

the Lord at Jerusalem.

{2:8} Then the chief of the families of Judea 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,

{2:9} And 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 a great number whose minds were stirred up thereto.

{2:10} King Cyrus also brought forth the holy vessels, which Nabuchodonosor had carried away from Jerusalem, and had set up in his temple of idols.

{2:11} Now when Cyrus king of the Persians had brought them forth, he delivered them to Mithridates his treasurer:

{2:12} And by him they were delivered to Sanabassar the governor of Judea.

{2:13} And 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.

{2:14} So all the vessels of gold and of silver, which were carried away, were five thousand four hundred threescore and nine.

{2:15} These were brought back by Sanabassar, together with them of the captivity, from Babylon to Jerusalem.

{2:16} But in the time of Artaxerxes king of the Persians Belemus, and Mithridates, and Tabellius, and Rathumus, and Beeltethmus, and Semellius the secretary, with others that were in commission with them, dwelling in Samaria and other places, wrote unto him against them that dwelt in Judea and Jerusalem these letters following;

{2:17} To king Artaxerxes our lord, Thy servants, Rathumus the storywriter, and Semellius the scribe, and the rest of their council, and the judges that are in Celosyria and Phenice.

{2:18} Be it now known to the lord king, that the Jews that are 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 foundation of the temple.

{2:19} Now if this city and the walls thereof be made up again, they will not only refuse to give tribute, but also rebel against kings.

{2:20} And forasmuch as the things pertaining to the temple are now in hand, we think it meet not to neglect such a matter,

{2:21} 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:

{2:22} And thou shalt find in the chronicles what is written concerning these things, and shalt understand that that city was rebellious, troubling both kings and cities:

{2:23} And that the Jews were rebellious, and raised always wars therein; for the which cause even this city was

made desolate.

{2:24} Wherefore 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 Celosyria and Phenice.

{2:25} Then the king wrote back again to Rathumus the storywriter, to Beeltethmus, to Semellius the scribe, and to the rest that were in commission, and dwellers in Samaria and Syria and Phenice, after this manner;

{2:26} I have read the epistle which ye have sent unto me: therefore I commanded to make diligent search, and it hath been found that that city was from the beginning practising against kings;

{2:27} And the men therein were given to rebellion and war: and that mighty kings and fierce were in Jerusalem, who reigned and exacted tributes in Celosyria and Phenice.

{2:28} Now 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;

{2:29} And that those wicked workers proceed no further to the annoyance of kings,

{2:30} Then king Artaxerxes his letters being read, Rathumus, and Semellius 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.

{3:1} Now when Darius reigned, he made a great feast unto all his subjects, and unto all his household, and unto all the princes of Media and Persia,

{3:2} And to all the governors and captains and lieutenants that were under him, from India unto Ethiopia, of an hundred twenty and seven provinces.

{3:3} And 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.

{3:4} Then three young men, that were of the guard that kept the king's body, spake one to another;

{3:5} Let 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:

{3:6} As, to be clothed in purple, to drink in gold, and to sleep upon gold, and a chariot with bridles of gold, and an headtire of fine linen, and a chain about his neck:

{3:7} And he shall sit next to Darius because of his wisdom, and shall be called Darius his cousin.

{3:8} And then every one wrote his sentence, sealed it, and laid it under king Darius his pillow;

{3:9} And said that, when 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 the victory be given, as was appointed.

{3:10} The first wrote, Wine is the strongest.

{3:11} The second wrote, The king is strongest.

{3:12} The third wrote, Women are strongest: but above all things Truth beareth away the victory.

{3:13} Now when the king was risen up, they took their writings, and delivered them unto him, and so he read them:

{3:14} And sending forth he called all the princes of Persia and Media, and the governors, and the captains, and the lieutenants, and the chief officers;

{3:15} And sat him down in the royal seat of judgment; and the writings were read before them.

{3:16} And he said, Call the young men, and they shall declare their own sentences. So they were called, and came in.

{3:17} And he said unto them, Declare unto us your mind concerning the writings. Then began the first, who had spoken of the strength of wine;

{3:18} And he said thus, O ye men, how exceeding strong is wine! it causeth all men to err that drink it:

{3:19} It 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:

{3:20} It turneth also every thought into jollity and mirth, so that a man remembereth neither sorrow nor debt:

{3:21} And it maketh every heart rich, so that a man remembereth neither king nor governor; and it maketh to speak all things by talents:

{3:22} And when they are in their cups, they forget their love both to friends and brethren, and a little after draw out swords:

{3:23} But when they are from the wine, they remember not what they have done.

{3:24} O ye men, is not wine the strongest, that enforceth to do thus? And when he had so spoken, he held his peace.

{4:1} Then the second, that had spoken of the strength of the king, began to say,

{4:2} O ye men, do not men excel in strength that bear rule over sea and land and all things in them?

{4:3} But yet the king is more mighty: for he is lord of all these things, and hath dominion over them; and whatsoever he commandeth them they do.

{4:4} If 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.

{4:5} They 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.

{4:6} Likewise 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.

{4:7} And yet he is but one man: if he command to kill, they kill; if he command to spare, they spare;

{4:8} If he command to smite, they smite; if he command to make desolate, they make desolate; if he command to build, they build;

{4:9} If he command to cut down, they cut down; if he command to plant, they plant.

{4:10} So all his people and his armies obey him: furthermore he lieth down, he eateth and drinketh, and taketh his rest:

{4:11} And these keep watch round about him, neither may any one depart, and do his own business, neither disobey they him in any thing.

{4:12} O ye men, how should not the king be mightiest, when in such sort he is obeyed? And he held his tongue.

{4:13} Then the third, who had spoken of women, and of the truth, (this was Zorobabel) began to speak.

{4:14} O ye men, it is not the great king, nor the multitude of men, neither is it wine, that excelleth; who is it then that ruleth them, or hath the lordship over them? are they not women?

{4:15} Women have borne the king and all the people that bear rule by sea and land.

{4:16} Even of them came they: and they nourished them up that planted the vineyards, from whence the wine cometh.

{4:17} These also make garments for men; these bring glory unto men; and without women cannot men be.

{4:18} Yea, 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?

{4:19} And letting all those things go, do they not 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?

{4:20} A man leaveth his own father that brought him up, and his own country, and cleaveth unto his wife.

{4:21} He sticketh not to spend his life with his wife. and remembereth neither father, nor mother, nor country.

{4:22} By 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?

{4:23} Yea, a man taketh his sword, and goeth his way to rob and to steal, to sail upon the sea and upon rivers;

{4:24} And looketh upon a lion, and goeth in the darkness; and when he hath stolen, spoiled, and robbed, he bringeth it to his love.

{4:25} Wherefore a man loveth his wife better than father or mother.

{4:26} Yea, many there be that have run out of their wits for women, and become servants for their sakes.

{4:27} Many also have perished, have erred, and sinned, for women.

{4:28} And now do ye not believe me? is not the king great in his power? do not all regions fear to touch him?

{4:29} Yet did I see him and Apame the king's concubine, the daughter of the admirable Bartacus, sitting at the right hand of the king,

{4:30} And taking the crown from the king's head, and setting it upon her own head; she also struck the king with her left hand.

{4:31} And 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.

{4:32} O ye men, how can it be but women should be strong, seeing they do thus?

{4:33} Then the king and the princes looked one upon another: so he began to speak of the truth.

{4:34} O 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.

{4:35} Is he not great that maketh these things? therefore great is the truth, and stronger than all things.

{4:36} All the earth crieth upon the truth, and the heaven blesseth it: all works shake and tremble at it, and with it is no unrighteous thing.

{4:37} Wine 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.

{4:38} As for the truth, it endureth, and is alwaYs strong; it liveth and conquereth for evermore.

{4:39} With 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.

{4:40} Neither in her judgment is any unrighteousness; and she is the strength, kingdom, power, and majesty, of all ages. Blessed be the God of truth.

{4:41} And with that he held his peace. And all the people then shouted, and said, Great is Truth, and mighty above all things.

{4:42} Then 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.

{4:43} Then said he unto the king, Remember thy vow, which thou hast vowed to build Jerusalem, in the day when thou camest to thy kingdom,

{4:44} And 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.

{4:45} Thou also hast vowed to build up the temple, which the Edomites burned when Judea was made desolate by the Chaldees.

{4:46} And 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.

{4:47} Then Darius the king 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.

{4:48} He wrote letters also unto the lieutenants that were in Celosyria and Phenice, and unto them in Libanus, that they should bring cedar wood from Libanus unto Jerusalem, and that they should build the city with him.

{4:49} Moreover he wrote for all the Jews that went out of his realm up into Jewry, concerning their freedom, that no officer, no ruler, no lieutenant, nor treasurer, should forcibly enter into their doors;

{4:50} And 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:

{4:51} Yea, that there should be yearly given twenty talents to the building of the temple, until the time that it were built;

{4:52} And other ten talents yearly, to maintain the burnt offerings upon the altar every day, as they had a commandment to offer seventeen:

{4:53} And 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.

{4:54} He wrote also concerning the charges, and the priests' vestments wherein they minister;

{4:55} And likewise for the charges of the Levites, to be given them until the day that the house were finished, and Jerusalem builded up.

{4:56} And he commanded to give to all that kept the city pensions and wages.

{4:57} He 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.

{4:58} Now when this young man was gone forth, he lifted up his face to heaven toward Jerusalem, and praised the King of heaven,

{4:59} And said, From thee cometh victory, from thee cometh wisdom, and thine is the glory, and I am thy servant.

{4:60} Blessed art thou, who hast given me wisdom: for to thee I give thanks, O Lord of our fathers.

{4:61} And so he took the letters, and went out, and came unto Babylon, and told it all his brethren.

{4:62} And they praised the God of their fathers, because he had given them freedom and liberty

{4:63} To 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.

{5:1} 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.

{5:2} And Darius sent with them a thousand horsemen, till they had brought them back to Jerusalem safely, and with musical [instruments] tabrets and flutes.

{5:3} And all their brethren played, and he made them go up together with them.

{5:4} And these are the names of the men which went up, according to their families among their tribes, after their several heads.

{5:5} The priests, the sons of Phinees the son of Aaron: Jesus the son of Josedec, the son of Saraias, and Joacim the son of Zorobabel, the son of Salathiel, of the house of David, out of the kindred of Phares, of the tribe of Judah;

{5:6} Who 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.

{5:7} And these are they of Jewry that came up from the captivity, where they dwelt as strangers, whom Nabuchodonosor the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon.

{5:8} And they returned unto Jerusalem, and to the other parts of Jewry, every man to his own city, who came with Zorobabel, with Jesus, Nehemias, and Zacharias, and Reesaias, Enenius, Mardocheus. Beelsarus, Aspharusus, Reelius, Roimus, and Baana, their guides.

{5:9} The number of them of the nation, and their governors, sons of Phoros, two thousand an hundred seventy and two; the sons of Saphat, four hundred seventy and two:

{5:10} The sons of Ares, seven hundred fifty and six:

{5:11} The sons of Phaath Moab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve:

{5:12} The sons of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four: the sons of Zathul, nine hundred forty and five: the sons of Corbe, seven hundred and five: the sons of Bani, six hundred forty and eight:

{5:13} The sons of Bebai, six hundred twenty and three: the sons of Sadas, three thousand two hundred twenty and

two:

{5:14} The sons of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and seven: the sons of Bagoi, two thousand sixty and six: the sons of Adin, four hundred fifty and four:

{5:15} The sons of Aterezias, ninety and two: the sons of Ceilan and Azetas threescore and seven: the sons of Azuran, four hundred thirty and two:

{5:16} The sons of Ananias, an hundred and one: the sons of Arom, thirty two: and the sons of Bassa, three hundred twenty and three: the sons of Azephurith, an hundred and two:

{5:17} The sons of Meterus, three thousand and five: the sons of Bethlomon, an hundred twenty and three:

{5:18} They of Netophah, fifty and five: they of Anathoth, an hundred fifty and eight: they of Bethsamos, forty and two:

{5:19} They of Kiriathiarus, twenty and five: they of Caphira and Beroth, seven hundred forty and three: they of Pira, seven hundred:

{5:20} They of Chadias and Ammidoi, four hundred twenty and two: they of Cirama and Gabdes, six hundred twenty and one:

{5:21} They of Macalon, an hundred twenty and two: they of Betolius, fifty and two: the sons of Nephis, an hundred fifty and six:

{5:22} The sons of Calamolalus and Onus, seven hundred twenty and five: the sons of Jerechus, two hundred forty and five:

{5:23} The sons of Annas, three thousand three hundred and thirty.

{5:24} The priests: the sons of Jeddu, the son of Jesus among the sons of Sanasib, nine hundred seventy and two: the sons of Meruth, a thousand fifty and two:

{5:25} The sons of Phassaron, a thousand forty and seven: the sons of Carne, a thousand and seventeen.

{5:26} The Levites: the sons of Jessue, and Cadmiel, and Banuas, and Sudias, seventy and four.

{5:27} The holy singers: the sons of Asaph, an hundred twenty and eight.

{5:28} The porters: the sons of Salum, the sons of Jatal, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Dacobi, the sons of Teta, the sons of Sami, in all an hundred thirty and nine.

{5:29} The servants of the temple: the sons of Esau, the sons of Asipha, the sons of Tabaoth, the sons of Ceras, the sons of Sud, the sons of Phaleas, the sons of Labana, the sons of Graba,

{5:30} The sons of Acua, the sons of Uta, the sons of Cetab, the sons of Agaba, the sons of Subai, the sons of Anan, the sons of Cathua, the sons of Geddur,

{5:31} The sons of Airus, the sons of Daisan, the sons of Noeba, the sons of Chaseba, the sons of Gazera, the sons of

Azia, the sons of Phinees, the sons of Azare, the sons of Bastai, the sons of Asana, the sons of Meani, the sons of Naphisi, the sons of Acub, the sons of Acipha, the sons of Assur, the sons of Pharacim, the sons of Basaloth,

{5:32} The sons of Meeda, the sons of Coutha, the sons of Charea, the sons of Charcus, the sons of Aserer, the sons of Thomoi, the sons of Nasith, the sons of Atipha.

{5:33} The sons of the servants of Solomon: the sons of Azaphion, the sons of Pharira, the sons of Jeeli, the sons of Lozon, the sons of Israel, the sons of Sapheth,

{5:34} The sons of Hagia, the sons of Pharacareth, the sons of Sabi, the sons of Sarothie, the sons of Masias, the sons of Gar, the sons of Addus, the sons of Suba, the sons of Apherra, the sons of Barodis, the sons of Sabat, the sons of Allom.

{5:35} All the ministers of the temple, and the sons of the servants of Solomon, were three hundred seventy and two.

{5:36} These came up from Thermeleth and Thelersas, Charaathalar leading them, and Aalar;

{5:37} Neither could they shew their families, nor their stock, how they were of Israel: the sons of Ladan, the son of Ban, the sons of Necodan, six hundred fifty and two.

{5:38} And of the priests that usurped the office of the priesthood, and were not found: the sons of Obdia, the sons of Accoz, the sons of Addus, who married Augia one of the daughters of Barzelus, and was named after his name.

{5:39} And 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:

{5:40} For unto them said Nehemias and Atharias, that they should not be partakers of the holy things, till there arose up an high priest clothed with doctrine and truth.

{5:41} So of Israel, from them of twelve years old and upward, they were all in number forty thousand, beside menservants and womenservants two thousand three hundred and sixty.

{5:42} Their menservants and handmaids were seven thousand three hundred forty and seven: the singing men and singing women, two hundred forty and five:

{5:43} Four 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.

{5:44} And 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,

{5:45} And to give into the holy treasury of the works a thousand pounds of gold, five thousand of silver, and an hundred priestly vestments.

{5:46} And 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.

{5:47} But when the seventh month was at hand, and when the children of Israel were every man in his own place, they came all together with one consent into the open place of the first gate which is toward the east.

{5:48} Then stood up Jesus the son of Josedec, and his brethren the priests and Zorobabel the son of Salathiel, and his brethren, and made ready the altar of the God of Israel,

{5:49} To offer burnt sacrifices upon it, according as it is expressly commanded in the book of Moses the man of God.

{5:50} And 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 burnt offerings to the Lord both morning and evening.

{5:51} Also they held the feast of tabernacles, as it is commanded in the law, and offered sacrifices daily, as was meet:

{5:52} And after that, the continual oblations, and the sacrifice of the sabbaths, and of the new moons, and of all holy feasts.

{5:53} And 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.

{5:54} And they gave unto the masons and carpenters money, meat, and drink, with cheerfulness.

{5:55} Unto them of Zidon also and Tyre they gave carrs, that they should bring cedar trees from Libanus, which should be brought by floats to the haven of Joppa, according as it was commanded them by Cyrus king of the Persians.

{5:56} And in the second year and second month after his coming to the temple of God at Jerusalem began Zorobabel the son of Salathiel, and Jesus the son of Josedec, and their brethren, and the priests, and the Levites, and all they that were come unto Jerusalem out of the captivity:

{5:57} And 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 Jewry and Jerusalem.

{5:58} And they appointed the Levites from twenty years old over the works of the Lord. Then stood up Jesus, and his sons and brethren, and Cadmiel his brother, and the sons of Madiabun, with the sons of Joda the son of Eliadun, with their sons and brethren, all Levites, with one accord setters forward of the business, labouring to advance the works in the house of God. So the workmen built the temple of the Lord.

{5:59} And the priests stood arrayed in their vestments with musical instruments and trumpets; and the Levites the sons of Asaph had cymbals,

{5:60} Singing songs of thanksgiving, and praising the Lord, according as David the king of Israel had ordained.

{5:61} And they sung with loud voices songs to the praise of the Lord, because his mercy and glory is for ever in all Israel.

{5:62} And 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.

{5:63} Also of the priests and Levites, and of the chief of their families, the ancients who had seen the former house came to the building of this with weeping and great crying.

{5:64} But many with trumpets and joy shouted with loud voice,

{5:65} Insomuch that the trumpets might not be heard for the weeping of the people: yet the multitude sounded marvellously, so that it was heard afar off.

{5:66} Wherefore when the enemies of the tribe of Judah and Benjamin heard it, they came to know what that noise of trumpets should mean.

{5:67} And they perceived that they that were of the captivity did build the temple unto the Lord God of Israel.

{5:68} So they went to Zorobabel and Jesus, and to the chief of the families, and said unto them, We will build together with you.

{5:69} For we likewise, as ye, do obey your Lord, and do sacrifice unto him from the days of Azbarezeth the king of the Assyrians, who brought us hither.

{5:70} Then Zorobabel and Jesus 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.

{5:71} We ourselves alone will build unto the Lord of Israel, according as Cyrus the king of the Persians hath commanded us.

{5:72} But the heathen of the land lying heavy upon the inhabitants of Judea, and holding them strait, hindered their building;

{5:73} And by their secret plots, and popular persuasions and commotions, they hindered the finishing of the building all the time that king Cyrus lived: so they were hindered from building for the space of two years, until the reign of Darius.

{6:1} Now in the second year of the reign of Darius Aggeus and Zacharias the son of Addo, the prophets, prophesied unto the Jews in Jewry and Jerusalem in the name of the Lord God of Israel, which was upon them.

{6:2} Then stood up Zorobabel the son of Salatiel, and Jesus the son of Josedec, and began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, the prophets of the Lord being with them, and helping them.

{6:3} At the same time came unto them Sisinnus the governor of Syria and Phenice, with Sathrabuzanes and his companions, and said unto them,

{6:4} By 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?

{6:5} Nevertheless the elders of the Jews obtained favour, because the Lord had visited the captivity;

{6:6} And they were not hindered from building, until such time as signification was given unto Darius concerning them, and an answer received.

{6:7} The copy of the letters which Sisinnus, governor of Syria and Phenice, and Sathrabuzanes, with their companions, rulers in Syria and Phenice, wrote and sent unto Darius; To king Darius, greeting:

{6:8} Let 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 ancients of the Jews that were of the captivity

{6:9} Building an house unto the Lord, great and new, of hewn and costly stones, and the timber already laid upon the walls.

{6:10} And those works are done with great speed, and the work goeth on prosperously in their hands, and with all glory and diligence is it made.

{6:11} Then asked we these elders, saying, By whose commandment build ye this house, and lay the foundations of these works?

{6:12} Therefore 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.

{6:13} So they gave us this answer, We are the servants of the Lord which made heaven and earth.

{6:14} And as for this house, it was builded many years ago by a king of Israel great and strong, and was finished.

{6:15} But 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 Nabuchodonosor king of Babylon, of the Chaldees;

{6:16} Who pulled down the house, and burned it, and carried away the people captives unto Babylon.

{6:17} But in the first year that king Cyrus reigned over the country of Babylon Cyrus the king wrote to build up this house.

{6:18} And the holy vessels of gold and of silver, that Nabuchodonosor 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 Zorobabel and to Sanabassar the ruler,

{6:19} With 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 his place.

{6:20} Then the same Sanabassar, 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 fully ended.

{6:21} Now therefore, if it seem good unto the king, let search be made among the records of king Cyrus:

{6:22} And if it be found that the building of the house of