

|14| Forasmuch as thou art sent of the Melech, and of his seven counselors, to inquire concerning Yehudah and Yerushalayim, according to the law of thy G-d which is in thine hand;

|15| And to carry the kesef and zahav, which the Melech and his counselors have freely offered unto the Elohei Yisroel, Whose habitation is in Yerushalayim,

|16| And all the kesef and zahav that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the Kohanim, offering willingly for the Beis Eloheihem which is in Yerushalayim;

|17| That thou mayest buy speedily with this kesef bulls, rams, lambs, with their minchot and their nesakhim, and offer them upon the Mizbe'ach of the Beis Eloheichem which is in Yerushalayim.

|18| And whatsoever shall seem good to thee, and to thy brethren, to do with the rest of the kesef and the zahav, that do according to the will of Eloheichem.

|19| The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the Beis of thy G-d, those deliver thou before the Elohei Yerushalayim.

|20| And whatsoever more shall be needful for the Beis of thy G-d, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the bais of treasuries of the Melech.

|21| And I, even I Artachshasta the Melech, do issue a decree to all the treasurers which are in Beyond-the-River [*Euphrates*], that whatsoever Ezra HaKohen, the Sofer of the law of the Elohei Shomayim, shall require of you, it be done speedily,

|22| Unto one hundred talents of kesef, and to one hundred cors of wheat, and to one hundred baths of wine, and to one hundred baths of oil, and unlimited melach (salt).

|23| Whatsoever is commanded by Elohei Shomayim, let it be diligently done for the Beis of Elohei Shomayim; for why should there be ketzaf (wrath) against the malchut of the Melech and his banim?

|24| Also we make known to you, that touching any of the Kohanim and Levi'im, singers, gatekeepers, Netinim, or ministers of this Beis Elohim, it shall not be lawful to impose tax, tribute, or duty, upon them.

|25| And thou, Ezra, after the chochmah of thy G-d, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are in Beyond-the-River [*Euphrates*], all such as know the laws of thy G-d; and teach ye them that know them not.

|26| And whosoever will not do the law of thy G-d, and the law of the Melech, let punishment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.

|27| Baruch Hashem Elohei Avoteinu, Who hath put such a thing as this in the lev HaMelech, to honor the Beis Hashem which is in Yerushalayim;

|28| And hath extended chesed unto me before HaMelech, and his counselors, and before all the mighty officials of the Melech. And I was strengthened because the Yad Hashem Elohai was upon me, and I gathered together out of Yisroel chief men to go up with me.

8 These are now the Rashei Avoteihem, and this is the register of them that went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artachshasta the Melech:

|2| Of the Bnei Pinchas, Gershom; of the Bnei Itamar, Daniel; of the Bnei Dovid, Chattush;

|3| Of the Bnei Shechanyah, of the Bnei Parosh, Zecharyah; and with him were reckoned by register of the zakhar 150.

|4| Of the Bnei Pachat-Moav, Elyehoeinai ben Zerachyah, and with him 200 zakhar.

|5| Of the Bnei Shechanyah, ben Yachziel, and with him 300 zakhar.

|6| Of the banim also of Adin, Eved ben Yonatan, and with him 50 zakhar.

|7| And of the Bnei Elam, Yeshayah ben Atalyah, and with him 70 zakhar.

|8| And of the Bnei Shephatyah, Zevadyah ben Michael, and with him 80 zakhar.

|9| Of the Bnei Yoav, Ovadyah ben Yechiel, and with him 218 zakhar.

|10| And of the Bnei Shlomit, ben Yosiphyah, and with him 160 zakhar.

|11| And of the Bnei Bevai, Zecharyah ben Bevai, and with him 28 zakhar.

|12| And of the Bnei Azgad, Yochanan ben Hakkatan, and with him 110 zakhar.

|13| And of the younger Bnei Adonikam, whose shmot are these, Eliphelet, Ye'iel, and Shemayah, and with them 60 zakhar.

|14| Of the banim also of Bigvai, Utai, and Zakkur, and with them 70 zakhar.

|15| And I gathered them together by the river that runneth to Ahava,