

{15} Ezra

King James Version

King James Paraphrase

(18) And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which *is* at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses.

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

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

(21) And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat,

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

**Chapter 7**

(1) Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,

(2) The son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,

(18) And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which *is* at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses.

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

(20) Because the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them *were* pure, and killed the passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brothers the priests, and for themselves.

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

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

**Chapter 7**

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

(2) The son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,

6:19b - 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month {Nisan [Mar./Apr.]} - the required time of the Passover

- See Lev. 23:5-6

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

{15} Ezra

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King James Paraphrase

(3) The son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth,  
(4) The son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,  
(5) The son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest:  
(6) This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he *was* a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.  
(7) And there went up *some* of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.  
(8) And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which *was* in the seventh year of the king.  
(9) For upon the first *day* of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first *day* of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.  
(10) For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.  
(11) Now this *is* the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, *even* a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of his statutes to Israel.

(3) The son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth,  
(4) The son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,  
(5) The son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest:  
(6) This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he *was* a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD {Jehovah} God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD {Jehovah} his God upon him.  
(7) And there went up *some* of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims {temple servants}, to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.  
(8) And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month {Ab [July/Aug.]}, which *was* in the seventh year of the king.  
(9) Because upon the first *day* of the first month {Nisan [Mar./Apr]} he began to go up from Babylon, and on the first *day* of the fifth month {Ab [July/Aug.]} he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.  
(10) Because Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD {Jehovah}, and to do *it*, and to teach in Israel laws and judgments.  
(11) Now this *is* the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, *even* a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD {Jehovah}, and of His laws to Israel.

{15} Ezra

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King James Paraphrase

(12) Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect *peace*, and at such a time.  
(13) I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and *of* his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee.  
(14) Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which *is* in thine hand;  
(15) And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation *is* in Jerusalem,  
(16) And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which *is* in Jerusalem:  
(17) That thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house of your God which *is* in Jerusalem.  
(18) And whatsoever shall seem good to thee, and to thy brethren, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the will of your God.

(12) Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect *peace*, and at such a time.  
(13) I make a decree, that all those of the people of Israel, and *of* his priests and Levites, in my realm, who are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with you.  
(14) Forasmuch as you are sent by the king, and of his seven counselors, to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of your God which *is* in your hand;  
(15) And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose home *is* in Jerusalem,  
(16) And all the silver and gold that you can find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house {temple} of their God which *is* in Jerusalem:  
(17) That you may buy speedily with this money bulls, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house {temple} of your God which *is* in Jerusalem.  
(18) And whatsoever shall seem good to you, and to your brothers, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, who do after the will of your God.

{15} Ezra

King James Version

King James Paraphrase

(19) The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the house of thy God, *those* deliver thou before the God of Jerusalem.  
(20) And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow *it* out of the king's treasure house.  
(21) And I, *even* I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which *are* beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,  
(22) Unto an hundred talents of silver, and to an hundred measures of wheat, and to an hundred baths of wine, and to an hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing *how much*.  
(23) Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven: for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?  
(24) Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.

(19) The vessels also that are given you for the service of the house {temple} of your God, *those* deliver you before the God of Jerusalem.  
(20) And whatever more shall be needful for the house {temple} of your God, which you shall have occasion to give, give *it* out of the king's treasure house.  
(21) And I, *even* I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers who *are* beyond the river, that whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,  
(22) Up to a hundred talents {about 7,560 lbs.; 3,429 kg.}<sup>b</sup>of silver, and to a hundred measures {about 6,000 gal.; 625 bu.; 2,220 L.}<sup>c</sup>of wheat, and to a hundred baths {about 580 gal.; 2,200 L. }<sup>d</sup> of wine, and to a hundred baths {about 580 gal.; 2,200 L. } of oil, and salt without keeping record of *how much*.  
(23) Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house {temple} of the God of heaven: because why should there be anger against the realm of the king and his sons?  
(24) Also we certify to you, that concerning any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims {temple servants}, or ministers of this house {temple} of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.

7:22b - a talent = 75.6 lbs = 34.3 kilograms

7:22c - measures - homer {cor} [also spelled kor] = 10 epahs = 222 liters = 6.25 bushels = 240 quarts = about 60 gallons

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

{15} Ezra

King James Version

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(25) And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that *is* in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that *are* beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know *them* not.

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

(27) Blessed *be* the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put *such a thing* as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which *is* in Jerusalem:

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

**Chapter 8**

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

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

(25) And you, Ezra, after the wisdom of your God, that *is* in your hand set magistrates and judges, who may judge all the people who *are* beyond the river, all such as know the laws of your God; and teach those who do not know *them*.

(26) And whoever will not do the law of your God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether *it be* to death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.

(27) Blessed *is* the LORD {Jehovah} God of our fathers, Who has put *such a thing* as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house {temple} of the LORD {Jehovah} which *is* in Jerusalem:

(28) And has extended mercy to me before the king, and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD {Jehovah} my God *was* upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me.

**Chapter 8**

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

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