fifth month, this was the king's seventh year; for they went from Babylon in the first day of the first month, and came to Jerusalem, according to the prosperous journey which the Lord gave to him. ⁷For Ezra

had very great skill, so that he omitted nothing of the law and commandments of the Lord, but taught all Israel the ordinances and judgments.

⁸Now the copy of the commission, which was written from Artaxerxes the king, and came to Ezra the priest and reader of the law of the Lord, is that which followeth: ⁹King Artaxerxes unto Ezra the priest and reader of the law of the Lord sendeth greeting. ¹⁰Having determined to deal graciously, I have given order, that such of the nation of the Jews, and of the priests and Levites, being within our realm, as are willing and desirous, should go with thee to Jerusalem. ¹¹As many therefore as have a mind thereunto, let them depart with thee, as it hath seemed good both to me and to my seven friends the counsellors; ¹²that they may look into the affairs of Judah and Jerusalem, agreeably to that which is in the law of the Lord; ¹³and carry the gifts unto the Lord of Israel to Jerusalem, which I and my friends have vowed, and all the gold and silver that in the country of Babylon can be found, to the Lord in Jerusalem, with that also which is given of the people for the temple of the Lord their God in Jerusalem, ¹⁴and that silver and gold may be collected for calves, rams, and lambs, and things thereunto appertaining; ¹⁵to the end that they may offer sacrifices unto the Lord upon the altar of the Lord their God, which is in Jerusalem. ¹⁶And whatsoever thou and thy brethren will do with the silver and gold, that do, according to the will of thy God. ¹⁷And the holy vessels of the Lord, which are given thee for the use of the temple of thy God, which is in Jerusalem, thou shalt set before thy God in Jerusalem. ¹⁸And whatsoever thing else thou shalt remember for the use of the temple of thy God, thou shalt give it out of the king's treasury. ¹⁹And I king Artaxerxes have also commanded the keepers of the treasures in Syria and Phoenicia, that whatsoever Ezra the priest and reader of the law of the most high God shall send for, they should give it him with speed, to the sum of an hundred talents of silver, ²⁰likewise also of wheat unto an hundred cors, and an hundred pieces of wine, ²¹and other things in abundance. Let all things be performed after the law of God diligently unto the most high God, that wrath come not upon the kingdom of the king and his sons. ²²I command you also, that ye require no tax, nor any other imposition, of any of the priests, or Levites, or holy singers, or porters, or ministers of the temple, or of any that have doings in this temple, and that man have authority to impose any thing upon them. ²³And thou, Ezra, according to the wisdom of God ordain judges and justices, that they may judge in all Syria and Phoenicia all those that know the law of thy God; and those that know it not thou shalt teach. ²⁴And whosoever shall transgress the law of thy God, and of the king, shall be punished diligently, whether it be by death, or other punishment, by penalty of money, or by imprisonment.

²⁵Then said Ezra the scribe, Blessed be the only God of thy fathers, who hath put these things into the heart of the king, to glorify His house that is in Jerusalem: ²⁶and hath honoured me in the sight of the king, and his counsellors, and all his friends and nobles. ²⁷Therefore was I encouraged by

the help of the Lord my God, and gathered together men of Israel to go up with me.

²⁸And these are the chief according to their families and several dignities, that went up with me from Babylon in the reign of king Artaxerxes: ²⁹of the sons of Phinehas, Gershom: of the sons of Ithamar, Gamael: of the sons of David, Hattush the son of Shecaniah: ³⁰of the sons of Parosh, Zechariah; and with him were counted an hundred and fifty men: ³¹of the sons of Pahath-moab, Elihoenai, *the son* of Zerahiah, and with him two hundred men: ³²of the sons of Zattu, Shecaniah the son of Jahaziel, and with him three hundred men: of the sons of Adin, Ebed the son of Jonathan, and with him two hundred and fifty men: ³³of the sons of Elam, Jeshaiah son of Athaliah, and with him seventy men: ³⁴of the sons of Shephatiah, Zeraiah son of Michael, and with him threescore and ten men: ³⁵of the sons of Joab, Obadiah son of Jehiel, and with him two hundred and twelve men: ³⁶of the sons of Bani, Shelomith son of Josiphiah, and with him an hundred and threescore men: ³⁷of the sons of Bebai, Zechariah son of Bebai, and with him twenty and eight men: ³⁸of the sons of Azgad, Johanan *son of* Hakkatan, and with him an hundred and ten men: ³⁹of the sons of Adonikam the last, and these are the names of them, Eliphelet, son of Jeiel, and Shemaiah, and with them seventy men: ⁴⁰of the sons of Bigvai, Uthai the son of Istalcurus, and with him seventy men.

⁴¹And these I gathered together to the river called Theras, where we pitched our tents three days: and then I surveyed them. ⁴²But when I found there none of the priests and Levites, ⁴³then sent I unto Eliezer, and Ariel, and Mahiah, and Masman, ⁴⁴and Elnathan, and Shemaiah, and Jarib, and Nathan, Eunatan, Zechariah, and Meshullam, principal men and learned. ⁴⁵And I bade them that they should go to unto Iddo the captain, who was in the place of the treasury: ⁴⁶and commanded them that they should speak unto Iddo, and to his brethren, and to the treasurers in that place, to send us such men as might execute the priests' office in the house of the Lord. ⁴⁷And by the mighty hand of our Lord they brought unto us skilful men of the sons of Mahli the son of Levi, the son of Israel, Sherebiah, and his sons, and his brethren, who were eighteen. ⁴⁸And Hashabiah, and Annunus, and Jeshaiah his brother, of the sons of Hananiah, and their sons, were twenty men. ⁴⁸And of the servants of the temple whom David had ordained, and the principal men for the service of the Levites, to wit, the servants of the temple, two hundred and twenty, the catalogue of whose names were shewed. ⁴⁹And there I vowed a fast unto the young men before our Lord, ⁵⁰to desire of Him a prosperous journey both for us and them that were with us, for our children, and for the cattle: ⁵¹for I was ashamed to ask the king footmen, and horsemen, and conduct for safeguard against our adversaries. ⁵²For we had said unto the king, that the power of the Lord our God should be with them that seek Him, to support them in all ways. ⁵³And again we besought the Lord as touching these things, and found Him favourable unto us. ⁵⁴Then I separated twelve of chief leaders of the priests, Sherebiah, and Hashabiah, and ten men of their brethren with them: ⁵⁵and I weighed them the gold, and

the silver, and the holy vessels of the house of our Lord, which the king, and his council, and the princes, and all Israel, had given. ⁵⁶And when I had weighed it, I delivered unto them six hundred and sixty talents of silver, and silver vessels of an hundred talents, and an hundred talents of gold, ⁵⁷and twenty golden vessels, and twelve vessels of brass, even of fine brass, glittering like gold. ⁵⁸And I said unto them, Both ye are holy unto the Lord, and the vessels are holy, and the gold and the silver is a vow unto the Lord, the Lord of our fathers. ⁵⁹Watch ye, and keep them till ye deliver them to the chief of the priests and Levites, and to the principal men of the families of Israel, in Jerusalem, into the chambers of the house of our God. ⁶⁰So the priests and the Levites, who had received the silver and the gold and the vessels, brought them unto Jerusalem, into the temple of the Lord.

⁶¹And from the river Theras we departed the twelfth day of the first month, and came to Jerusalem by the mighty hand of our Lord, which was with us: and from the beginning of our journey the Lord delivered us from every enemy, and so we came to Jerusalem. ⁶²And when we had been there three days, the gold and the silver that was weighed was delivered in the house of our Lord on the fourth day unto Meremoth the priest the son of Uriah; ⁶²and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas, and with them was Jozabad the son of Jeshua and Moeth the son of Binnui, Levites: all was delivered them by number and weight; and all the weight of them was written up the same hour. ⁶³Moreover they that were come out of the captivity offered sacrifice unto the Lord God of Israel, even twelve calves for all Israel, fourscore and sixteen rams, threescore and twelve lambs, goats for a peace offering, twelve; all of them a sacrifice to the Lord. ⁶⁴And they delivered the king's commandments unto the king's stewards, and to the governors of Coelesyria and Phoenicia; and they honoured the people and the temple of the Lord.

⁶⁵Now when these things were done, the rulers came unto me, and said, ⁶⁶The nation of Israel, the princes, the priests and Levites, have not put away from them the strange people of the land, nor their pollutions from the Gentiles, *to wit*, the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, and the Moabites, Egyptians and Edomites. ⁶⁷For both they and their sons have married with their daughters, and the holy seed is mixed with the strange people of the land; and from the beginning of this matter the rulers and the great men have been partakers of this iniquity. ⁶⁸And as soon as I had heard these things, I rent my clothes, and the holy garment, and pulled off the hair from off my head and beard, and sat me down sad and very heavy. ⁶⁹So all they that were then moved at the word of the Lord God of Israel assembled unto me, whilst I mourned for the iniquity: but I sat still full of heaviness until the evening sacrifice. ⁷⁰Then rising up from the fast with my clothes and the holy garment rent, and bowing my knees, and stretching forth my hands unto the Lord, I said, ⁷¹O Lord, I am confounded and ashamed before Thy face; ⁷²for our sins are multiplied above our heads, and our ignorances have reached up unto heaven. ⁷³For ever since the time of our fathers we *have been* and are in great sin, even unto this day. ⁷⁴And for our sins and our

fathers' we with our brethren and our kings and priests were given up unto the kings of the earth, to the sword, and to captivity, and for a prey with shame, unto this day. ⁷⁵And now in some measure hath mercy been shewed unto us from thee, O Lord, that there should be left us a root and a name in the place of Thy sanctuary; and to discover unto us a light in the house of the Lord our God, and to give us food in the time of our servitude. ⁷⁶Yea, when we were in bondage we were not forsaken of our Lord; ⁷⁷but he made us favoured before the kings of Persia, so that they gave us food; ⁷⁸yea, and honoured the temple of the our Lord, and raised up the desolate Zion, that they have given us a sure abiding in Judah and Jerusalem. ⁷⁹And now, O Lord, what shall we say, having these things? for we have transgressed Thy commandments, which Thou gavest by the hand of Thy servants the prophets, saying, ⁸⁰That the land, which ye enter into to possess as an heritage, is a land polluted with the pollutions of the strangers of the land, and they have filled it with their uncleanness. ⁸¹Therefore now shall ye not join your daughters unto their sons, neither shall ye take their daughters unto your sons. ⁸²Moreover ye shall never seek to have peace with them, that ye may be strong, and eat the good things of the land, and that ye may leave the inheritance of the land unto your children for evermore. ⁸³And all that is befallen is done unto us for our wicked works and great sins: for Thou, O Lord, didst make our sins light, ⁸⁴and didst give us such a root: but we have turned back again to transgress Thy law, and to mingle ourselves with the nations of the land. ⁸⁵Mightest Thou not be angry with us to destroy us, till Thou hadst left us neither root, seed, nor shame? ⁸⁶O Lord of Israel, Thou art true: for we are left a root this day. ⁸⁷Behold, now are we before Thee in our iniquities, for we cannot stand any longer by reason of these things before Thee.

⁸⁸And as Ezra in his prayer made his confession, weeping, and lying flat upon the ground before the temple, there gathered unto him from Jerusalem a very great multitude of men and women and children: for there was great weeping among the multitude. ⁸⁹Then Sheconiah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Israel, called out, and said, O Ezra, we have sinned against the Lord God, we have married strange women of the nations of the land, and now is all Israel aloft. ⁹⁰Let us make an oath to the Lord, that we will put away all our wives, which we have taken of the nations, with their children, like as thou hast decreed, and as many as do obey the law of the Lord. ⁹¹Arise, and put in execution: for to thee doth this matter appertain, and we will be with thee: do valiantly. ⁹²So Ezra arose, and took an oath of the chief of the priests and Levites of all Israel to do after these things; and so they swear.

CHAPTER 9

Then Ezra rising from the court of the temple went to the chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib, ²and remained there, and did eat no meat nor drink water, mourning for the great iniquities of the multitude. ³And there

was a proclamation in all Judah and Jerusalem to all them that were of the captivity, that they should be gathered together at Jerusalem: ⁴and that whosoever met not there within two or three days, according as the elders that bare rule appointed, their cattle should be seized to the use of the temple, and himself cast out from them that were of the captivity. ⁵And in three days were all they of the tribe of Judah and Benjamin gathered together at Jerusalem the twentieth day of the month. ⁶And all the multitude sat in the broad court of the temple, trembling because of the present foul weather. ⁷So Ezra arose up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed the law in marrying strange wives, thereby to increase the sins of Israel. ⁸And now by confessing give glory unto the Lord God of our fathers, ⁹and do His will, and separate yourselves from the nations of the land, and from the strange women. ¹⁰Then cried the whole multitude, and said with a loud voice, Like as thou hast spoken, so will we do. ¹¹But forasmuch as the people are many, and it is foul weather, so that we cannot stand without, and this is not a work of a day or two, seeing our sin in these things is spread far: ¹²therefore let the rulers of the multitude stay, and let all them of our habitations that have strange wives come at the time appointed, ¹³and with them the rulers and judges of every place, till we turn away the wrath of the Lord from us for this matter. ¹⁴Then Jonathan the son of Azahel and Jahaziah the son of Tikvah accordingly took this matter upon them: and Meshullam and Levi and Shabbethai helped them. ¹⁵And they that were of the captivity did according to all these things. ¹⁶And Ezra the priest chose unto him the principal men of their families, all by name: and in the first day of the tenth month they sat together to examine the matter. ¹⁷So their cause that held strange wives was brought to an end in the first day of the first month. ¹⁸And of the priests that were come together, and had strange wives, there were found; ¹⁹of the sons of Joshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren; Maaseiah, and Eliezar, and Jarib, and Jodan. ²⁰And they gave their hands to put away their wives, and to offer rams to make reconciliation for their errors. ²¹And of the sons of Immer: Hanani, and Zebadiah, and Maaseiah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Azariah. ²²And of the sons of Pashur; Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, and Nethaneel, and Gedaliah, and Elasa. ²³And of the Levites; Jozabad, and Shimei, and Kelaiah, who was called Kelita, and Pethahiah, and Judah, and Jonah. ²⁴Of the holy singers: Eliashib, Zaccur. ²⁵Of the porters; Shallum, and Telem. ²⁶Of them of Israel, of the sons of Parosh; Ramiah, and Jeziah, and Malchiah, and Mijamin, and Eleazar, and Asibias, and Benaiah. ²⁷Of the sons of Elam; Mattaniah, Zechariah, and Jezriel, and Obadiah, and Jeremoth, and Eliah. ²⁸And of the sons of Zattu; Elioenai, Eliashib, Othoniah, Jeremoth, and Zabad, and Zerdaiah. ²⁹Of the sons of Bebai; Jehohanan, and Hananiah, and Zabbai, and Emathis. ³⁰Of the sons of Bani; Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashob, Sheal, and Jeremoth. ³¹And of the sons of Addi; Naathus, and Moosias, Lacunus, and Naidus, Mathanias, and Sesthel, Balnuus, and Manasseas. ³²And of the sons of Annan; Elionas, and Asaias, and Melchias, and Sabbaias, and Simon Chosameus. ³³And of the sons of Hasshum; Mattenai, and Mattattiah, and Baanaia, Eliphelet, and Manasseas,

and Shimei. ³⁴And of the sons of Bani; Jeremai, Maadai, Amram, Joel, Mamdai, and Bedeiah, and Vaniah, Carabasion, and Eliashib, and Machnadebai, Eliasis, Binnui, Elialis, Shimei, Shelemiah, Nethaniah: and of the sons of Ezora; Shashai, Azarel, Azael, Shemaiah, Amariah, Joseph. ³⁵And of the sons of Nebo; Mattithiah, Zabad, Iddo, Joel, Benaiah. ³⁶All these had taken strange wives, and they put them away with their children.

³⁷And the priests and the Levites, and they that were of Israel, dwelt in Jerusalem, and in the country, in the first day of the seventh month: so the sons of Israel were in their habitations. ³⁸And the whole multitude came together with one accord into the broad place of the holy porch toward the east: ³⁹and they spake unto Ezra the priest and reader, that he would bring the law of Moses, that was given of the Lord God of Israel. ⁴⁰So Ezra the chief priest brought the law to the whole multitude from man to woman, and to all the priests, to hear the law in the first day of the seventh month. ⁴¹And he read in the broad court before the holy porch from morning unto midday, before both men and women; and all the multitude gave heed unto the law. ⁴²And Ezra the priest and reader of the law stood up upon a pulpit of wood which was made for that purpose. ⁴³And there stood up by him Mattathiah, Shema, Ananiah, Azariah, Uriah, Hezekiah, Baalsamus, upon the right hand: ⁴⁴and upon the left hand stood Pedaiah, and Mishael, Malchijah, Lothasubus, Nabariah, Zechariah. ⁴⁵Then took Ezra the book of the law before the multitude: for he sat honourably in the first place in the sight of them all. ⁴⁶And when he opened up the law, they stood all straight up. So Ezra blessed the Lord God Most High, the God of hosts, Almighty. ⁴⁷And all the host answered, Amen; and lifting up their hands they fell to the ground, and worshipped the Lord. ⁴⁸Also Jeshua, Anniuth, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, and Kelita, Azariah, and Jozabad, and Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, taught the law of the Lord, and read the law of the Lord to the multitude, making them withal to understand it. ⁴⁹Then spake Attharates unto Ezra the chief priest and reader, and to the Levites that taught the multitude, even to all, saying, ⁵⁰This day is holy unto the Lord; (for they all wept when they heard the law:) ⁵¹go then, and eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send part to them that have nothing: ⁵²for this day is holy unto the Lord: and be not sorrowful; for the Lord will bring you to honour. ⁵³So the Levites published all things to the people, saying, This day is holy to the Lord: be not sorrowful. ⁵⁴Then went they their way, every one to eat and drink and make merry, and to give part to them that had nothing, and to make great cheer; ⁵⁵because they understood the words wherein they were instructed, and for the which they had been assembled.

3 ESDRAS

This book is not found in the Hebrew and Greek. The Slavonic and Russian translations were made from the Vulgate. In this latter the Book is divided into two parts. The first consists of Chapters 3-14 in the Slavonic and the second Chapters 1, 2, 15 and 16.

CHAPTER 1

The third book of the prophet Ezra, the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, ²the son of Ahijah, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, the son of Arna, the son of Uzzi, the son of Borith, the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, ³the son of Aaron, of the tribe of Levi; which was captive in the land of the Medes, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of the Persians.

⁴And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, ⁵Go thy way, and shew My people their sinful deeds, and their children their wickednesses which they have done against Me; that they may tell their children's children: ⁶because the sins of their fathers are increased in them: for they have forgotten Me, and have sacrificed unto strange gods. ⁷Did I not bring them out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage? But they have provoked Me unto wrath, and despised My counsels. ⁸Pull thou off then the hair of thy head, and cast all evils upon them, for they have not been obedient unto My law. And it is a people without discipline. ⁹How long shall I forbear them, upon whom I have bestowed so great benefits? ¹⁰Many kings have I overthrown from them: Pharaoh with his servants and all his hosts have I smitten down. ¹¹All the nations have I destroyed before them, and in the east have I scattered the peoples of two provinces, even of Tyre and Sidon, and have slain all their enemies. ¹²Speak thou therefore unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord, ¹³I made you to pass through the sea, and in the beginning gave you a large and safe passage; I gave you Moses for your leader, and Aaron for a priest. ¹⁴I gave you light by a pillar of fire, and great wonders have I done among you; yet have ye forgotten Me, saith the Lord. ¹⁵Thus saith the Almighty Lord, The quails were as a token for you; I gave you tents for your safeguard: nevertheless ye murmured there, ¹⁶and triumphed not in My name for the destruction of your enemies, but ever to this day do ye et murmur. ¹⁷Where are the benefits that I have done for you? when ye were hungry and thirsty in the wilderness, did ye not cry unto me, ¹⁸saying, Why hast Thou brought us into this wilderness to kill us? it had been better for us to have served the Egyptians, than to die in this wilderness. ¹⁹Then had I pity upon your mournings, and gave you manna to eat; so ye did eat angel's bread. ²⁰When ye were thirsty, did I not cleave the rock, and water flowed out to your fill? for the heat I covered you with the leaves of the trees. ²¹I divided

among you a fruitful land, I cast out the Canaanites, the Perizzites, and the Philistines before you: what shall I yet do more for you? saith the Lord.

²²Thus saith the Almighty Lord, When ye were in the wilderness, in the river of the Amorites, being athirst, and blaspheming My name, ²³I gave you not fire for your blasphemies, but cast a tree in the water, and made the river sweet. ²⁴What shall I do unto thee, O Jacob? thou, Judah, wouldest not obey Me: I will turn Me to other nations, and unto those will I give My name, that they may keep My statutes. ²⁵Seeing ye have forsaken Me, I will forsake you also; when ye desire Me to be gracious unto you, I shall have no mercy upon you. ²⁶Whensoever ye shall call upon Me, I will not hear you: for ye have defiled your hands with blood, and your feet are swift to commit manslaughter. ²⁷Ye have not as it were forsaken Me, but your own selves, saith the Lord.

²⁸Thus saith the Almighty Lord, Have I not prayed for you as a father his sons, as a mother her daughters, and a nurse her young babes, ²⁹that ye would be My people, and I should be your God; that ye would be My children, and I should be your father? ³⁰So I gathered you together, as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings: but now, what shall I do unto you? I will cast you out from My face. ³¹When ye offer oblation unto me, I will turn My face from you: for your solemn feast days, your new moons, and your circumcisions, have I forsaken. ³²I sent unto you My servants the prophets, whom ye have slain and taken, and torn their bodies in pieces, whose blood I will require of your hands, saith the Lord.

³³Thus saith the Almighty Lord, Your house is desolate, I will cast you out as the wind doth stubble. ³⁴And your children shall not be fruitful; for they have despised My commandment, and done the thing that is evil before Me. ³⁵Your houses will I give to a people that shall come; which not being heard of Me yet shall believe Me; to whom I have shewed no signs, yet they shall do that I have commanded them; ³⁶they have seen no prophets, yet shall they call their sins to remembrance, and acknowledge them. ³⁷I take to witness the grace of the people to come, whose little ones rejoice in gladness: and though they have not seen me with bodily eyes, yet in spirit they believe the thing that I say.

³⁸And now, brother, behold what glory; and see the people that cometh from the east: ³⁹unto whom will I give for leaders, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Hosea, Amos, and Micah, Joel, Obadiah, and Jonah, ⁴⁰Nahum, and Habbakuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi, which is called also an angel of the Lord.

CHAPTER 2

Thus saith the Lord, I brought My people out of bondage, and I gave them my commandments by My servants the prophets; whom they would not hear, but despised My counsels. ²The mother that bare them saith unto them, Go your way, ye children; for I am a widow and forsaken. ³I brought

you up with gladness; but with sorrow and heaviness have I lost you: for ye have sinned before the Lord your God, and done the thing that is evil before Him. ⁴But what shall I now do unto you? I am a widow and forsaken: go your way, O my children, and ask mercy of the Lord. ⁵As for Me, O father, I call upon thee for a witness over the mother of these children, which would not keep My covenant, ⁶that thou bring them to confusion, and their mother to a spoil, that there may be no offspring of them. ⁷Let them be scattered abroad among the heathen, let their names be put out of the earth: for they have despised My covenant. ⁸Woe be unto thee, Assyria, thou that hidest the unrighteous in thee! O thou wicked people, remember what I did unto Sodom and Gomorrah; ⁹whose land lieth in clods of pitch and heaps of ashes: even so also will I do unto them that hear Me not, saith the Almighty Lord.

¹⁰Thus saith the Lord unto Ezra, Tell My people that I will give them the kingdom of Jerusalem, which I would have given unto Israel. ¹¹Their glory also will I take unto Me, and give these the everlasting tabernacles, which I had prepared for them. ¹²They shall have the tree of life for an ointment of sweet savour; they shall neither labour, nor be weary. ¹³Go, and ye shall receive: pray for few days unto you, that they may be shortened: the kingdom is already prepared for you: watch. ¹⁴Take heaven and earth to witness; for I have broken the evil in pieces, and created the good: for I live, saith the Lord. ¹⁵Mother, embrace thy children, and bring them up with gladness, make their feet as fast as a pillar: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord. ¹⁶And those that be dead will I raise up again from their places, and bring them out of the graves: for I have known My name in Israel. ¹⁷Fear not, thou mother of the children: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord. ¹⁸For thy help will I send My servants Isaiah and Jeremiah, after whose counsel I have sanctified and prepared for thee twelve trees laden with divers fruits, ¹⁹and as many fountains flowing with milk and honey, and seven mighty mountains, whereupon there grow roses and lilies, whereby I will fill thy children with joy. ²⁰Do right to the widow, judge for the fatherless, give to the poor, defend the orphan, clothe the naked, ²¹heal the broken and the weak, laugh not a lame man to scorn, defend the maimed, and let the blind man come into the sight of My clearness. ²²Keep the old and young within thy walls. ²³Wheresoever thou findest the dead, take them and bury them, and I will give thee the first place in My resurrection. ²⁴Abide still, O My people, and take thy rest, for thy quietness shall come. ²⁵Nourish thy children, O thou good nurse; stablish their feet. ²⁶As for the servants whom I have given thee, there shall not one of them perish; for I will require them from among thy number. ²⁷Be not weary: for when the day of trouble and heaviness cometh, others shall weep and be sorrowful, but thou shalt be merry and have abundance. ²⁸The heathen shall envy thee, but they shall be able to do nothing against thee, saith the Lord. ²⁹My hands shall cover thee, so that thy children shall not see Hades. ³⁰Be joyful, O thou mother, with thy children; for I will deliver thee, saith the Lord. ³¹Remember thy children that sleep, for I shall bring them out of the sides of the earth, and shew mercy unto them: for I am merciful, saith the Lord

Almighty. ³²Embrace thy children until I come and shew mercy unto them: for My wells run over, and My grace shall not fail.

³³I Ezra received a charge of the Lord upon the mount Horeb, that I should go unto Israel; but when I came unto them, they set me at nought, and despised the commandment of the Lord. ³⁴And therefore I say unto you, O ye heathen, that hear and understand, look for your shepherd, He shall give you everlasting rest; for He is nigh at hand, that shall come in the end of the world. ³⁵Be ready to the reward of the kingdom, for the everlasting light shall shine upon you for evermore. ³⁶Flee the shadow of this world, receive the joyfulness of your glory: I testify my Saviour openly. ³⁷O receive the gift that is given you, and be glad, giving thanks unto Him that hath called you to the heavenly kingdom. ³⁸Arise up and stand, behold the number of those that be sealed in the feast of the Lord; ³⁹which are departed from the shadow of the world, and have received glorious garments of the Lord. ⁴⁰Take thy number, O Zion, and shut up those of thine that are clothed in white, which have fulfilled the law of the Lord. ⁴¹The number of thy children, whom thou longedst for, is fulfilled: beseech the power of the Lord, that Thy people, which have been called from the beginning, may be hallowed.

⁴²I Ezra saw upon the mount Zion a great people, whom I could not number, and they all praised the Lord with songs. ⁴³And in the midst of them was a young man of a high stature, taller than all the rest, and upon every one of their heads He set crowns, and was more exalted; which I marvelled at greatly. ⁴⁴So I asked the angel, and said, Lord, what are these? ⁴⁵He answered and said unto me, These be they that have put off the mortal clothing, and put on the immortal, and have confessed the name of God: now are they crowned, and receive palms. ⁴⁶Then said I unto the angel, What young person is it that crowneth them, and giveth them palms in their hands? ⁴⁷So he answered and said unto me, It is the Son of God, Whom they have confessed in the world. Then began I greatly to commend them that stood so stiffly for the name of the Lord. ⁴⁸Then the angel said unto me, Go thy way, and tell my people what manner of things, and how great wonders of the Lord thy God, thou hast seen.

CHAPTER 3

In the thirtieth year after the ruin of the city I was in Babylon, and lay troubled upon me bed, and my thoughts came up over my heart: ²for I saw the desolation of Zion, and the wealth of them that dwelt at Babylon. ³And my spirit was sore moved, so that I began to speak words full of fear to the Most High, ⁴and said, O Lord, Who bearest rule, Thou spakest at the beginning, when Thou didst plant the earth, and that Thyself alone, and commandedst the people, ⁵and gavest a body unto Adam without soul, which was the workmanship of Thine hands, and didst breathe into him the breath of life, and he was made living before Thee. ⁶And Thou leddest him into paradise, which Thy right hand had planted, before ever the earth came

forward. ⁷And unto him Thou gavest commandment to love Thy way: which he transgressed, and immediately Thou appointedst death in him and in his generations, of whom came nations, tribes, people and kindreds, out of number. ⁸And every people walked after their own will, and did wonderful things before Thee, and despised Thy commandments. ⁹And again in process of time Thou broughtest the flood upon those that dwelt in the world, and destroyedst them, ¹⁰and it came to pass in every of them, that as death was to Adam, so the flood was to these. ¹¹Nevertheless one of them thou leftest, namely, Noah with his household, of whom came all righteous men. ¹²And it happened, that when they that dwelt upon the earth began to multiply, and had gotten them many children, and were a great people, they began again to be more ungodly than the first. ¹³Now when they lived so wickedly before Thee, Thou didst choose Thee a man from among them, whose name was Abraham. ¹⁴And him Thou lovedst, and unto him only Thou shewedst Thy will: ¹⁵and madest an everlasting covenant with him, promising him that Thou wouldest never forsake his seed. And unto him Thou gavest Isaac, and unto Isaac also Thou gavest Jacob and Esau. ¹⁶As for Jacob, Thou didst choose him to Thee, and put by Esau: and so Jacob became a great multitude. ¹⁷And it came to pass, that when Thou leddest his seed out of Egypt, Thou broughtest them up to the mount Sinai. ¹⁸And bowing the heavens, Thou didst set fast the earth, movedst the whole world, and madest the depths to tremble, and troubledst the men of that age. ¹⁹And Thy glory went through four gates, of fire, and of earthquake, and of wind, and of cold; that thou mightiest give the law unto the seed of Jacob, and diligence unto the generation of Israel. ²⁰And yet tookest Thou not away from them a wicked heart, that Thy law might bring forth fruit in them. ²¹For the first Adam bearing a wicked heart transgressed, and was overcome; and so be all they that are born of him. ²²Thus infirmity was made permanent; and the law also in the heart of the people with the malignity of the root; so that the good departed away, and the evil abode still. ²³So the times passed away, and the evils were brought to an end: then didst Thou raise Thee up a servant called David: ²⁴whom Thou commandedst to build a city unto thy name, and to offer incense and oblations unto Thee therein. ²⁵When this was done many years, then they that inhabited the city forsook Thee, ²⁶and in all things did even as Adam and all his generations had done: for they also had a wicked heart: ²⁷and so Thou gavest Thy city over into the hands of Thine enemies. ²⁸Are their deeds then any better that inhabit Babylon, that they should therefore have the dominion over Zion? ²⁹For when I came thither, and had seen impieties without number, then my soul saw many evildoers in this thirtieth year, so that my heart failed me. ³⁰For I have seen how Thou sufferest them sinning, and hast spared wicked doers: and has destroyed Thy people, and hast preserved Thine enemies, and hast not signified it. ³¹I do not remember how this way may be left: Are they then of Babylon better than they of Zion? ³²Or is there any other people that knoweth Thee beside Israel? or what generation hath so believed Thy covenants as Jacob? ³³And yet their reward appeareth not, and their labour hath no fruit: for I have gone here and there

through the heathen, and I see that they flow in wealth, and think not upon Thy commandments. ³⁴Weigh Thou therefore our wickedness now in the balance, and theirs also that dwell in the world; and so shall Thy name no where be found but in Israel. ³⁵Or when was it that they which dwell upon the earth have no sinned in Thy sight? or what people have so kept Thy commandments? ³⁶Thou shalt find that Israel by name hath kept Thy precepts; but not the heathen.

CHAPTER 4

And the angel that was sent unto me, whose name was Uriel, gave me an answer, ²and said, Thy heart hath gone too far in this world, and thinkest thou to comprehend the way of the Most High? ³Then said I, Yea, my lord. And he answered me, and said, I am sent to shew thee three ways, and to set forth three similitudes before thee: ⁴whereof if thou canst declare me one, I will shew thee also the way that thou desirest to see, and I shall shew thee from whence the wicked heart cometh. ⁵And I said, Tell on, my lord. Then said he unto me, Go thy way, weigh me the weight of the fire, or measure me the blast of the wind, or call me again the day that is past.

⁶Then answered I and said, What man is able to do that, that thou shouldest ask such things of me? ⁷And he said unto me, If I should ask thee how great dwellings are in the midst of the sea, or how many springs are in the beginning of the deep, or how many springs are above the firmament, or which are the outgoings of paradise: ⁸peradventure thou wouldest say unto me, I never went down into the deep, not as yet into Hades, neither did I ever climb up into heaven. ⁹Nevertheless now have I asked thee but only of the fire and wind, and of the day wherethrough thou hast passed, and of things from which thou canst not be separated, and yet canst thou give me no answer of them.

¹⁰He said moreover unto me, Thine own things, and such as are grown up with thee, canst thou not know; ¹¹how should thy vessel then be able to comprehend the way of the Highest, and, the world being now outwardly corrupted, to understand the corruption that is evident in thy sight? ¹²Then said I unto him, It were better that we were not at all, than that we should live still in wickedness, and to suffer, and to know not wherefore. ¹³He answered me, and said, I went into a forest into a plain, and the trees took counsel, ¹⁴and said, Come, let us go and make war against the sea, that it may depart away before us, and that we may make us more woods. ¹⁵The floods of the sea also in like manner took counsel, and said, Come, let us go up and subdue the woods of the plain, that there also we may make us another country. ¹⁶The thought of the wood was in vain, for the fire came, and consumed it. ¹⁷The thoughts of the floods of the sea came likewise to nought, for the sand stood up and stopped them. ¹⁸If thou wert judge now betwixt these two, whom wouldest thou begin to justify? or whom wouldest thou condemn?

¹⁹I answered and said, Verily it is a foolish thought that they both have devised, for the ground is given unto the wood, and the sea also hath his place to bear his floods. ²⁰Then answered he me, and said, Thou hast given a right judgement, but why judgest thou not thyself also? ²¹For like as the ground is given unto the wood, and the sea to his floods: even so they that dwell upon the earth may understand nothing but that which is upon the earth: and he that dwelleth above the heavens may only understand the things that are above the height of the heavens. ²²Then answered I and said, I beseech thee, O lord, let me have understanding: ²³for it was not my mind to be curious of the high things, but of such as pass by us daily, namely, wherefore Israel is given up as a reproach to the heathen, and for what cause the people whom thou hast loved is given over to ungodly nations, and why the law of our forefathers is brought to nought, and the written covenants come to none effect, ²⁴and we pass away out of the world as grasshoppers, and our life is astonishment and fear, and we are not worthy to obtain mercy. ²⁵What then will He do unto His name whereby we are called? of these things have I asked.

²⁶Then answered he me, and said, The more thou searchest, the more thou shalt marvel; for the world hasteth fast to pass away, ²⁷and cannot comprehend the things that are promised to the righteous in time to come: for this world is full of unrighteousness and infirmities. ²⁸But as concerning the things whereof thou askest me, I will tell thee; for the evil is sown, but the destruction thereof is not yet come. ²⁹If therefore that which is sown be not turned upside down, and if the place where the evil is sown pass not away, then cannot it come that is sown with good. ³⁰For the grain of evil seed hath been sown in the heart of Adam from the beginning, and how much ungodliness hath it brought up unto this time? and how much shall it yet bring forth until the time of threshing come? ³¹Ponder now by thyself, how great fruit of wickedness the grain of evil seed hath brought forth. ³²And when the ears shall be cut down, which are without number, how great a floor shall they fill?

³³Then I answered and said, How, and when shall these things come to pass? wherefore are our years few and evil? ³⁴And he answered me, saying, Do not thou hasten above the Most Highest: for thy haste is in vain to be above Him, for thou hast much exceeded. ³⁵Did not the souls also of the righteous ask question of these things in their chambers, saying, How long shall I hope on this fashion? when cometh the fruit of the floor of our reward? ³⁶And unto these things Jeremiel the archangel gave them answer, and said, Even when the number of seeds is filled in you: for He hath weighed the world in the balance. ³⁷By measure hath He measured the times, and by number hath He numbered the times; and He shall not move nor stir them, until the said measure be fulfilled. ³⁸Then answered I and said, O Lord that bearest rule, even we all are full of impiety. ³⁹And for our sakes peradventure it is that the souls of the righteous are not filled, because of the sins of them that dwell upon the earth.

⁴⁰So he answered me, and said, Go thy way to a woman with child, and ask of her when she hath fulfilled her nine months, if her womb may keep the birth any longer within her. ⁴¹Then said I, No lord, that can she not. And he said unto me, In the grave the chambers of souls are like the womb of a woman: ⁴²for like as a woman that travaileth maketh haste to escape the necessity of the travail: even so do these places haste to deliver those things that are committed unto them. ⁴³From the beginning, look, what thou desirest to see, it shall be shewed thee.

⁴⁴Then answered I and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, and if it be possible, and if I be meet therefore, ⁴⁵shew me then whether there be more to come than is past, or more past than is to come. ⁴⁶What is past, I know, but what is for to come, I know not. ⁴⁷And he said unto me, Stand upon the right side, and I shall expound the similitude unto thee. ⁴⁸So I stood, and saw, and, behold, an hot burning oven passed by before me: and it happened, that when the flame was gone by I looked, and, behold, the smoke remained still. ⁴⁹After this there passed by before me a watery cloud, and sent down much rain with a storm; and when the stormy rain was past, the drops remained still.

⁵⁰Then said he unto me, Consider with thyself; as the rain is more than the drops, and as the fire is greater than the smoke; but the drops and the smoke remain behind: so the quantity which is past did more exceed. ⁵¹Then I prayed, and said, May I live, thinkest thou, until that time? or what shall happen in those days? ⁵²He answered me, and said, As for the tokens whereof thou askest me, I may tell thee of them in part: but as touching thy life, I am not sent to shew thee; for I do not know it.

CHAPTER 5

Nevertheless concerning the tokens: Behold, the days shall come that they which dwell upon earth shall be taken in a great number, and the way of truth shall be hidden, and the land shall be barren of faith. ²But iniquity shall be increased above that which now thou seest, or that thou hast heard long ago. ³And the land that thou seest now to have root shalt thou see wasted suddenly. ⁴But if the Most High grant thee to live, thou shalt see after the third trumpet that the sun shall suddenly shine again in the night, and the moon thrice in the day: ⁵and blood shall drop out of wood, and the stone shall give his voice, and the people shall be troubled. ⁶And even he shall rule whom they look not for that dwell upon the earth, and the fowls shall take their flight away together: ⁷and the Sodomitish sea shall cast out fish, and make a noise in the night, which many have not known: but they shall all hear the voice thereof. ⁸There shall be a confusion also in many places, and the fire shall be oft sent out again, and the wild beasts shall change their places, and monstrous women shall bring forth monsters: ⁹and salt waters shall be found in the sweet, and all friends shall destroy one another; then shall wit hide itself, and understanding withdraw itself into his secret

chamber, ¹⁰and shall be sought of many, and yet not be found: then shall unrighteousness and incontinency be multiplied upon earth. ¹¹One land also shall ask another, and say, Is righteousness that maketh a man righteous gone through thee? And it shall say, No. ¹²At the same time shall men hope, but nothing obtain: they shall labour, but their ways shall not prosper. ¹³To shew thee such tokens I have leave; and if thou wilt pray again, and weep as now, and fast seven days, thou shalt hear yet greater things.

¹⁴Then I awaked, and an extreme fearfulness went through all my body, and my mind was troubled, so that it fainted. ¹⁵So the angel that was come to talk with me, held me, comforted me, and set me up upon my feet. ¹⁶And in the second night it came to pass that Phaltiel the captain of the people came unto me, saying, Where hast thou been? and why is thy countenance so heavy? ¹⁷Knowest thou not that Israel is committed unto thee in the land of their captivity? ¹⁸Up then, and eat bread, and forsake us not, as the shepherd that leaveth his flock in the land of cruel wolves. ¹⁹Then said I unto him, Go thy ways from me, and come not nigh me. And he heard what I said, and went from me.

²⁰And so I fasted seven days, mourning and weeping, like as Uriel the angel commanded me. ²¹And after seven days so it was that the thoughts of my heart were very grievous unto me again. ²²And my soul recovered the spirit of understanding, and I began to talk with the Most High again, and said, ²³O Lord, that bearest rule, of every wood of the earth, and of all the trees thereof, Thou hast chosen Thee one only vine: ²⁴and of all the lands of the whole world Thou hast chosen Thee one pit: and of all the flowers thereof one lily: ²⁵and of all the depths of the sea thou hast filled Thee one river: and of all builded cities Thou hast hallowed Zion unto thyself: ²⁶and of all the fowls that are created Thou hast named Thee one dove: and of all the cattle that are made thou hast provided Thee one sheep: ²⁷and among all the multitudes of peoples Thou hast gotten Thee one people: and unto this people, whom Thou lovedst, Thou gavest a law that is approved of all. ²⁸And now, O Lord, why hast thou given over this people unto many? and upon the one root hast Thou prepared others, and why hast Thou scattered Thine only one people among many? ²⁹And they which did gainsay Thy promises, and believed not Thy covenants, have trodden them down ³⁰If Thou didst so much hate Thy people, yet shouldest Thou punish them with Thine own hands.

³¹Now when I had spoken these words, the angel that came to me the night afore was sent unto me, ³²and said unto me, Hear me, and I will instruct thee; hearken to the thing that I say, and I shall tell thee more. ³³And I said, Speak on, my lord. Then said he unto me, Thou art sore troubled in mind for Israel's sake: lovest thou that people better than He that made them? ³⁴And I said, No, lord: but of very grief have I spoken: for my reins pain me every hour, while I labour to comprehend the way of the Most High, and to seek out part of His judgement.

³⁵And he said unto me, Thou canst not. And I said, Why, lord? whereunto was I born then? or why was not my mother's womb then my grave, that I might not have seen the travail of Jacob, and the wearisome toil

of the stock of Israel? ³⁶And he said unto me, Number me the things that are not yet come, gather me together the drops that are scattered abroad, make me the flowers green again that are withered, ³⁷open me the places that are closed, and bring me forth the winds that in them are shut up, shew me the image of a voice: and then I will declare to thee the thing that thou labourest to know.

³⁸And I said, O Lord that bearest rule, who may know these things, but He that hath not His dwelling with men? ³⁹As for me, I am unwise: how may I then speak of these things whereof Thou askest me? ⁴⁰Then said he unto me, "As thou canst do none of these things that I have spoken of, even so canst thou not find out My judgement, or in the end the love that I have promised unto My people. ⁴¹And I said, Behold, O Lord, yet art Thou nigh unto them that be reserved till the end: and what shall they do that have been before me, or we that be now, or they that shall come after us? ⁴²And he said unto me, I will liken My judgement unto a ring: like as there is no slackness of the last even so there is no swiftness of the first. ⁴³So I answered and said, Coudest Thou not make those that have been made, and be now, and that are for to come, at once; that Thou mightiest shew Thy judgement the sooner? ⁴⁴Then answered he me, and said, The creature may not haste above the Maker; neither may the world hold them at once that shall be created therein. ⁴⁵And I said, As Thou hast said unto Thy servant, that Thou, Which givest life to all, hast give life at once to the creature that thou hast created, and the creature bare it: even so might it now also bear them that now be present at once.

⁴⁶And He said unto me, Ask the womb of a woman, and say unto her, If thou bringest forth children, why dost thou it not together, but one after another? pray her therefore to bring forth ten children at once. ⁴⁷And I said, She cannot: but must do it by distance of time. ⁴⁸Then said He unto me, Even so have I given the womb of the earth to those that be sown in it in their times. ⁴⁹For like as a young child may not bring forth the things that belong to the aged, even so have I disposed the world which I created. ⁵⁰And I asked, and said, Seeing Thou hast now given me the way, I will proceed to speak before Thee: for our mother, of whom Thou hast told me that she is young, draweth now nigh unto age. ⁵¹He answered me, and said, Ask a woman that beareth children, and she shall tell thee. ⁵²Say unto her, Wherefore are not they whom thou hast now brought forth like those that were before, but less of stature? ⁵³And she shall answer thee, They that be born in the strength of youth are of one fashion, and they that are born in the time of age, when the womb faileth, are otherwise. ⁵⁴Consider thou therefore also, how that ye are less of stature than those that were before you. ⁵⁵And so are they that come after you less than ye, as the creatures which now begin to be old, and have passed over the strength of youth.

⁵⁶Then said I, Lord, I beseech Thee, if I have found favour in Thy sight, shew Thy servant by whom Thou visitest Thy creation.

CHAPTER 6

And He said unto me, In the beginning, when the earth was made, before the borders of the world stood, or ever the winds blew, ²before it thundered and lightened, or ever the foundations of paradise were laid, ³before the fair flowers were seen, or ever the moveable powers were established, before the innumerable multitude of angels were gathered together, ⁴or ever the heights of the air were lifted up, before the measures of the firmament were made, or ever the chimneys in Zion were hot, ⁵and ere the present years were sought out, and or ever the inventions of them that now sin were turned, before they were sealed that have gathered faith for a treasure: ⁶then did I consider these things, and they were all made through Me alone, and through none other: by Me also they shall be ended, and by none other.

⁷Then answered I and said, What shall be the parting asunder of the times? or when shall be the end of the first, and the beginning of it that followeth? ⁸And He said unto me, From Abraham unto Isaac, when Jacob and Esau were born of him, Jacob's hand held first the heel of Esau. ⁹For Esau is the end of the world, and Jacob is the beginning of it that followeth. ¹⁰The hand of man is betwixt the heel and the hand: other question, Ezra, ask thou me not. ¹¹I answered then and said, O Lord that bearest rule, if I have found favour in Thy sight, ¹²I beseech Thee, shew Thy servant the end of Thy tokens, whereof Thou shewedst me part the last night. ¹³So He answered and said unto me, Stand up upon thy feet, and hear a mighty sounding voice. ¹⁴And it shall be as it were a great motion; but the place where thou standest shall not be moved. ¹⁵And therefore when it speaketh be not afraid; for the word is of the end, and the foundation of the earth is understood. ¹⁶And why? because the speech of these things trembleth and is moved: for it knoweth that the end of these things must be changed.

¹⁷And it happened, that when I had heard it, I stood up upon my feet, and hearkened, and, behold, there was a voice that spake, and the sound of it was like the sound of many waters. ¹⁸And it said, Behold, the days come, that I will begin to draw nigh, and to visit them that dwell upon the earth, ¹⁹and will begin to make inquisition of them, what they be that have hurt unjustly with their unrighteousness, and when the affliction of Zion shall be fulfilled; ²⁰and when the world, that shall begin to vanish away, shall be finished, then will I shew these tokens: the books shall be opened before the firmament, and they shall see all together: ²¹and the children of a year old shall speak with their voices, the women with child shall bring forth untimely children of three or four months old, and they shall live, and be raised up. ²²And suddenly shall the sown places appear unsown, the full storehouses shall suddenly be found empty: ²³and the trumpet shall give a sound, which when every man heareth, they shall be suddenly afraid. ²⁴At that time shall friends fight one against another like enemies, and the earth shall stand in fear with those that dwell therein, the springs of the fountains shall stand still, and in three hours they shall not run. ²⁵Whosoever remaineth from all

these that I have told thee shall escape, and see My salvation, and the end of your world. ²⁶And the men that are received shall see it, who have not tasted death from their birth: and the heart of the inhabitants shall be changed, and turned into another meaning. ²⁷For evil shall be put out, and deceit shall be quenched. ²⁸As for faith, it shall flourish, corruption shall be overcome, and the truth, which hath been so long without fruit, shall be declared.

²⁹And when He talked with me, behold, I looked by little and little upon him before whom I stood. ³⁰And these words said he unto me, I am come to shew thee the time of the night to come. ³¹If thou wilt yet pray more and fast seven days again, I shall tell thee greater things by day than I have heard. ³²For thy voice is heard before the Most High: for the Mighty hath seen thy righteous dealing, He hath also seen thy chastity, which thou hast had ever since thy youth. ³³And therefore hath He sent me to shew thee all these things, and to say unto thee, Be of good comfort, and fear not. ³⁴And hasten not with the times that are past, to think vain things, that thou mayest not hasten from the latter times.

³⁵And it came to pass after this, that I wept again, and fasted seven days in like manner, that I might fulfil the three weeks which he told me. ³⁶And in the eighth night was my heart vexed within me again, and I began to speak before the Most High. ³⁷For my spirit was greatly set on fire, and my soul was in distress. ³⁸And I said, O Lord, Thou spakest from the beginning of the creation, even the first day, and sadist thou; Let heaven and earth be made; and Thy word was a perfect work. ³⁹And then was the Spirit, and darkness and silence were on every side; the sound of man's voice was not yet formed. ⁴⁰Then commandedst Thou a fair light to come forth of Thy treasures, that Thy work might appear. ⁴¹Upon the second day Thou madest the spirit of the firmament, and commandedst it to part asunder and to make a division betwixt the waters, that the one part might go up, and the other remain beneath. ⁴²Upon the third day Thou didst command that the waters should be gathered in the seventh part of the earth: six parts hast thou dried up, and kept them, to the intent that of these some being planted of God and tilled might serve Thee. ⁴³For as soon as Thy Word went forth the work was made. ⁴⁴For immediately there was great and innumerable fruit, and many and divers pleasures for the taste, and flowers of unchangeable colour, and odors of wonderful smell: and this was done the third day. ⁴⁵Upon the fourth day Thou commandedst that the sun should shine, and the moon give her light, and the stars should be in order: ⁴⁶and gavest them a charge to do service unto man, that was to be made. ⁴⁷Upon the fifth day Thou sadist unto the seventh part, where the waters were gathered, that it should bring forth living creatures, fowls and fishes: and so it came to pass. ⁴⁸For the dumb water and without life brought forth living things at the commandment of God, that all people might praise Thy wondrous works. ⁴⁹Then Thou didst ordain two living creatures, the one Thou calledst Behemoth, and the other Leviathan; ⁵⁰and didst separate the one from the other: for the seventh part (namely, where the water was gathered together) might not hold them both. ⁵¹Unto Behemoth Thou gavest one part, which was dried up the third day,

that he should dwell in the same part, wherein are a thousand hills: ⁵²but unto Leviathan Thou gavest the seventh part, namely, the moist; and hast kept him to be devoured of whom Thou wilt, and when. ⁵³Upon the sixth day Thou gavest commandment unto the earth, that before Thee it should bring forth beasts, cattle, and creeping things: ⁵⁴and after these, Adam also, whom Thou madest lord of all Thy creatures: of him come we all, and the people also whom Thou hast chosen.

⁵⁵All this have I spoken before Thee, O Lord, because Thou madest the world for our sakes. ⁵⁶As for the other people, which also come of Adam, Thou hast said that they are nothing, but be like unto spittle: and hast likened the abundance of them unto a drop that falleth from a vessel. ⁵⁷And now, O Lord, behold these heathen, which have ever been reputed as nothing, have begun to be lords over us, and to devour us. ⁵⁸But we Thy people (whom Thou hast called Thy firstborn, Thine only begotten, and Thy fervent lover) are given into their hands. ⁵⁹If the world now be made for our sakes, why do we not possess an inheritance with the world? how long shall this endure?

CHAPTER 7

And when I had made an end of speaking these words, there was sent unto me the angel which had been sent unto me the nights afore: ²and he said unto me, Up, Ezra, and hear the words that I am come to tell thee. ³And I said, Speak on, my God. Then said he unto me, The sea is set in a wide place, that it might be great and deep. ⁴But put the case the entrance were narrow, and like a river; ⁵who then could go into the sea, to look upon it, and to rule it? If he went not through the narrow, how could he come into the broad? ⁶There is also another thing: A city is builded and set upon a broad field, and is full of all good things; ⁷the entrance thereof is narrow, and is set in a dangerous place to fall, like as if there were a fire on the right hand, and on the left a deep water: ⁸and one only path between them both, even between the fire and the water, so small that there could but one man go there at once. ⁹If this city now were given unto a man for an inheritance, if he shall never pass the danger set before it, how shall he receive this inheritance?

¹⁰And I said, It is so, Lord. Then said he unto me, Even so also is Israel's portion. ¹¹Because for their sakes I made the world: and when Adam transgressed My statutes, then was decreed that now is done. ¹²Then were the entrances of this world made narrow, full of sorrow and travail: they are but few and evil, full of perils, and very painful. ¹³For the entrances of the elder world wide and sure, and brought immortal fruit. ¹⁴If then they that live labour not to enter these strait and vain things, they can never receive those that are laid up for them. ¹⁵Now therefore why disquietest thou thyself, seeing thou art but a corruptible man? and why art thou moved, whereas thou art but mortal? ¹⁶Why hast thou not considered in thy mind this thing that is to come, rather than that which is present?

¹⁷Then answered I and said, O Lord that bearest rule, Thou hast ordained in Thy law that the righteous should inherit these things, but that the ungodly should perish. ¹⁸Nevertheless the righteous shall suffer strait things, and hope for wide: for they that have done wickedly have suffered the strait things, and yet shall not see the wide. ¹⁹And he said unto me, There is no judge above God, and none that hath understanding above the Highest. ²⁰For there be many that perish in this life, because they despise the law of God that is set before them. ²¹For God hath given strait commandment to such as came, what they should do to live, even as they came, and what they should observe to avoid punishment. ²²Nevertheless they were not obedient unto Him; but spake against Him, and imagined vain things; ²³and deceived themselves by their wicked deeds; and said of the Most High, that He is not; and knew not His ways: ²⁴but His law have they despised, and denied His covenants; in His statutes have they not been faithful, and have not performed His works. ²⁵And therefore, Ezra, for the empty are empty things, and for the full are the full things. ²⁶Behold, the time shall come, that these tokens that I have told thee shall come to pass, and the bride shall appear, and she coming forth shall be seen, that is now withdrawn from the earth. ²⁷And whosoever is delivered from the foresaid evils shall see My wonders. ²⁸For My son Jesus shall be revealed with those that be with Him, and they that remain shall rejoice within four hundred years. ²⁹After these years shall My son Christ die, and all men that have life. ³⁰And the world shall be turned into the old silence seven days, like as in the former judgments: so that no man shall remain. ³¹And after seven days the world, that yet awaketh not, shall be raised up, and that shall die that is corrupt. ³²And the earth shall restore those that are asleep in her, and so shall the dust those that dwell in silence, and the secret places shall deliver those souls that were committed unto them. ³³And the Most High shall appear upon the seat of judgment, and misery shall pass away, and the long suffering shall have an end: ³⁴but judgment only shall remain, truth shall stand, and faith shall wax strong: ³⁵and the work shall follow, and the reward shall be shewed, and the good deeds shall be of force, and wicked deeds shall bear no rule.

³⁶Then said I, Abraham prayed first for them of Sodom, and Moses for the fathers that sinned in the wilderness: ³⁷and Joshua after him for Israel in the time of Achan: ³⁸and Samuel and David for the destruction: and Solomon for them that should come to the sanctuary: ³⁹and Elijah for those that received rain; and for the dead, that he might live: ⁴⁰and Hezekiah for the people in the time of Sennacherib: and many for many. ⁴¹Even so now, seeing corruption is grown up, and wickedness increased, and the righteous have prayed for the ungodly: wherefore shall it not be so now also?

⁴²He answered me, and said, This present life is not the end where much glory doth abide; therefore have they prayed for the weak. ⁴³But the day of doom shall be the end of this time, and the beginning of the immortality for to come, wherein corruption is past, ⁴⁴intemperance is at an end, infidelity is cut off, righteousness is grown, and truth is sprung up.

⁴⁵Then shall no man be able to save him that is destroyed, not to oppress him that hath gotten the victory.

⁴⁶I answered then and said, This is my first and last saying, that it had been better not to have given the earth to Adam: or else, when it was given him, to have restrained him from sinning. ⁴⁷For what profit is it for men now in this present time to live in heaviness, and after death to look for punishment? ⁴⁸O thou Adam, what hast thou done? for though it was thou that sinned, thou art not fallen alone, but we all that come of thee. ⁴⁹For what profit is it, if there be promised us an immortal time, whereas we have done the works that bring death? ⁵⁰And that there is promised us an everlasting hope, whereas ourselves being most wicked are made vain? ⁵¹And that there are laid up for us dwellings of health and safety, whereas we have lived wickedly? ⁵²And that the glory of the Most High is kept to defend them which have led a wary life, whereas we have walked in the most wicked ways of all? ⁵³And that there should be shewed a paradise, whose fruit endureth for ever, wherein is security and medicine, since we shall not enter into it ⁵⁴(For we have walked in unpleasant places)? ⁵⁵and that the faces of them which have used abstinence shall shine above the stars, whereas our faces shall be blacker than darkness? ⁵⁶For while we lived and committed iniquity, we considered not that we should begin to suffer for it after death.

⁵⁷Then answered He me and said, This is the condition which man that is born upon earth shall fight; ⁵⁸that if he be overcome, he shall suffer as thou hast said: but if he get the victory, he shall receive the thing that I say. ⁵⁹For this is the life whereof Moses spake unto the people while he lived, saying, Choose thee life, that thou mayest live. ⁶⁰Nevertheless they believed not him, nor yet the prophets after him, no, nor me, which have spoken unto them, ⁶¹that there should not be such heaviness in their destruction, as shall be joy over them that are persuaded to salvation.

⁶²I answered then, and said, I know, lord, that the Most High is called merciful, in that He hath mercy upon them which are not yet come into the world, ⁶³and upon those also that turn to His law; ⁶⁴and that He is patient, and long suffereth those that have sinned, as His creatures; ⁶⁵and that He is bountiful, for He is ready to give where it needed; ⁶⁶and that He is of great mercy, for He multiplieth more and more mercies to them that are present, and that are past, and also to them which are to come. ⁶⁷For if He shall not multiply His mercies, the world would not continue with them that inherit therein. ⁶⁸And He pardoneth; for if He did not so of His goodness, that they which have committed iniquities might be eased of them, the ten thousandth part of men should not remain living. ⁶⁹And being judge, if He should not forgive them that are cured with His word, and put out the multitude of contentions, ⁷⁰that there should be very few left peradventure in an innumerable multitude.

CHAPTER 8

And he answered me, saying, The Most High hath made this world for many, but the world to come for few. ²I will tell thee a similitude, Ezra; As when thou asketh the earth, it shall say unto thee, that it giveth much mould whereof earthen vessels are made, but little dust that gold cometh of: even so is the course of this present world. ³There be many created, but few shall be saved.

⁴So answered I and said, Swallow then down understanding, O my soul, and devour wisdom. ⁵For thou hast agreed to give ear, and art willing to prophesy: for thou hast no longer space than only to live. ⁶O Lord, if Thou suffer not Thy servant, that we may pray before Thee, and Thou give us seed unto our heart, and culture to our understanding, that there may come fruit of it; how shall each man live that is corrupt, who beareth the place of a man? ⁷For Thou art alone, and we all one workmanship of Thine hands, like as thou hast said. ⁸For when the body is fashioned now in the mother's womb, and Thou givest it members, Thy creature is preserved in fire and water, and nine months doth Thy workmanship endure Thy creature which is created in her. ⁹But that which keepeth and is kept shall both be preserved: and when the time cometh, the womb preserved delivereth up the things that grew in it. ¹⁰For Thou hast commanded out of the parts of the body, that is to say, out of the breasts, milk to be given, which is the fruit of the breasts, ¹¹that the thing which is fashioned may be nourished for a time, till Thou disposest it to Thy mercy. ¹²Thou broughtest it up with Thy righteousness, and nurturedst it in Thy law, and reformedst it with Thy judgement. ¹³And Thou shalt mortify it as Thy creature, and quicken it as Thy work. ¹⁴If therefore Thou shalt destroy him which with so great labour was fashioned, it is an easy thing to be ordained by Thy commandment, that the thing which was made might be preserved. ¹⁵Now therefore, Lord, I will speak; touching man in general, Thou knowest best; but touching Thy people, for whose sake I am sorry; ¹⁶and for Thine inheritance, for whose cause I mourn; and for Israel, for whom I am heavy; and for Jacob, for whose sake I am troubled; ¹⁷therefore will I begin to pray before Thee for myself and for them: for I see the falls of us that dwell in the land. ¹⁸But I have heard the swiftness of the Judge Which is to come. ¹⁹Therefore hear my voice, and understand my words, and I shall speak before Thee.

This is the beginning of the words of Ezra, before he was taken up: and I said, ²⁰O Lord, Thou that dwellest in everlastingness, Which beholdest from above things in the heaven and in the air; ²¹Whose throne is inestimable; Whose glory may not be comprehended; before Whom the hosts of angels stand with trembling, ²²(Whose service is conversant in wind and fire,) Whose word is true, and sayings constant; Whose commandment is strong, and ordinance fearful; ²³Whose look drieth up the depths, and indignation maketh the mountains to melt away; Which the truth witnesseth: ²⁴O hear the prayer of Thy servant, and give ear to the petition of Thy creature. ²⁵For while I live I will speak, and so long as I have understanding I will answer. ²⁶O look not

upon the sins of Thy people; but on them which serve Thee in truth. ²⁷Regard not the wicked inventions of the heathen, but the desire of those that keep Thy testimonies in afflictions. ²⁸Think not upon those that have walked feignedly before Thee: but remember them, which according to Thy will have known Thy fear. ²⁹Let it not be Thy will to destroy them which have lived like beasts; but to look upon them that have clearly taught Thy law. ³⁰Take Thou no indignation at them which are deemed worse than beasts; but love them that always put their trust in Thy righteousness and glory. ³¹For we and our fathers do languish of such diseases: but because of us sinners Thou shalt be called merciful. ³²For if Thou hast a desire to have mercy upon us, Thou shalt be called merciful, to us namely, that have no works of righteousness. ³³For the just, which have many good works laid up with Thee, shall out of their own deeds receive reward. ³⁴For what is man, that Thou shouldest take displeasure at him? or what is a corruptible generation, that Thou shouldest be so bitter toward it? ³⁵For in truth there is man among them that be born, but he hath dealt wickedly; and among the faithful there is none which hath not done amiss. ³⁶For in this, O Lord, Thy righteousness and Thy goodness shall be declared, if Thou be merciful unto them which have not the confidence of good works.

³⁷Then answered he me, and said, Some things hast thou spoken aright, and according unto thy words it shall be. ³⁸For indeed I will not think on the disposition of them which have sinned before death, before judgement, before destruction: ³⁹but I will rejoice over the disposition of the righteous, and I will remember also their pilgrimage, and the salvation, and the reward, that they shall have. ⁴⁰Like as I have spoken now, so shall it come to pass. ⁴¹For as the husbandman soweth much seed upon the ground, and planteth many trees, and yet the thing that is sown good in his season cometh not up, neither doth all that is planted take root: even so it is of them that are sown in the world; they shall not all be saved.

⁴²I answered then and said, If I have found grace, let me speak. ⁴³Like as the husbandman's seed perisheth, if it come not up, and receive not Thy rain in due season; or if there come too much rain, and corrupt it: ⁴⁴even so perisheth man also, which is formed with Thy hands, and is called Thine own image, because Thou art like unto him, for whose sake Thou hast made all things, and likened him unto the husbandman's seed. ⁴⁵Be not wroth with us, but spare Thy people, and have mercy upon Thine own inheritance: for Thou art merciful unto thy creature.

⁴⁶Then answered He me, and said, Things present are for the present, and things to come for such as be to come. ⁴⁷For thou comest far short that thou shouldest be able to love thy creature more than I: but I have oftimes drawn nigh unto thee, and unto it, but never unto the unrighteous. ⁴⁸In this also thou art marvellous before the Most High: ⁴⁹in that thou hast humbled thyself, as it becometh thee, and hast not judged thyself worthy to be much glorified among the righteous. ⁵⁰For many great miseries shall be done to them that in the latter time shall dwell in the world, because they have walked in great pride. ⁵¹But understand thou for thyself, and seek out the

glory for such as be like thee. ⁵²For unto you is paradise opened, the tree of life is planted, the time to come is prepared, plenteousness is made ready, a city is builded, and rest is allowed, yea, perfect goodness and wisdom. ⁵³The root of evil is sealed up from you, weakness and the moth is hid from you, and corruption is fled into Hades to be forgotten: ⁵⁴sorrows are passed, and in the end is shewed the treasure of immortality. ⁵⁵And therefore ask thou no more questions concerning the multitude of them that perish. ⁵⁶For when they had taken liberty, they despised the Most High, thought scorn of His law, and forsook His ways. ⁵⁷Moreover they have trodden down His righteous, ⁵⁸and said in their heart, that there is no God; yea, and that knowing they must die. ⁵⁹For as the things aforesaid shall receive you, so thirst and pain are prepared for them: for it was not His will that men should come to nought: ⁶⁰but they which be created have defiled the name of Him that made them, and were unthankful unto Him Which prepared life for them. ⁶¹And therefore is My judgement now at hand. ⁶²These things have I not shewed unto all men, but unto thee, and a few like thee.

⁶³Then answered I and said, Behold, O Lord, now hast Thou shewed me the multitude of the wonders, which Thou wilt begin to do in the last times: but at what time, Thou hast not shewed me.

CHAPTER 9

He answered me then, and said, Measure thou the time diligently in itself: and when thou seest part of the signs past, which I have told thee before, ²then shalt thou understand, that it is the very same time wherein the Highest will begin to visit the world which He made. ³Therefore when there shall be seen earthquakes and uproars of the people in the world: ⁴then shalt thou understand that the Most High spake of those things from the days that were before thee, even from the beginning. ⁵For like as all that is made in the world hath a beginning and an end, and the end is manifest: ⁶even so the times also of the Highest have plain beginnings in wonders and powerful works, and endings in effects and signs. ⁷And every one that shall be saved, and shall be able to escape by his works, and by faith, whereby ye have believed, ⁸shall be preserved from the said perils, and shall see My salvation in My land, and within My borders: for I have sanctified them for Me from the beginning. ⁹Then shall they be in a pitiful state, which now have abused My ways: and they that have cast away despitefully shall dwell in torments. ¹⁰For such as in their life have received benefits, and have not known Me; ¹¹and they that have loathed My law, while they had yet liberty, and, when as yet place of repentance was open unto them, understood not, but despised it; ¹²the same must know it after death by pain. ¹³And therefore be thou not curious how the ungodly shall be punished, and when; but inquire how the righteous shall be saved, whose the world is, and for whom the world is created.

¹⁴Then answered I and said, ¹⁵I have said before, and now do speak, and will speak it also hereafter, that there be many more of them which perish, than of them which shall be saved: ¹⁶like as a wave is greater than a drop. ¹⁷And He answered me, saying, Like as the field is, so also is the seed; as the flowers be, such are the colours also; such as the workman is, such also is the work; and as the husbandman is himself, so is his husbandry also: for it was the time of the world. ¹⁸And now when I prepared the world, which was not yet made, even for them to dwell in that now live, no man spake against Me. ¹⁹For then every one obeyed: but now the manners of them which are created in this world that is made are corrupted by a perpetual seed, and by a law which is unsearchable rid themselves. ²⁰So I considered the world, and, behold, there was peril because of the devices that were come into it. ²¹And I saw, and spared it greatly, and have kept Me a grape of the cluster, and a plant of a great people. ²²Let the multitude perish then, which was born in vain; and let My grape be kept, and My plant; for with great labour have I made it perfect. ²³Nevertheless, if thou wilt cease yet seven days more, (but thou shalt not fast in them, ²⁴but go into a field of flowers, where no house is builded, and eat only the flowers of the field; taste no flesh, drink no wine, but eat flowers only;) ²⁵and pray unto the Highest continually, then will I come and talk with thee.

²⁶So I went my way into the field which is called Ardat, as He commanded me; and there I sat among the flowers, and did eat of the herbs of the field, and the meat of the same satisfied me. ²⁷After seven days I sat upon the grass, and my heart was vexed within me, like as before: ²⁸and I opened my mouth and began to talk before the Most High, and said, ²⁹O Lord, Thou that shewest Thyself unto us, Thou wast shewed unto our fathers in the wilderness, in a place where no man treddeth, in a barren place, when they came out of Egypt. ³⁰And Thou spakest, saying, Hear me, O Israel; and mark My words, thou seed of Jacob. ³¹For behold, I sow My law in you, and it shall bring fruit in you, and ye shall be honoured in it for ever. ³²But our fathers, which received the law, kept it not, and observed not Thine ordinances: and though the fruit of Thy law did not perish, neither could it, for it was Thine; ³³yet they that received it perished, because they kept not the thing that was sown in them. ³⁴And, lo, it is a custom, when the ground hath received seed, or the sea a ship, or any vessels meat or drink, that, being perished wherein it was sown or cast into, ³⁵that thing also which was sown or cast therein, or received, doth perish, and remaineth not with us: but with us it hath not happened so. ³⁶For we that have received the law perish by sin, and our heart also which received it. ³⁷Notwithstanding the law perisheth not, but remaineth in his force.

³⁸And when I spake these things in my heart, I looked back with mine eyes, and upon the right side I saw a woman, and, behold, she mourned and wept with a loud voice, and was much grieved in heart, and her clothes were rent, and she had ashes upon her head. ³⁹Then I let my thoughts go that I was in, and turned me unto her, ⁴⁰and said unto her, Wherefore weepest thou? why art thou so grieved in thy mind? ⁴¹And she said unto me, Sir, let

me alone, that I may bewail myself, and add unto my sorrow, for I am sore vexed in my mind, and brought very low. ⁴²And I said unto her, What aileth thee? tell me. ⁴³She said unto me, I thy servant have been barren, and had no child, though I had an husband thirty years. ⁴⁴And those thirty years I did nothing else day and night, and every hour, but make my prayer to the Highest. ⁴⁵After thirty years God heard me thine handmaid, looked upon my misery, considered my trouble, and gave me a son: and I was very glad of him, so was my husband also, and all my neighbours: and we gave great honour unto the Almighty. ⁴⁶And I nourished him with great travail. ⁴⁷So when he grew up, and came to the time that he should have a wife, I made a feast.

CHAPTER 10

And so it came to pass, that when my son was entered into his wedding chamber, he fell down, and died. ²Then we all overthrew the lights, and all my neighbours rose up to comfort me: so I took my rest unto the second day at night. ³And it came to pass, when they had all left off to comfort me, to the end that I might be quiet; then rose I up by night, and fled, and came hither into this field, as thou seest. ⁴And I do now purpose not to return into the city, but here to stay, and neither to eat nor drink, but continually to mourn and to fast until I die.

⁵Then left I the meditations wherein I was, and spake to her in anger, saying, ⁶Thou foolish woman above all other, seest thou not our mourning, and what happeneth unto us? ⁷How that Zion our mother is full of all heaviness, and much humbled, mourning very sore? ⁸And now, seeing we all mourn and are sad, for we are all in heaviness, art thou grieved for one son? ⁹For ask the earth, and she shall tell thee, that it is she that ought to mourn for the fall of so many that grow upon her. ¹⁰For out of her came all at the first, and out of her shall all others come, and, behold, they walk almost all into destruction, and a multitude of them is utterly rooted out. ¹¹Who then should make more mourning than she, that hath lost so great a multitude; and not thou, which art sorry but for one? ¹²But if thou sayest unto me, My lamentation is not like the earth's, because I have lost the fruit of my womb, which I brought forth with pains, and bare with sorrows; ¹³but the earth not so: for the multitude present in it according to the course of the earth is gone, as it came: ¹⁴then say I unto thee, Like as thou hast brought forth with labour; even so the earth also hath given her fruit, namely, man, ever since the beginning unto Him that made her. ¹⁵Now therefore keep thy sorrow to thyself, and bear with a good courage that which hath befallen thee. ¹⁶For if thou shalt acknowledge the determination of God to be just, thou shalt both receive thy son in time, and shalt be commended among women. ¹⁷Go thy way then into the city to thine husband. ¹⁸And she said unto me, That will I not do: I will not go into the city, but here will I die.

¹⁹So I proceeded to speak further unto her, and said, ²⁰Do not so, but be counseled by me: for how many are the adversities of Sion? be comforted

in regard of the sorrow of Jerusalem. ²¹For thou seest that our sanctuary is laid waste, our altar broken down, our temple destroyed; ²²our psaltery is laid on the ground, our song is put to silence, our rejoicing is at an end, the light of our candlestick is put out, the ark of our covenant is spoiled, our holy things are defiled, and the name that is called upon us is almost profaned: our children are put to shame, our priests are burnt, our Levites are gone into captivity, our virgins are defiled, and our wives ravished; our righteous men carried away, our little ones destroyed, our young men are brought in bondage, and our strong men are become weak; and, which is the greatest of all, the seal of Zion hath now lost her honour; for she is delivered into the hands of them that hate us. ²⁴And therefore shake off thy great heaviness, and put away the multitude of sorrows, that the Mighty may be merciful unto thee again, and the Highest shall give thee rest and ease from thy labour.

²⁵And it came to pass, while I was talking with her, behold, her face upon a sudden shined exceedingly, and her countenance glistened, so that I was afraid of her, and mused what it might be. ²⁶And, behold, suddenly she made a great cry very fearful: so that the earth shook at the noise of the woman. ²⁷And I looked, and, behold, the woman appeared unto me no more, but there was a city builded, and a large place shewed itself from the foundations: then was I afraid, and cried with a loud voice, and said, ²⁸Where is Uriel the angel, who came unto me at the first? for he hath caused me to fall into many trances, and mine end is turned into corruption, and my prayer to rebuke. ²⁹And as I was speaking these words, behold, he came unto me, and looked upon me. ³⁰And, lo, I lay as one that had been dead, and mine understanding was taken from me: and he took me by the right hand, and comforted me, and set me upon my feet, and said unto me, ³¹What aileth thee? and why art thou so disquieted? and why is thine understanding troubled, and the thoughts of thine heart? ³²And I said, Because thou hast forsaken me, and yet I did according to thy words, and I went into the field, and, lo, I have seen, and yet see, that I am not able to express. ³³And he said unto me, Stand up manfully, and I will advise thee. ³⁴Then said I, Speak on, my lord, in me; only forsake me not, lest I die frustrate of my hope. ³⁵For I have seen that I know not, and hear that I do not know. ³⁶Or is my sense deceived, or my soul in a dream? ³⁷Now therefore I beseech thee that thou wilt shew thy servant of this vision.

³⁸He answered me then, and said, Hear me, and I shall inform thee, and tell thee wherefore thou art afraid: for the Highest will reveal many secret things unto thee. ³⁹He hath seen that thy way is right, for thou sorrowest continually for thy people, and makest great lamentation for Zion. ⁴⁰This therefore is the meaning of the vision which thou lately sawest: ⁴¹thou sawest a woman mourning, and thou beganest to comfort her; ⁴²but now seest thou the likeness of the woman no more, but there appeared unto thee a city builded. ⁴³And whereas she told thee of the death of her son, this is the solution: ⁴⁴This woman, whom thou sawest, is Zion: and whereas she said unto thee, (even she whom thou seest as a city builded,) ⁴⁵whereas, I say, she said unto thee, that she hath been thirty years barren: those are the thirty

years wherein on offering was made in her. ⁴⁶But after thirty years Solomon builded the city, and offered offerings: and then bare the barren a son. ⁴⁷And whereas she told thee that she nourished him with labour: that was the dwelling in Jerusalem. ⁴⁸But whereas she said unto thee, That my son coming into his marriage chamber happened to have a fall, and died: this was the destruction that came to Jerusalem. ⁴⁹And, behold, thou sawest her likeness, and because she mourned for her son, thou beganst to comfort her: and of these things that have chanced, these are to be opened unto thee. ⁵⁰For now the Most High seeth that thou art grieved unfeignedly, and sufferest from thy whole heart for her, so hath He shewed thee the brightness of her glory, and the comeliness of her beauty: ⁵¹and therefore I bade thee remain in the field where no house was builded: ⁵²for I knew that the Highest would shew this unto thee. ⁵³Therefore I commanded thee to go into the field, where no foundation of any building was. ⁵⁴For in the place where the Highest beginneth to shew His city, there can no man's building be able to stand. ⁵⁵And therefore fear not, let not thine heart be affrighted, but go thy way in, and see the beauty and greatness of the building, as much as thine eyes be able to see: ⁵⁶and then shalt thou hear as much as thine ears may comprehend. ⁵⁷For thou art blessed above many other, and art called with the Highest; and so are but few. ⁵⁸But to morrow at night thou shalt remain here; ⁵⁹and so shall the Highest shew the visions of the high things, which the Most High will do unto them that dwell upon the earth in the last days. So I slept that night and another, like as he commanded me.

CHAPTER 11

Then saw I a dream, and behold, there came up from the sea an eagle, which had twelve feathered wings, and three heads. ²And I saw and, and behold, she spread her wings over all the earth, and all the winds of the air blew on her, and were gathered together. ³And I beheld, and out of her feathers there grew other contrary feathers, and they became little feathers and small. ⁴But her heads were at rest: the head in the midst was greater than the others, yet rested it with the residue. ⁵Moreover I beheld, and lo, the eagle flew with her feathers, and reigned upon earth, and over them that dwell therein. ⁶And I saw that all things under heaven were subject unto her, and no man spake against her, no, not one creature upon earth.

⁷And I beheld, and lo, the eagle rose upon her talons, and spake to her feathers, saying, ⁸Watch not all at once: sleep every one in his own place, and watch by course: ⁹but let the heads be preserved for the last. ¹⁰And I beheld, and lo, the voice went not out of her heads, but from the midst of her body. ¹¹And I numbered her contrary feathers, and behold, there were eight of them. ¹²And I looked, and behold, on the right side there arose one feather, and reigned over all the earth. ¹³And so it was, that when it reigned, the end of it came, and the place thereof appeared no more: so the next following stood up, and had a great time. ¹⁴And it happened, that when it reigned, the end of it

came also, like as the first, so that it appeared no more. ¹⁵Then came there a voice unto it, and said, ¹⁶Hear, thou that hast borne rule over all the earth so long: this I say unto thee, before thou beginnest to appear no more, ¹⁷there shall none after thee attain unto thy time, neither unto half thereof. ¹⁸Then arose the third, and reigned as the others before, and appeared no more also. ¹⁹So went it with all the residue one after another, as that every one reigned, and then appeared no more.

²⁰Then I beheld, and lo, in process of time the feathers that followed stood up upon the right side, that they might rule also; and some of them ruled, but within a while they appeared no more: ²¹for some of them were set up, but ruled not. ²²After this I looked, and behold, the twelve feathers appeared no more, nor the two little feathers: ²³and there was no more upon the eagle's body, but three heads that rested, and six little wings. ²⁴Then saw I also that two little feathers divided themselves from the six, and remained under the head that was upon the right side: for the four continued in their place. ²⁵And I beheld, and lo, the feathers that were under the wing thought to set up themselves, and to have the rule. ²⁶And I beheld, and lo, there was one set up, but shortly it appeared no more. ²⁷And the second was sooner away than the first. ²⁸And I beheld, and lo, the two that remained thought also in themselves to reign: ²⁹and when they so thought, behold, there awaked one of the heads that were at rest, namely, it that was in the midst, for that was greater than the other two heads. ³⁰And then I saw that the other two heads were joined with it. ³¹And behold, the head was turned with them that were with it, and did eat up the two feathers under the wing that would have reigned. ³²But this head put the whole earth in fear, and bare rule in it over all those that dwelt upon the earth with much oppression; and it had the governance of the world more than all the worlds that had been. ³³And after this I beheld, and lo, the head that was in the midst suddenly appeared no more, like as the wings. ³⁴But there remained the two heads, which also in like sort ruled upon the earth, and over those that dwelt therein. ³⁵And I beheld, and lo, the head upon the right side devoured it that was upon the left side.

³⁶Then I heard a voice, which said unto me, Look before thee, and consider the thing that thou seest. ³⁷And I beheld, and lo, as it were a roaring lion chased out of the wood: and I saw that he sent out a man's voice unto the eagle, and said, ³⁸Hear thou, I will talk with thee, and the Highest shall say unto thee, ³⁹Art not thou it that remainest of the four beasts, whom I made to reign in My world, that the end of their times might come through them? ⁴⁰And the fourth came, and overcame all the beasts that were past, and had power over the world with great fearfulness, and over the whole compass of the earth with much wicked oppression; and so long time dwelt he upon the earth with deceit. ⁴¹For the earth hast thou not judged with truth. ⁴²For thou hast afflicted the meek, thou hast hurt the peaceable, thou hast loved liars, and destroyed the dwellings of them that brought forth fruit, and hast cast down the walls of such as did thee no harm. ⁴³Therefore is thy wrongful dealing come up unto the Highest, and thy pride unto the Mighty. ⁴⁴The

Highest also hath looked upon the proud times, and behold, they are ended, and his abominations are fulfilled. ⁴⁵And therefore appear no more, thou eagle, nor thy horrible wings, nor thy wicked feathers, nor thy malicious heads, nor thy hurtful claws, not all thy vain body: ⁴⁶that all the earth may be refreshed, and may return, being delivered from thy violence, and that she may hope for the judgement and mercy of Him that made her.

CHAPTER 12

And it came to pass whiles the lion spake these words unto the eagle, I saw: ²and behold, they appeared no more, and the two went unto it, and set themselves up to reign, and their kingdom was small, and full of uproar. ³And I saw, and behold, they appeared no more, and the whole body of the eagle was burnt, so that the earth was in great fear: then awaked I out of the trouble and trance of my mind, and from great fear, and said unto my spirit, ⁴Lo, this thou hast done unto me, in that thou searchest out the ways of the Highest. ⁵Lo, yet am I weary in my mind, and very weak in my spirit: and little strength is there in me, for the great fear wherewith I was affrighted this night. ⁶Therefore will I now beseech the Highest, that He will comfort me unto the end. ⁷And I said, Lord, that bearest rule, if I have found grace before Thy sight, and if I am justified with Thee before many others, and if my prayer indeed be come up before Thy face; ⁸comfort me then, and shew me Thy servant the interpretation and plain difference of this fearful vision, that Thou mayest perfectly comfort my soul. ⁹For thou hast judged me worthy to shew me the last times.

¹⁰And He said unto me, This is the interpretation of the vision. ¹¹The eagle whom thou sawest come up from the sea, is the kingdom which was seen in the vision of thy brother Daniel. ¹²But it was not expounded unto him, therefore now I declare it unto thee. ¹³Behold, the days will come, that there shall rise up a kingdom upon earth, and it shall be feared above all the kingdoms that were before it. ¹⁴In the same shall twelve kings reign, one after another: ¹⁵whereof the second shall begin to reign, and shall have more time than any of the twelve. ¹⁶And this do the twelve wings signify, which thou sawest.

¹⁷As for the voice which thou heardest speak, and that thou sawest not to go out from the heads, but from the midst of the body thereof, this is the interpretation: ¹⁸that after the time of that kingdom there shall arise great strivings, and it shall stand in peril of falling: nevertheless it shall not then fall, but shall be restored against to his beginning. ¹⁹And whereas thou sawest the eight small under feathers sticking to her wings, this is the interpretation: ²⁰that in him there shall arise eight kings, whose time shall be but small, and their years swift. ²¹And two of them shall perish, the middle time approaching: four shall be kept until their end begin to approach: but two shall be kept unto the end.

²²And whereas thou sawest three heads resting, this the interpretation:
²³in his last days shall the Most High raise up three kingdoms, and renew many things therein, and they shall have the dominion of the earth, ²⁴and of those that dwell therein with much oppression, above all those that were before them: therefore are they called the heads of the eagle. ²⁵For these are they that shall accomplish his wickedness, and that finish his last end. ²⁶And whereas thou sawest that the great head appeared no more, it signifieth that one of them shall die upon his bed, and yet with pain. ²⁷For the two that remain shall be slain with the sword. ²⁸For the sword of the one shall devour the other: but at the last shall he fall through the sword himself. ²⁹And whereas thou sawest two feathers under the wings passing over the head that is on the right side: ³⁰it signifieth that these are they whom the Highest hath kept unto their end: this is the small kingdom and full of trouble, as thou sawest.

³¹And the lion, whom thou sawest rising up out of the wood, and roaring, and speaking to the eagle, and rebuking her for her unrighteousness with all the words which thou hast heard; ³²this is the Anointed, whom the Lord hath kept for them and for their wickedness unto the end: He shall reprove them, and shall upbraid them with their cruelty. ³³For He shall set them before Him alive in judgement, and shall rebuke them, and correct them. ³⁴For the rest of My people shall He deliver with mercy, those that have been preserved upon My borders, and he shall make them joyful until the coming of the day of judgement, whereof I have spoken unto thee from the beginning. ³⁵This the dream that thou sawest, and these are the interpretations. ³⁶Thou only hast been meet to know this secret of the Highest. ³⁷Therefore write all these things that thou hast seen in a book, and hide them. ³⁸And teach them to the wise of the people, whose hearts thou knowest may comprehend and keep these secrets. ³⁹But wait thou here thyself yet seven days more, that it may be shewed thee whatsoever it pleaseth the Highest to declare unto thee. And with that He went His way.

⁴⁰And it came to pass when all the people saw that the seven days were past, and I not come again into the city, they gathered them all together, from the least unto the greatest, and came unto me, and said, ⁴¹What have we offended thee? and what evil have we done against thee, that thou forsakes us, and sittest here in this place? ⁴²For of all the prophets thou only art left us, as a cluster of the vintage, and as a candle in a dark place, and as a haven or ship preserved from the tempest. ⁴³Are not the evils which are come to us sufficient? ⁴⁴If thou shalt forsake us, how much better had it been for us, if we also had been burnt in the midst of Zion? ⁴⁵For we are not better than they that died there. And they wept with a loud voice.

Then answered I them, and said, ⁴⁶Be of good comfort, O Israel, and be not heavy, thou house of Jacob: ⁴⁷for the Highest hath you in remembrance, and the Mighty hath not forsaken you in temptation. ⁴⁸As for me, I have not forsaken you, neither am I departed from you: but am come into this place, to pray for the desolation of Zion, and that I might seek mercy for the low estate

of your sanctuary. ⁴⁹And now go your way home every man, and after these days will I come unto you.

⁵⁰So the people went their way into the city, like a I commanded them: ⁵¹but I remained still in the field seven days, as the angel commanded me, and did eat only in those days of the flowers of the field, and had my meat of the herbs.

CHAPTER 13

And it came to pass after seven days, I dreamed a dream by night. ²And lo, there arose a wind from the sea, that it moved all the waves thereof. ³And I beheld, and lo, that Man waxed strong with the thousands of heaven: and when He turned His countenance to look, all the things trembled that were seen under Him. ⁴And whensoever the voice went out of His mouth, all they burned that heard His voice, like as the earth faileth when it feeleth the fire.

⁵And after this I beheld, and lo, there was gathered together a multitude of men, out of number, from the four winds of the heaven, to subdue the Man that came out of the sea. ⁶But I beheld, and lo, He had graved Himself a great mountain, and flew up upon it. ⁷But I would have seen the region or place whereout the hill was graven, and I could not. ⁸And after this I beheld, and lo, all they that were gathered together to subdue Him were sore afraid, and yet durst fight. ⁹And lo, as he saw the violence of the multitude that came, He neither lifted up His hand, nor held sword, nor any instrument of war: ¹⁰but only I saw that He sent out of His mouth as it had been a blast of fire, and out of His lips a flaming breath, and out of His tongue He cast out sparks and tempests. ¹¹And they were all mixed together; the blast of fire, the flaming breath, and the great tempest; and fell with violence upon the multitude which was prepared to fight, and burned them up every one, so that upon a sudden of an innumerable multitude nothing was to be perceived, but only dust and smell of smoke: when I saw this I was afraid.

¹²Afterward saw I the same Man come down from the mountain, and call unto Him another peaceable multitude. ¹³And there came much people unto Him, whereof some were glad, some were sorry, some of them were bound, and other some brought of them that were offered: then was I sick through great fear, and I awaked, and said, ¹⁴Thou hast shewed Thy servant these wonders from the beginning, and hast counted me worthy that Thou shouldest receive my prayer: ¹⁵shew me now yet the interpretation of this dream. ¹⁶For as I conceive in my understanding, woe unto them that shall be left in those days; and much more woe unto them that are not left behind. ¹⁷For they that were not left were in great heaviness. ¹⁸Now understand I the things that are laid up in the latter days, which shall happen unto them, and to those that are left behind. ¹⁹Therefore are they come into great perils and many necessities, like as these dreams declare. ²⁰yet it is easier for him that is in danger to come into these things, than to pass away as a cloud out of the world, and not to see the things that happen in the last days.

And he answered unto me, and said, ²¹The interpretation of the vision shall I shew thee, and I will open unto thee the thing that thou hast required. ²²Whereas thou hast spoken of them that are left behind, this is the interpretation. ²³He that shall endure the peril in that time hath kept himself: they that be fallen into danger are such as have works, and faith toward the Almighty. ²⁴Know this therefore, that they which be left behind are more blessed than they that be dead.

²⁵This is the meaning of the vision: whereas thou sawest a Man coming up from the midst of the sea: ²⁶the same is He whom God the Highest hath kept a great season, which by His own self shall deliver His creature: and He shall order them that are left behind. ²⁷And whereas thou sawest that out of His mouth there came as a blast of wind, and fire, and storm; ²⁸and that He held neither sword nor any instrument of war, but that the rushing of Him destroyed the whole multitude that came in to subdue Him, this is the interpretation: ²⁹behold, the days come, when the Most High will begin to deliver them them that are upon the earth. ³⁰And He shall come to the astonishment of them that dwell on the earth. ³¹And one shall undertake to fight against another, one city against another, one place against another, one people against another, and one realm against another. ³²And the time shall be when these things shall come to pass, and the signs shall happen which I shewed thee before, and then shall My Son be declared, Whom thou sawest as a Man ascending. ³³And when all the people hear His voice, every man shall in their own land leave the battle they have one against the other. ³⁴And an innumerable multitude shall be gathered together, as thou sawest them, willing to come, and to overcome Him by fighting. ³⁵But He shall stand upon the top of the mount Zion. ³⁶And Zion shall come and shall be shewed to all men, being prepared and builded, like as thou sawest the hill graven without hands. ³⁷And this My Son shall rebuke the wicked inventions of those nations, which for their wicked life are fallen into the tempest, ³⁸and shall lay before them their evil thoughts, and the torments wherewith they shall begin to be tormented, which are like unto a flame: and He shall destroy them without labour by the law which is like unto fire.

³⁹And whereas thou sawest that He gathered another peaceable multitude unto Him; ⁴⁰those are the ten tribes, which were carried away prisoners out of their own land in the time of Hosea the king, whom Shalmanasar the king of Assyria led away captive, and he carried them over the waters, and so came they into another land. ⁴¹But they took this counsel amongst themselves, that they would leave the multitude of the heathen, and go forth into a further country, where never mankind dwelt, ⁴²that they might there keep their statutes, which they never kept in their own land. ⁴³And they entered into Euphrates by the narrow passages of the river. ⁴⁴For the Most High then shewed signs for them, and held still the flood, till they were passed over. ⁴⁵For through that country there was a great way to go, namely, of a year and a half: and the same region is called Asareth. ⁴⁶Then dwelt they there until the latter time: and now when they shall begin to come, ⁴⁷the Highest shall stay the springs of the stream again, that they may go through:

therefore sawest thou the multitude with peace. ⁴⁸But those that be left behind of thy people are they that are found within My borders. ⁴⁹Now when He destroyeth the multitude of the nations that are gathered together, He shall defend His people that remain. ⁵⁰And then shall He shew them great wonders.

⁵¹Then said I, O Lord that bearest rule, shew me this: wherefore have I seen the Man coming up from the midst of the sea? ⁵²And He said, unto me, Like as thou canst neither seek out nor know the things that are in the deep of the sea: even so can no man upon earth see My Son, or those that be with Him, but in the daytime. ⁵³This is the interpretation of the dream which thou sawest, and whereby thou only art here lightened. ⁵⁴For thou hast forsaken thine own way, and applied thy diligence unto My law, and sought it. ⁵⁵Thy life hast thou ordered in wisdom, and hast called understanding thy mother. ⁵⁶And therefore have I shewed thee the treasures of the Highest: after three days I will speak other things unto thee, and declare unto thee mighty and wondrous things. ⁵⁷Then went I forth into the field, giving praise and thanks greatly unto the Most High because of His wonders, which He did in time, ⁵⁸and because He governeth the same, and such things as fall in their seasons: and there I sat three days.

CHAPTER 14

And it came to pass upon the third day, I sat under an oak, and behold, there came a voice out of a bush over against me, and said, Ezra, Ezra. ²And I said, Here am I, Lord. And I stood up on my feet. ³Then said He unto me, In the bush did I manifestly reveal Myself unto Moses, and talked with him, when My people served in Egypt. ⁴And I sent him, and led My people out of Egypt, and brought him up to the mount of Sinai, where I held him by Me a long season, ⁵and told him many wondrous things, and shewed him the secrets of the times, and the end, and commended him, saying, ⁶These words shalt thou declare, and these shalt thou hide. ⁷And now I say unto thee, ⁸that thou lay up in thy heart the signs that I have shewed, and the dreams that thou hast seen, and the interpretations which thou hast heard: ⁹for thou shalt be taken away from all, and from henceforth thou shalt remain with My Son, and with such as be like thee, until the times be ended. ¹⁰For the world hath lost his youth, and the times begin to wax old. ¹¹For the world is divided into twelve parts, and the ten parts of it are gone already, and half of a tenth part. ¹²And there remaineth that which is after the half of the tenth part. ¹³Now therefore set thy house in order, and reprove thy people, comfort such of them as be in trouble, and now renounce corruption. ¹⁴Let go from thee mortal thoughts, cast away the burdens of man, put off now the weak nature, ¹⁵and set aside the thoughts that are most heavy unto thee, and haste thee to fly from these times. ¹⁶For yet greater evils than those which thou hast seen happen shall be done hereafter. ¹⁷For look how much the world shall be weaker through age: so much the more shall evils increase upon them that

dwell therein. ¹⁸For the truth is fled far away, and leasing is hard at hand: for now hasteth the vision to come, which thou hast seen.

¹⁹Then answered I before Thee, and said, ²⁰Behold, Lord, I will go, as Thou hast commanded me, and reprove the people which are present: but they that shall be born afterward, who shall admonish them? thus the world is set in darkness, and they that dwell therein are without light. ²¹For Thy law is burnt, therefore no man knoweth the things that are done of Thee, or the works that shall begin. ²²But if I have found grace before Thee, send the Holy Spirit into me, and I shall write all that hath been done in the world since the beginning, which were written in Thy law, that men may find Thy path, and that they which will live in the latter days may live. ²³And He answered me, saying, Go thy way, gather the people together, and say unto them, that they seek thee not for forty days. ²⁴But look thou prepare thee many box trees, and take with thee Sarea, Dabria, Selemia, Ecanus, and Asiel, these five which are ready to write swiftly. ²⁵And come hither, and I shall light a candle of understanding in thy heart, which shall not be put out, till the things be performed which thou shalt begin to write. ²⁶And when thou hast done, some things shalt thou publish, and some things shalt thou shew secretly to the wise: to morrow this hour shalt thou begin to write.

²⁷Then went I forth, as He commanded, and gathered all the people together, and said, ²⁸Hear these words, O Israel. ²⁹Our fathers at the beginning were strangers in Egypt, from whence they were delivered: ³⁰and received the law of life which they kept not, which ye also have transgressed after them. ³¹Then was the land, even the land of Zion, parted among you by lot: but your fathers, and ye yourselves have done unrighteousness, and have not kept the ways which the Highest commanded you. ³²And forasmuch as He is a righteous judge, He took from you in time the thing that He had given you. ³³And now are you here, and your brethren among you. ³⁴Therefore if so be that you will subdue your own understanding, and reform your hearts, ye shall be kept alive, and after death ye shall obtain mercy. ³⁵For after death shall the judgement come, when we shall live again: and then shall the names of the righteous be manifest, and the works of the ungodly shall be declared. ³⁶Let no man therefore come unto me now, nor seek after me these forty days.

³⁷So I took the five men as He commanded me, and we went into the field, and remained there. ³⁸And the next day, behold, a voice called me, saying, Ezra, open thy mouth, and drink that I give thee to drink. ³⁹Then opened I my mouth, and behold, He reached me a full cup, which was full as it were with water, but the colour of it was like fire. ⁴⁰And I took it, and drank: and when I had drunk of it, my heart uttered understanding, and wisdom grew in my breast, for my spirit strengthened my memory. ⁴¹And my mouth was opened, and shut no more. ⁴²The Highest gave understanding unto the five men, and they wrote the wonderful visions of the night that were told, which they knew not: and they sat forty days, and they wrote in the day, and at night they ate bread. ⁴³As for me, I spake in the day, and held not my tongue by night. ⁴⁴In forty days they wrote two hundred and four books.

⁴⁵And it came to pass, when the forty days were fulfilled, that the Highest spake, saying, The first that thou hast written publish openly, that the worthy and unworthy may read it. ⁴⁶But keep the seventy last, that thou mayest deliver them only to such as be wise among the people: ⁴⁷for in them is the spring of understanding, the fountains of wisdom, and the streams of knowledge. ⁴⁸And I did so.

CHAPTER 15

Behold, speak thou in the ears of My people the words of prophecy, which I will put in thy mouth, saith the Lord: ²and cause them to be written in paper, for they are faithful and true. ³Fear not the imaginations against thee, let not the incredulity of them trouble thee, that speak against thee. ⁴For all the unfaithful shall die in their unfaithfulness.

⁵Behold, saith the Lord, I will bring plagues upon the world: the sword, famine, death, and destruction. ⁶For wickedness hath exceedingly polluted the whole earth, and their hurtful works are fulfilled. ⁷Therefore, saith the Lord, ⁸I will hold My tongue no more as touching their wickedness, which they profanely commit, neither will I suffer them in those things, in which they wickedly exercise themselves: behold, the innocent and righteous blood crieth unto Me, and the souls of the just complain continually. ⁹And therefore, saith the Lord, I will surely avenge them, and receive unto Me all the innocent blood from among them. ¹⁰Behold, My people is led as a flock to the slaughter: I will not suffer them now to dwell in the land of Egypt. ¹¹But I will bring them with a mighty hand and a stretched out arm, and smite Egypt with plagues as before, and will destroy all the land thereof. ¹²Egypt shall mourn, and the foundation of it shall be smitten with the plague and punishment that god shall bring upon it. ¹³They that till the ground shall mourn: for their seeds shall fail through the blasting and hail, and with a fearful constellation. ¹⁴Woe to the world and them that dwell therein. ¹⁵For the sword and their destruction draweth nigh, and one people shall stand up to fight against another, and swords in their hands. ¹⁶For there shall be sedition among men, and invading one another; they shall not regard their kings nor princes, and the course of their actions shall stand in their power. ¹⁷A man shall desire to go into a city, and shall not be able. ¹⁸For because of their pride the cities shall be troubled, and the houses shall be destroyed, and men shall be afraid. ¹⁹A man shall have no pity upon his neighbor, but shall destroy their houses with the sword, and spoil their goods, because of the lack of bread, and for great tribulation.

²⁰Behold, saith the Lord, I will call together all the kings of the earth to reverence Me, which are from the rising of the sun, from the south, from the east, and Lebanon: to turn themselves one against the other, and repay the things that they have done to them. ²¹Like as they do yet this day unto My chosen, so will I do also, and recompense in their bosom. Thus saith the Lord God, ²²My right hand shall not spare the sinners, and My sword shall not

cease over them that shed innocent blood upon earth. ²³The fire is gone forth from His wrath, and hath consumed the foundations of the earth, and the sinners, like the straw that is kindled. ²⁴Woe to them that sin, and keep not My commandments, saith the Lord. ²⁵I will not spare them: go your way, ye children, from the power, defile not My sanctuary: ²⁶for the Lord knoweth all them that sin against Him, and therefore delivereth He them unto death and destruction. ²⁷For now are the plagues come upon the whole earth, and ye shall remain in them, for God shall not deliver you, because ye have sinned against Him.

²⁸Behold, an horrible vision, and the appearance thereof from the east: ²⁹where the nations of the dragons of Arabia shall come out with many chariots, and the multitude of them shall be carried as the wind upon earth, that all they that hear them shall fear and tremble. ³⁰Also the Carmonians raging in wrath shall go forth as the wild boars of the wood, and with great power shall they come, and join battle with them, and shall waste a portion of the land of the Assyrians. ³¹And then shall the dragons have the upper hand, remembering their nature; and if they turn themselves, conspiring together in great power to persecute them, ³²then these shall be troubled, and keep silence through their power, and shall flee. ³³And from the land of the Assyrians shall the enemy besiege them, and consume some of them, and in their host shall be fear and dread, and strife among their kings.

³⁴Behold clouds from the east, and from the north unto the south, and they are very horrible to look upon, full of wrath and storm. ³⁵They shall smite one upon another, and they shall smite down a great multitude of stars upon the earth, even their own star; and blood shall be from the sword unto the belly, ³⁶and dung of men unto the camel's hock. ³⁷And there shall be great fearfulness and trembling upon earth: and they that see the wrath shall be afraid, and trembling shall come upon them. ³⁸And then shall there come great storms from the south, and the north, and another part from the west. ³⁹And strong winds shall arise from the east, and shall open it; and the cloud which He raised up in wrath, and the star stirred to cause fear toward the east and west wind, shall be destroyed. ⁴⁰The great and mighty clouds shall be lifted up full of wrath, and the star, that they may make all the earth afraid, and them that dwell therein; and they shall pour out over every high and eminent place an horrible star, ⁴¹fire, and hail, and flying swords, and many waters, that all fields may be full, and all rivers, with the abundance of great waters. ⁴²And they shall break down the cities and walls, mountains and hills, trees of the wood, and grass of the meadows, and their corn. ⁴³And they shall go steadfastly unto Babylon, and make her afraid. ⁴⁴They shall come to her, and besiege her, the star and all wrath shall they pour down upon her: then shall the dust and smoke go up unto the heaven, and all they that be about her shall bewail her. ⁴⁵And they that remain under her shall do service unto them that have put her in fear.

⁴⁶And thou, Asia, that art partaker of the hope of Babylon, and art the glory of her person, ⁴⁷woe be unto thee, thou wretch, because thou hast made thyself like unto her, and hast decked thy daughters in whoredom, that they

might please and glory in thy lovers, which have always desired to commit whoredom with thee. ⁴⁸Thou hast followed her that is hated in all her works and inventions: therefore saith God, ⁴⁹I will send plagues upon thee: widowhood, poverty, famine, sword, and pestilence, to waste thy houses with destruction and death. ⁵⁰And the glory of thy power shall be dried up as a flower, when the heat shall arise that is sent over thee. ⁵¹Thou shalt be weakened as a poor woman with stripes, and as one chastised with wounds, so that the mighty and lovers shall not be able to receive thee. ⁵²Would I with jealousy have so proceeded against thee, saith the Lord, ⁵³if thou hadst not always slain My chosen, exalting the stroke of thy hands, and saying over their dead, when thou was drunken, ⁵⁴Set forth the beauty of thy countenance? ⁵⁵The reward of thy whoredom shall be in thy bosom, therefore shalt thou receive recompense.

⁵⁶Like as thou hast done unto My chosen, saith the Lord, even so shall God do unto thee, and shall deliver thee into mischief. ⁵⁷Thy children shall die of hunger, and thou shalt fall through the sword: thy cities shall be broken down, and all thine shall perish with the sword in the field. ⁵⁸They that be in the mountains shall die of hunger, and eat their own flesh, and drink their own blood, for very hunger of bread, and thirst of water. ⁵⁹Thou, as unhappy, shalt come through the sea, and receive plagues again. ⁶⁰And in the passage they shall rush on the idle city, and shall destroy some portion of thy land, and consume part of thy glory, and shall return to Babylon that was destroyed. ⁶¹And thou shalt be cast down by them as stubble, and they shall be unto thee as fire, ⁶²and shall consume thee, and thy cities, thy land and thy mountains, all thy woods and thy fruitful trees shall they carry away captive, and, look, what thou hast, they shall spoil it, and mar the beauty of thy face.

CHAPTER 16

Woe be unto thee, Babylon, and Asia, woe be unto thee, Egypt, and Syria. ²Gird up yourselves with cloths of sack and hair, bewail your children, and be sorry, for your destruction is at hand. ³A sword is sent upon you, and who may turn it back? ⁴A fire is sent among you, and who may quench it? ⁵Plagues are sent unto you, and what is he that may drive them away? ⁶May any man drive away an hungry lion in the wood? or may any one quench the fire in stubble, when it hath begun to burn? ⁷May one turn again the arrow that is shot of a strong archer? ⁸The mighty Lord sendeth the plagues, and who is he that can drive them away? ⁹A fire shall go forth from His wrath, and who is he that may quench it? ¹⁰He shall cast lightnings, and who shall not fear? He shall thunder, and who shall not be afraid? ¹¹The Lord shall threaten, and who shall not be utterly beaten to powder at His presence? ¹²The earth quaketh, and the foundations thereof, the sea ariseth up with waves from the deep, and the waves of it are troubled, and the fishes thereof also before the Lord, and before the glory of His power: ¹³for strong is His

right hand that bendeth the bow, His arrows that he shooteth are sharp, and shall not miss when they begin to be shot into the ends of the world. ¹⁴Behold, the plagues are sent, and shall not return again, until they come upon the earth. ¹⁵The fire is kindled, and shall not be put out, till it consume the foundation of the earth. ¹⁶Like as an arrow which is shot of a mighty archer returneth not backward: even so the plagues that shall be sent upon earth shall not return again.

¹⁷Woe is me, woe is me, who will deliver me in those days? ¹⁸The beginning of sorrows and great mournings; the beginning of famine and great death; the beginning of wars, and the powers shall stand in fear; the beginning of evils: what shall I do when these evils shall come? ¹⁹Behold, famine and plague, tribulation and anguish, are sent as scourges for amendment. ²⁰But for all these things they shall not turn from their wickedness, nor be always mindful of the scourges. ²¹Behold, victuals shall be so good cheap upon earth, that they shall think themselves to be in good case, and even then shall evils grow upon earth, sword, famine, and great confusion. ²²For many of them that dwell upon earth shall perish of famine, and the others, that escape the hunger, shall the sword destroy. ²³And the dead shall be cast out as dung, and there shall be no man to comfort them, for the earth shall be wasted, and the cities shall be cast down. ²⁴There shall be no man left to till the earth, and to sow it. ²⁵The trees shall give fruit, and who shall gather them? ²⁶The grapes shall ripen, and who shall tread them? for all places shall be desolate of men: ²⁷so that one man shall desire to see another, and to hear his voice. ²⁸For of a city shall be ten left, and two of the field which shall hide themselves in the thick groves, and in the clefts of rocks. ²⁹As in an orchard of olives upon every tree there are left three or four olives; ³⁰or, as when a vineyard is gathered, there are left some clusters of them that diligently seek through the vineyard: ³¹even so in those days there shall be three or four left by them that search their houses with the sword. ³²And the earth shall be laid waste, and the fields thereof shall wax old, and her ways and all her paths shall grow full of thorns, because no man shall travel therethrough. ³³The virgins shall mourn having no bridegrooms, the women shall mourn having no husbands, their daughters shall mourn having no helpers. ³⁴In the wars shall their bridegrooms be destroyed, and their husbands shall perish of famine.

³⁵Hear now these things, and understand them, ye servants of the Lord. ³⁶Behold the word of the Lord, receive it: believe not the gods of whom the Lord spake. ³⁷Behold, the plagues draw nigh, and are not slack. ³⁸As when a woman with child in the ninth month bringeth forth her son, within two or three hours of her birth great pains compass her womb, which pains, when the child cometh forth, they slack not a moment: ³⁹even so shall not the plagues be slack to come upon the earth, and the world shall mourn, and sorrows shall come upon it on every side. ⁴⁰O My people, hear My word: make you ready to the battle, and in those evils be even as pilgrims upon the earth. ⁴¹He that selleth, let him be as he that fleeth away: and he that buyeth, as one that will lose: ⁴²he that occupieth merchandise, as he that had

no profit by it: and he that buildeth, as he that shall not dwell therein: ⁴³he that soweth, as if he should not reap: so also he that planteth the vineyard, as he that shall not gather the grapes: ⁴⁴they that marry, as they that shall get no children; and they that marry not, as the widowers. ⁴⁵And therefore they that labour, labour in vain: ⁴⁶for strangers shall reap their fruits, and spoil their goods, overthrow their houses, and take their children captives, for in captivity and famine shall they get children. ⁴⁷And they that occupy their merchandise with robbery, the more they deck their cities, their houses, their possessions, and their own persons: ⁴⁸the more will I be angry with them for their sin, saith the Lord. ⁴⁹Like as an whore envieth a right honest and virtuous woman: ⁵⁰so shall righteousness hate iniquity, when she decketh herself, and shall accuse her to her face, when he cometh that shall defend him that diligently searcheth out every sin upon earth. ⁵¹And therefore be ye not like thereunto, nor to the works thereof. ⁵²For yet a little, and iniquity shall be taken away out of the earth, and righteousness shall reign among you.

⁵³Let not the sinner say that he hath not sinned: for God shall burn coals of fire upon his head, which saith before the Lord God and His glory, I have not sinned. ⁵⁴Behold, the Lord knoweth all the works of men, their imaginations, their thoughts, and their hearts: ⁵⁵Which spake but the word, Let the earth be made, and it was made: Let the heaven be made, and it was created. ⁵⁶In His word were the stars made, and He knoweth the number of them. ⁵⁷He searcheth the deep, and the treasures thereof, He hath measured the sea, and what it containeth. ⁵⁸He hath shut the sea in the midst of the waters, and with His word hath He hanged the earth upon the waters. ⁵⁹He spreadeth out the heavens like a vault; upon the waters hath he founded it. ⁶⁰In the desert hath He made springs of water, and pools upon the tops of the mountains, that the floods might pour down from the high rocks to water the earth. ⁶¹He made man, and put his heart in the midst of his body, and gave him breath, life, and understanding. ⁶²Yea, and the Spirit of Almighty God, Which made all things, and searcheth out all hidden things in the secrets of the earth, ⁶³surely He knoweth your inventions, and what you think in your hearts, even them that sin, and would hide their sin. ⁶⁴Therefore hath the Lord exactly searched out all your works, and He will put you all to shame. ⁶⁵And when your sins are brought forth, ye shall be ashamed before men, and your own sins shall be your accusers in that day. ⁶⁶What will ye do? or how will ye hide your sins before God and His angels? ⁶⁷Behold, God Himself is the Judge, fear Him: leave off from your sins, and forget your iniquities to meddle no more with them for ever: so shall God lead you forth, and deliver you from all trouble. ⁶⁸For behold, the burning wrath of a great multitude is kindled over you, and they shall take away certain of you, and feed you, being idle, with things offered unto idols. ⁶⁹And they that consent unto them shall be had in derision and reproach, and trodden under foot. ⁷⁰For there shall be in every place, and in the next cities a great insurrection upon those that fear the Lord. ⁷¹They shall be like madmen, sparing none, but still spoiling and destroying those that fear the Lord. ⁷²For they shall lay waste and take away

their goods, and cast them out of their houses. ⁷³Then shall they be known, who are My chosen; and they shall be tried as the gold in the fire.

⁷⁴Hear, O ye My beloved, saith the Lord: behold the days of trouble are at hand, but I will deliver you from the same. ⁷⁵Be ye not afraid, neither doubt, for God is your guide, ⁷⁶and the guide of them which keep My commandments and precepts, saith the Lord God: let not your sins weigh you down, and let not your iniquities lift up themselves. ⁷⁷Woe be unto them that are bound with their sins, and covered with their iniquities, like as a field is covered over with bushes, and the path thereof covered with thorns, that no man may travel through. ⁷⁸It is left undressed, and is cast into the fire to be consumed therewith.

N.B.: The Prayer of Manasseh does not appear in the Greek Bible, although it forms part of the Byzantine Office of Compline.

THE PRAYER OF MANASSEH

O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and of their righteous seed; ²Who hast made the heaven and the earth, with all the adornment thereof; ³Who hast bound the sea by the word of Thy commandment; Who hast shut up the abyss, and sealed it with Thy terrible and glorious name; ⁴Whom all things revere, and tremble before the face of Thy power; ⁵for the majesty of Thy glory cannot be borne, and Thy threatening toward sinners is importable: ⁶but the mercy of Thy promise is unmeasurable and unsearchable; ⁷for thou art the Lord Most High, compassionate, longsuffering, and most merciful, repenting of the evils of men. Thou, O Lord, according to the abundance of Thy goodness hast proclaimed repentance and forgiveness to them that have sinned against Thee: and in the multitude of Thy kindnesses Thou hast decreed repentance to sinners unto salvation. ⁸Thou therefore, O Lord, the God of the just, hast not appointed repentance to the just, to Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, which have not sinned against Thee: but Thou hast appointed repentance unto me that am a sinner: ⁹for I have sinned above the number of the sand of the sea. My transgressions, O Lord, are multiplied; they are multiplied, and I am not worthy to behold or see the height of heaven for the multitude of mine iniquities, ¹⁰being bowed down with many iron bands, that I cannot lift up mine head, neither is there for me any release: for I have provoked Thy wrath, and done evil before Thee, not doing Thy will; neither keeping Thy commandments, but setting up abominations, and multiplying offences. ¹¹And now I bow the knee of mine heart, beseeching Thy goodness. I have sinned, ¹²O Lord; I have sinned, and I acknowledge my transgressions. ¹³But I pray and beseech Thee, release me, O Lord; release me, and destroy me not with my transgressions. Keep not Thou evils for me in anger for ever, neither condemn me to the lowest parts of the earth. For Thou art God, even the God of them that repent; ¹⁴and in me Thou wilt shew all Thy benevolence: for Thou wilt save me, that am unworthy, according to Thy great mercy. ¹⁵And I will praise Thee continually all the days of my life: for all the hosts of the heavens do sing praise unto Thee, and Thine is the glory for ever and ever. Amen.