### Ezra

## Chapter 8

1Now, these are the heads of families and the genealogies of those who came with me from the kingdom of ArthaSastha, the king of Babylon:  
  
  
2From the descendants of PhiNehas there was:  
  
 GerSom.  
  
  
From the descendants of IthaMar there was:  
  
 DaniEl.  
  
  
From the descendants of David there was:  
  
 HatTush.  
  
  
3From the descendants of ShechaniJah and the sons of PharOsh there was:  
  
 ZechariAh, and with him were 150 that could trace their genealogies.  
  
  
4From the descendants of PahathMoab there was:  
  
 EliHoEnai (son of ZereHijah) and 200 males with him.  
  
  
5From the descendants of ShechaniJah there was:  
  
 AziEl and 300 males that came with him.  
  
  
6From the descendants of Adin there was:  
  
 Ebed (son of JoNathan) and 50 males that came with him;  
  
  
7From the descendants of ElAm there was:  
  
 IsaiJah (son of AthaliAh) and 70 males that came with him;  
  
  
8From the descendants of ShephatiJah there was:  
  
 ZebadiJah (son of MichaEl) and 80 males that came with him;  
  
  
9From the descendants of JoAb there was:  
  
 ObadiJah (son of JehiEl) and 218 males that came with him;  
  
  
10From the descendants of ShelomIth there was:  
  
 JoSephiJah and 160 males that came with him;  
  
  
11From the descendants of BebAi there was:  
  
 ZechariAh (son of BebAi) and 28 males that came with him;  
  
  
12From the descendants of AzGad there was:  
  
 JoHanan (son of HacKatan) and 110 males that came with him;  
  
  
13From the descendants of AdoniKam (the latter) there was:  
  
 EliPhelet, JeiEl, and ShemaiJah, and 60 males that came with them;  
  
  
14From the descendants of BigVai there was:  
  
 UthAi and ZaboUd, and 70 males that came with them.  
  
  
15I gathered them by the river that flows past Evi, where we camped for three days.  
  
But then I noticed that there were no Priests or Levites to be found among the people, 16so I sent [a message] to:  
  
 • EliEzer,  
 • AriEl,  
 • ShemaiJah,  
 • ElNathan,  
 • JaRib ElNatham,  
 • Nathan,  
 • ZechariAh, and   
 • MeshulLam (who were their leaders)  
  
...as well as to JoiArib and ElNathan (their supervisors), 17and told them to go see IdDo, the ruler of the area of CasiPhiJa.  
  
I told them to tell IdDo and their brothers the Nethinim (who were the treasurers of CasiPhiJa) to send us officials and singers for the Temple of our God... 18And because the hand of our God was good to us, a very wise man from among the sons of MahLi (a descendant of Levi, son of IsraEl) was sent to us, along with SherEbiJah and his sons and family (18 people).  
  
19Also, HashAbiJah and JeShaiJah from the family line of MeraRi and their families and sons (some 20 people) came with them. 20And from the Nethinim whom David had appointed to be in charge of the services for the Levites, there were 220 more that were all [chosen by] name.  
  
  
21Then I called for a fast there at the Ahava River to humble ourselves before our God and to ask Him to straighten the way for ourselves, our children, and our possessions, 22because I was ashamed to ask the king for troops and cavalry to protect us from our enemies along the way, since I’d told the king that the hand of our God would be with all those who search for good things from Him, and that His might and rage would come upon all those who abandon Him.  
  
23So, we fasted and [put our trust] in our God about this matter, and He listened to us.  
  
  
24Then I selected 12 of the leaders from among the Priests and 10 from among the brothers of SherEbiJah and HashAbiJa, 25and I assigned them [to watch over] the silver, gold, and the items of the first-fruits that were dedicated to the Temple of our God by the king, his counselors, his governors, and by all the people of IsraEl.  
  
26I handed over to their charge:  
  
 • Some 25 tons (22,700kg) of silver,  
 • 4 tons (3,600kg) of items made of silver,  
 • 3 tons (2,700kg) of gold, and  
 • 271,000 gold bowls weighing 20 pounds (9kg) each,  
 • Plus many items of shiny high-quality brass that was as good as gold.  
  
28And I said to them:  
  
 ‘Now, you are holy to Jehovah God, and these items of silver and gold are also holy, for they’re voluntary offerings to Jehovah the God of our ancestors.  
  
 29‘So, stay alert and watch over these things until we can hand them over to the Chief Priests, the Levites, and the heads of the families in JeruSalem for the place of worship in the Temple of Jehovah!’  
  
30Therefore, the Priests and Levites weighed all the silver, gold, and other items before they were to carry them to JeruSalem and to the Temple of our God.  
  
  
31Then we got up and left the Ahava River on the 12th day of the 1st month, as we started our journey towards JeruSalem, and the hand of our God was upon us, for He protected us from our enemies and everyone else along the way.  
  
32Well, when we finally arrived in JeruSalem, we [rested up] for three days... 33Then on the 4th day, we took all the silver, gold, and other items for the Temple of our God, and handed it over to:  
  
 • MeremOth (son of UriJah) the High Priest,  
 • EliEzer (son of PhiNehas),  
 • JoZabad (son of JoShua), and  
 • NoAdiJah (son of BinNai the Levite).  
  
34[And these men] weighed and recorded everything once again.  
  
35Then all those who had traveled with us in our return from captivity brought whole burnt offerings to the God of IsraEl, which consisted of:  
  
 • 12 calves (one for each of the tribes of IsraEl),  
 • 96 rams,  
 • 77 lambs, and   
 • 12 winter-yearling goats for the sin offering.  
  
It was all to be sacrificed as whole burnt offerings to Jehovah.  
  
36And thereafter (following the mandate that was given by the king and his administrators), the vassal kings on the other side of the river [provided the rest of the things that] the people needed for the Temple of God.