

- 12 אֲרַתְחַשְׁמֶתָא מֶלֶךְ מַלְכֵיָא לְעֹזְרָא כְהֵנָּא סֵפֶר  
דְתָא דִי-אֱלֹהֵי שְׁמַיָּא גְמִיר וְכַעֲנֵנָּה;
- 13 מְנִי שְׁיִים שְׁעִים דִּי כָל-מִתְנַדְּב בְּמַלְכוּתֵי  
מִן-עַמֵּי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכַהֲנֹהֵי וְלוֹוִיָּא לְמַהֲרָה  
לִירוּשָׁלַם עִמָּךְ יְהִי;
- 14 כָּל-קָבֵל דִּי מִן-קֳדָם מַלְכָּא וְשִׁבְעַת יְעֻמָּהֵי  
שְׁלִיחַ לְבַקְרָא עַל-יְהוּדָא וְלִירוּשָׁלַם בְּדַת  
אֱלֹהֵי דִי בִידְךָ;
- 15 וְלֵהֵי בְלָה פְסָף וְדָהֵב דִּי-מַלְכָּא וְיְעֻמָּהֵי  
הַתְנַדְּבוּ לְאֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל דִּי בִירוּשָׁלַם מְשַׁכְּנָה;
- 16 וְכָל פְסָף וְדָהֵב דִּי תְהַשְׁבַּח בְּכָל מְדִינַת בָּבֶל  
עִם הַתְנַדְּבוֹת עִמָּא וְכַהֲנֵיָּא מִתְנַדְּבִין לְבֵית  
אֱלֹהֵהֶם דִּי בִירוּשָׁלַם;
- 17 כָּל-קָבֵל דְנָה אִסְפְּרָנָא תְקֵנָּא בְּכִסְפָּא דְנָה  
תּוֹרִין דְכָרִין אִמְרִין וּמִנְחָתָהוֹן וְנִסְפֵי הוֹן  
וְתִקְרַב הַמּוֹ עַל-מִדְבָּחָה דִּי בֵית אֱלֹהֵכֶם דִּי  
בִירוּשָׁלַם;

12. Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Torah of the God of heaven, greetings:

13. Now 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 counselors, to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the Torah of thy God which is in thine hand;

15. And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counselors 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 temple 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 temple of your God which is in Jerusalem.

(Some scholars use a lunar calendar and compute from the time [445] that Nehemiah received a commission from the same king. However, in either case, Daniel's 69 "sevens" puts us in the time-frame of the ministry of Jesus.)