

THE FIRST BOOKE OF ESDRAS.

THE ARGVMENT OF THE BOOKES OF ESDRAS.

1. *Efdr.* 7. Esdras a holie Priest and Scribe, of the stocke of Aaron, by the line of Eleazar, vvriteth the hiftorie of Gods people, in, and presently after their captiuitie in Babilon: vvvhich *Nehemias* an other godlie Priest profecuteth, vvvhose booke is also called the second of Efdras, becaufe in the Hebrevv and Greke they are but one booke, relating the acts of them both. The other two books called *the third and fourth* of Efdras, touching the fame matter, are not in the Hebrew, nor *receiued into the Canon of holie Scripture*, though the Greke Church hold the third booke as Canonically, and placeth it first, becaufe it conteyneth thinges donne before the other.
- Epist. ad Paulin.* In the two here folowing, vvvhich are vndoubtedly holie Scripture S. Ierom sayth, that *Efdras and Nehemias (to witte the Helper, and Comforter from God) reftored the Temple, and built the walles of the citie; adding that al the troope of the people returning into their countrie, also the description of Priestes, Leuites, Ifraelites, Profelites, and the workes of walles and towres diuided by feuerall families, aliud in cortice præferunt, aliud in medulla retinent, shew one thing in the barke, kepe an other thing in the marrow:* signifying that this hiftorie hath both a literal, and a myftical fenfe. According to the letter, this first booke shevveth the reduction of Gods people from Babylon, in the first fix chapters. In the other foure, their instruction by Efdras after their returne.
- The two bookes of Efdras and Nehemias are but one in the Hebrew.
- The third and fourth are not canonical.
- This hiftorie hath also a spirital fenfe.
- First booke diuided into two partes.

Chapter 1

Cyrus king of Perfia moued by diuine inspiration, releafeth Gods people from captiuitie, with licenfe to returne and build the Temple in Ierufalem: 7. reftoring

The first part. The returne of Gods people from Babylon.

the holie veffel, which Nabuchodonofor had taken from thence.

In the firft yeare of Cyrus king of the Perfians, that the word of our Lord by the mouth of Ieremie might be accomplifhd, our Lord rayfed vp the fpirit of Cyrus king of Perfians: and he made proclamation in al his kingdom, yea by wryting, faying: ² Thus fayth Cyrus king of the Perfians: Al the kingdomes of the earth hath the Lord the God of heauen geuen me, & he hath commanded me that I fhould build him a houfe in Ierufalem, which is in Iewrie. ³ Who is there among you of al his people? His God be with him. Let him goe vp into Ierufalem, which is in Iewrie, and build the houfe of the Lord the God of Ifrael, he is the God that is in Ierufalem. ⁴ And let al the reft in al places wherfoeuer they dwel, let euery man of his place helpe him, with filuer and gold, and fubftance, and cattel, befides that which they offer voluntarily to the temple of God, which is in Ierufalem. ⁵ And there rofe vp the princes of the fathers of Iuda and Beniamin, & the Prieftes, and Leuites, and euerie one, whole fpirit God rayfed vp, to goe vp to build the temple of our Lord, which was in Ierufalem. ⁶ And al that were round about, ^adid helpe their handes in veffels of filuer, and of gold, in fubftance, and beaftes, in furniture, befides thofe thinges which they had offered voluntarily. ⁷ King Cyrus alfo brought forth the veffels of the temple of our Lord, which Nabuchodonofor had taken of Ierufalem, and had put them in the temple of his god. ⁸ But Cyrus the king of Perfians brought them forth by the hand of Mithridates the fonne of Gazabar, & numbred them to Saffabafar the prince of Iuda. ⁹ And this is the number of them; Phials of gold thirtie, phials of filuer a thoufand, kniues twentie nine, goblettes of gold thirtie, ¹⁰ goblettes of filuer of the fecond order, foure hundred tenne: other veffels a thoufand. ¹¹ Al the veffels of gold and filuer, fiue thoufand foure hundred:

*Ifaia 44. 45.
Ierem. 25.- 29.*

^a Liberally gaue fuch thinges into their handes.

Saffabafar tooke al with them, that went vp from the tranfmigration of Babylon into Ierufalem.

Chapter 2

The names and number of fpecial men, which returned vnder the conduct of Zorobabel into Ierufalem: 66. their fubftance of cattel, 68. and their oblations for the reedifying of the Temple.

And ^{a)}theſe are the children of the prouince, that went vp from the captiuitie, which Nabuchodonofor the king of Babylon had tranſported into Babylon, and returned into Ierufalem and Iuda, euerie man into his citie. ² They that came with Zorobabel, Iofue, Nehemia, Saraia, Rahelaia, Mardochai, Belfan, Meſphar, Beguai, Rehum, Baana. The number of the men of the people of Ifrael: ³ The children of Pharos, two thouſand an hundred feuentie two. ⁴ The children of Sephatia, three hundred feuentie two. ⁵ The children of Area, feuen hundred feuentie fue. ⁶ The children of Phahath Moab, of the children of Iofue: Iohab, two thouſand eight hundred fiftie foure. ⁷ The children of Aelam, a thouſand two hundred fiftie foure. ⁸ The children of Zethua, nine hundred fourtie fue. ⁹ The children of Zachai, feuen hundred fixtie. ¹⁰ The children of Bani, fix hundred fourtie two. ¹¹ The children of Bebai, fix hundred twentie three. ¹² The children of Azgad, a thouſand two hundred twentie two. ¹³ The children of Adonicam, fix hundred fixtie fix. ¹⁴ The children of Beguai, two thouſand fiftie fix. ¹⁵ The children of Adin, foure hundred fiftie foure. ¹⁶ The children of Ather, which were of Ezechias, ninetie eight. ¹⁷ The children of Befai, three hundred and twentie three. ¹⁸ The children of Iora, an hundred twelue. ¹⁹ The children of

^a This enumeration of the Ifraelites, which aſcended into Ierufalem, ſignifieth the Elect which aſcend from the militant Church to the triumphant.

Hafum, two hundred twentie three. ²⁰ The children of Gebbar, ninetie fue. ²¹ The children of Bethlehem, an hundred twentie three. ²² The men of Netupha, fiftie fix. ²³ The men of Anathoth, an hundred twentie eight. ²⁴ The children of Azmaueth, fourtie two. ²⁵ The children of Cariathiarim, Cephira, and Beroth, feuen hundred fourtie three. ²⁶ The children of Rama and Gabaa, fix hundred twentie one. ²⁷ The men of Machmas, an hundred twentie two. ²⁸ The men of Bethel and Hai, two hundred twentie three. ²⁹ The children of Nebo, fiftie two. ³⁰ The children of Megbis, an hundred fiftie fix. ³¹ The children of an other Ælam, a thoufand two hundred fiftie foure. ³² The children of Harim, three hundred twentie. ³³ The children of Lod Hadad and Ono, feuen hundred twentie fue. ³⁴ The children of Iericho, three hundred fourtie fue. ³⁵ The children of Senaa, three thoufand fix hundred thirtie. ³⁶ The Priestres: The children of Iadaia in the houle of Iofue, nine hundred feuentie three. ³⁷ The children of Emmer, a thoufand fiftie two. ³⁸ The children of Phefhur, a thoufand two hundred fourtie feuen. ³⁹ The children of Harim, a thoufand and feuentie. ⁴⁰ The Lewites: The children of Iofue and Cedmiel, the children of Odouia, feuentie foure. ⁴¹ The finging men: The children of Afaph, an hundred twentie eight. ⁴² The children of the Porters: the children of Sellum, the children of Ater, the children of Telmon, the children of Accub, the children of Hatita, the children of Sobai: al an hundred thirtie nine. ⁴³ The Natheneites: The children of Siha, the children of Hafupha, the children of Tabbaoth, ⁴⁴ the children of Ceros, the children of Siaa, the children of Phadon, ⁴⁵ the children of Lebana, the children of Hagaba, the children of Accub, ⁴⁶ the children of Hagab, the children of Semlai, the children of Hanan, ⁴⁷ the children of Gaddel, the children of Gaher, the children of Raaia, ⁴⁸ the children of Rafin, the children of Necoda, the children of Gazam, ⁴⁹ the children of Aza, the children of Phafea, the children of Befee, ⁵⁰ the children of Afena, the children of Munim, the children of Nephufim, ⁵¹ the children of Bacbuc, the children of Hacupha, the children of Harhur, ⁵² the

children of Bessuth, the children of Mahida, the children of Harfa, ⁵³ the children of Bercos, the children of Sifara, the children of Thema, ⁵⁴ the children of Nafia, the children of Hatipha, ⁵⁵ the children of the seruants of Salomon, the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Pharuda, ⁵⁶ the children of Iala, the children of Dercon, the childrẽ of Geddel, ⁵⁷ the children of Saphatia, the children of Hatil, the children of Phochereth, which were of Afebaim, the children of Ami. ⁵⁸ Al the Nathineites, and the children of the seruantes of Salomon, three hundred ninetie two. ⁵⁹ And these are they that came vp from Thelmela, Thelharfa, Cherub, and Adon, and Emer. And they could not fheue the house of their fathers and their feede, whether they were of Ifrael. ⁶⁰ The children of Dalaia, the children of Tobia, the children of Necoda, fix hundred fiftie two. ⁶¹ And of the children of the Priestres: The children of Hobia, the children of Accos, the children of Berzellai, who tooke a wife of the daughters of Berzellai the Galaadite, and was called by their name: ⁶² these fought the writing of their genealogie, and ^a)found it not, and they were cast out of the Priesthood. ⁶³ And Atherfatha said to them, that they should not eate of the Holie of holies, til there rose a priest learned and perfect. ⁶⁴ Al the multitude as it were one man, ^b)fourtie two thousand three hundred fiftie: ⁶⁵ beside their men seruantes, & women seruantes, which were feuen thousand three hundred thirtie feuen: and among them finging men, and finging women two hundred. ⁶⁶ Their horses feuen hundred thirtie fix, their mules two hundred fourtie fieve, ⁶⁷ their camels, foure hundred thirtie fieve, their asses fix thousand feuen hundred twentie. ⁶⁸ And of the princes of the fathers, when they entred into the temple of our Lord, which is in

^a Such as say they are priestes and can not fheue their vocatiõ, must not exercise that function.

^b Al aboute numbred of the tribes of Iuda, Beniamin, & Leui, do not amount to 30. thousand three hundred. So in this general number are contained aboute twelue thousand of other tribes, not recited among the rest, as Rabbi Salomoa explicateth the difficultie.

Ierufalem, they offered voluntarily vnto the houle of our Lord to build it in his place. ⁶⁹ According to their abilities, they gaue the expences of the worke, of gold fixtie one thoufand foldes, of filuer fiue thoufand poundes, & garmentes for the priestes an hundred. ⁷⁰ The Priestes therfore & the Leuites, and they of the people, and the finging men, and the porters, and the Nathinaites dwelt in their cities, and al Ifrael in their cities.

Chapter 3

An Altar is built for facrifice. 4. The feaft of Tabernacles folemnly celebrated. 8. And in the fecond yeare (after their returne) the Temple is founded with great ioy of the people, and mourning of fome.

And now the feuenth moneth was come, and the children of Ifrael were in their cities: the people therfore was gathered together as it were one man into Ierufalem. ² And Iofue the fonne of Iofedec rofe vp, and his brethren the Priestes, and Zorobabel the fonne of Salathiel, and his brethren, and they built the altar of the God of Ifrael, that they might offer on it holocaustes, as it is writen in the law of Moyfes the man of God. ³ And they placed the altar of God vpon his feete, the people of the lands round about putting them ^ain feare, & they offered vpon it holocaust to our Lord morning and euening. ⁴ And they made the folemnitie of tabernacles, as it is writen, and holocaust euery day by order according to the præcept, the worke of the day in his day. ⁵ And after thefe thinges the continual holocaust, as wel in the Calendes, as in al the folemnities of our Lord, that were confecrated, and in al wherein there was offered voluntarily a gift to our Lord. ⁶ From the first day of the feuenth moneth they began to offer holocaust to our Lord: moreouer the temple of God was not yet

^a Notwithftanding the terrour of infideles, Gods feruantes tooke corage to offer facrifice.

founded. ⁷ And they gaue money to hewers of ftones and to mafons: meate alfo and drinke, and oyle to the Sidonians and Tyrians, that they fhould bring cedar trees from Libanus to the fea vnto Ioppe, according to that which Cyrus the king of the Perfians had commanded them. ⁸ And in the fecond yeare of their coming to the temple of God in Ierufalem, the fecond moneth, began Zorobabel the fonne of Salathiel, and Iofue the fonne of Iofedec, and the reft of their brethren the Prieftes, and the Leuites, and al that were come from the captiuitie into Ierufalem, and they appoynted Leuites from twentie yeares and vpward, that they fhould haften forward the worke of our Lord. ⁹ And Iofue ftood and his fonnes, and his brethren, Cedmihel, and his fonnes, and the children of Iuda, as it were one man, that they might be infant vpon them, that did the worke in the temple of God: the fonnes of Henadad, and their fonnes, and their brethren Leuites. ¹⁰ The temple therfore of our Lord being founded by the mafons, the Prieftes ftood in their attyre with trumpettes: and the Leuites the children of Afaph in cymbals, to prayfe God ^{a)}by the handes of Dauid the king of Ifrael. ¹¹ And they fang together in hymnes, and confeffion to our Lord: Becaufe he is good, becaufe his mercie is for euer vpon Ifrael. Al the people alfo made a fhoute with a lowde crie in praying our Lord, becaufe the temple of our Lord was founded. ¹² Verie manie alfo of the Prieftes and the Leuites, and the princes of the fathers, & the ancients, that had feene the former temple, when they faw this temple founded, ^{b)}they wept with a lowd voyce: and manie fhouting in ioy, lifted vp their voyce. ¹³ Neither could anie man difcerne the voice of the crie of them that reioyced, and the voice of the weeping of the people: for one with an

^a By the ordinance of Dauid. *1. Par. 25.*

^b By their weping they testified that the new temple was not fo excellent as the former. And therfore Aggeus prophecie (*c. 2.*) can not be vnderftood of this temple, but of the Church of Chrift. *S. Aug. li. 18. ciuit, c. 45.*

other the people flowted with a lowd crie, and the voice was heard far of.

Chapter 4

The Schifmatical Samaritanes, becaufe they are not admitted to communicate with the Iewes, endeouour to hinder the building of the Temple. 5. Which neuertheles procedeth, al the dayes of king Cyrus: 7. but is hindered by Artexerxes, til the fecond yeare of Darius.

But the enemies of Iuda and Beniamin heard that the children of the captiuitie built a temple to our Lord the God of Ifrael. ² And coming to Zorobabel, and the princes of the fathers, they fayd to them: Let vs build with you, becaufe ^aeuen as you, fo do we feeke your God: Behold we haue imolated victimes from the dayes of Afor Haddan the king of Aftur, which brought vs hither. ³ And Zorobabel fayd to them, and Iofue, and the reft of the princes of the fathers of Ifrael: It is not for you and vs to build a houle to our God, but we our felues alone wil build to the Lord our God, as Cyrus the king of the Perfians hath cōmanded vs. ⁴ It came to paffe therfore that the people of the land hindred the handes of the people of Iuda, and trubled them in building. ⁵ And they hyred counfelters agaynft them, to deftroy theyr counfel al the dayes of Cyrus the king of the Perfians, & vntil the reigne of Darius the king of the Perfians. ⁶ And in the reigne of Affuerus in the beginning of his reigne, they wrote an accusation againft the inhabitantes of Iuda and Ierufalem. ⁷ And in the dayes of Artaxerxes Befelam, Mitridates, & Thabeel, & the reft that were in theyr counfel writ to Artaxerxes king of the Perfians: and the epiftle of the accusation was writen in Syriake, and was read in the Sirian language. ⁸ Reum Beelteem,

^a Schifmatikes and Heretikes may not be admitted to communicate in facrifice with Catholiques.

and Samfai ſcribe wrote one epiftle from Ierufalem to Artaxerxes the king, of this tenure: ⁹ Reum Beelteem, and Samfai ſcribe, and the reſt of their counſelers, the Dineites, and the Apharfathaceites, the Terphaleites, the Apharfeites, the Erchueites, the Babylonians, the Sufanecheites, the Dieuites, and the Aclamites, ¹⁰ and the reſt of the Gentiles, which Aſenaphar the great and glorious tranſported: and made them dwell in the cities of Samaria, and in the reſt of the countries beyond the Riuer in peace: (¹¹ this is the copie of the epiftle, which they ſent to him) To Artaxerxes the king, thy ſeruantes, the men that are beyond the Riuer, ſend greeting. ¹² Be it known to the king, that the Iewes, which came vp from thee to vs, are come into Ierufalem a rebellious and naughtie citie, which they build making the rampyres thereof, and repayring the walles. ¹³ Now therefore be it known to the king, that if that citie ſhal be built, and the walles therof repayred, they will not geue tribute, and tolle, & yearly rentes, and this damage wil come euen to the kinges. ¹⁴ But we mindful of the falt that we haue eaten in the palace, and becauſe we count it heynous to ſee the kings harmes, therefore we haue ſent and certified the king, ¹⁵ that thou recount in the bookes of the hiſtories of thy fathers, and thou ſhalt finde writen in the commentaries: and ſhalt know that that citie is a rebellious citie, and hurtful to the kinges, and prouinces, and battels are rayfed in it of old time: for the which cauſe alſo the citie it ſelfe was deſtroyed. ¹⁶ We certifie the king, that if that citie ſhal be built, and the walles therof repayred, thou ſhalt haue no poſſeſſion beyond the Riuer. ¹⁷ The king ſent word to Reum Beelteem, and Samfai ſcribe, and to the reſt that were in their counſel inhabitantes of Samaria, and to the reſt beyond the Riuer, ſending greeting and peace. ¹⁸ The accuſation, which you haue ſent to vs, was openly read before me, ¹⁹ and I gaue commandment: and they recounted, and haue found, that that citie of old time rebelleth agaynſt the kinges, and feditions and battels are rayfed in it. ²⁰ For there haue bene alſo moſt valiant kinges in Ierufalem, which alſo

had dominion ouer al the countrie, that is beyond the Riuer. They tooke alfo tribute, and tolle, and rentes. ²¹ Now therfore heare the fentence: Prohibite ye thofe men, that that citie be not built, til it perhaps fhall be commanded by me. ²² See that you doe not negligently accomplifh this thing, and by litle there grow euil agaynft the kinges. ²³ Therefore the copie of the edict of Artaxerxes the king was read before Reum Beelteem, and Samfai the fcribe, and their counfelters: and they went in haft into Ierufalem to the Iewes, & prohibited them with arme and ftrength. ²⁴ Then was the worke of the houle of our Lord in Ierufalem intermitted, and was not done vntil the fecond yeare of the reigne of Darius the king of the Perfians.

Chapter 5

By the exhortation of Aggæus, and Zacharias, the people procede in building the Temple. 3. VVhich their enimies ftriving to hinder, 5. for decifion of the caufe, both parties write to king Darius.

And there prophecied Aggeus the Prophete, & Zacharias the fonne of Addo, prophecying to the Iewes, that were in Iewrie and Ierufalem, in the name of the God of Ifrael. ² Then rofe vp Zorobabel the fonne of Salathiel, and Iofue the fonne of Iofedec, and began to build the temple of God in Ierufalem, and with them the prophetes of God helping them. ³ But at the fame time there came to them Thathanai, who was prince beyond the Riuer, and Stharbuzanai, and their counfelters: and fayd thus to them: Who hath geuen you counfel to build this houle, and to repayre the walles? ⁴ Wherto we answered them, what the names were of the men that were authors of that building. ⁵ And ^a)the eye

^a God geuing corege to his feruantes, ftricke their enemies with terrour, and fo made them ceafe from hindering his worke as they before intended.

of theyr God was fet vpon the ancientes of the Iewes, and they could not inhibite them. And it pleased them that the matter should be referred to Darius, and then they would fatisfie agaynft that accusation. ⁶ The copie of the epistle, which Thathanai prince of the countrie beyond the Riuer sent, and Stharbuzanai, and his counsellors the Arphafacheites, which were beyond the Riuer, to Darius the king. ⁷ The word, which they sent him, was written thus: To Darius the king al peace. ⁸ Be it knowen to the king, that we went to Iurie, the prouince, to the house of the great God, which is in building with stone vnpolished, and timber is put in the walles: and that worke is in building diligently, and groweth in their hands. ⁹ We therefore demanded of those ancientes, and thus we sayd to them: Who hath geuen you authoritie to build this house, & to repaire these walles? ¹⁰ Yea and their names we asked of them, that we might certifye thee: and we writte the names of those men, that are the chiefe among them. ¹¹ And they answered vs these wordes, saying: We are the seruantes of the God of heauen & earth, and we do build a temple, that was built these manie yeares before, and which a great king of Ifrael built and set vp. ¹² But after that our fathers prouoked the God of heauen to wrath, he deliuered them into the hands of Nabuchodonosor the king of Babylon the Chaldee: this house also he destroyed, and his people he transported into Babylon. ¹³ But in the first yeare of Cyrus the king of Babylon, Cyrus the king put forth an edict, that this house of God should be built. ¹⁴ For the vessels also of the temple of God, of gold and of siluer, which Nabuchodonosor had taken out of the temple, that was in Ierusalem, and had caried them into the temple of Babylon, Cyrus the king brought forth out of the temple of Babylon, and they were geuen to Saffabafar so called, whom also he appointed the chiefe, ¹⁵ and sayd to him: Take these vessels, and goe, and put them in the temple, that is in Ierusalem, and let the house of God be built in his place. ¹⁶ Then therefore came this Saffabafar, and layd the foundations of the temple of God in Ierusalem, and from that time vntil now it is in building, and is

not yet finished. ¹⁷ Now therefore if it seeme good to the king, let him search in the kings librarie, which is in Babylon, whether it hath bene commanded by Cyrus the king, that the house of God in Ierusalem should be built, and let him send the kings pleasure concerning this thing vnto vs.

Chapter 6

Darius finding in the register, that Cyrus gaue licence to build the Temple, commandeth that none hinder it: 8. geueth also money towards the charges, and hoſtes for ſacrifice.

Then Darius the king commanded, and they searched in the librarie of the bookes, that were layd vp in Babylon, ² and there was found in Ecbatanis, which is a caſtle in the prouince Medena, one volume, and there was ſuch a cōmentarie written therein: ³ In the firſt yeare of Cyrus the king: Cyrus the king decreed, that the houſe of God ſhould be built, which is in Ierusalem, in the place where they immolate hoſtes, and that they lay the foundations ſupporting the height of threeſcore cubites, & the bredth of threeſcore cubites, ⁴ three rewes of ſtones vnpoliſhed, & ſo rewes of new timber: and the coſtes ſhal be geuen out of the kings houſe. ⁵ Yea & the veſſels of the temple of God, of gold & of ſiluer which Nabuchodonosor had taken out of the Temple of Ierusalem, and had brought them into Babylon, let them be reſtored, & brought backe into the temple of Ierusalem vnto their place, which alſo were put in the temple of God. ⁶ Now therefore Thathanai prince of the countrie, that is beyond the Riuer, Stharubazanai, and your counſelers the Apharſacheites, which are beyond the Riuer, depart farre from them, ⁷ and ſuffer that temple of God to be made of the duke of the Iewes, and of their ancientes, that they may build that houſe of God in his place. ⁸ Alſo there is cōmandment geuen from me what muſt be done of thoſe ancientes of the Iewes, that

the houle of God may be built, to witte, that of the kings coffer, that is, of the tributes, that are geuen out of the countrie beyond the Riuer, the charges be diligently geuen to thofe men, left the worke be hindred. ⁹ And if it fhall be neceffarie, calues alfo, and lambes, and kiddes, for holocauft to the God of heauen, wheate, falt, wyne, and oyle, according to the rite of the Prieftes that are in Ierufalem, let there be geuen them day by day, that there be no complaynte in any thing. ¹⁰ And let them offer oblations to the God of heauen, and pray for the life of the king, and of his children. ¹¹ By me therfore there is a decree made. That euerie man, which fhall alter this commandement, there be a beame taken of his houle, and fet vp, and he be faft hanged vpon it, and his houle be confifcate. ¹² And the God, that hath made his name to dwel there, deftroy al kingdomes, and the people that fhall extend theyr hand to refift, & to deftroy the houle of God, that is in Ierufalẽ. I Darius haue made the decree, which I wil to be diligently accõplifhed. ¹³ Therfore Thathanai the prince of the countrie beyond the Riuer, and Stharbuzani, and his counfelers, according to that which Darius the king had commanded, fo did execute it diligently. ¹⁴ And the ancientes of the Iewes built, and prospered according to the prophecie of Aggeus the prophet, and of Zacharias the fonne of Addo: and they built and fet vp, the God of Ifrael commanding, and ^aCyrus commanding, and Darius, and Artaxerxes the kings of the Perfians. ¹⁵ And they were finifhing this houle of God, vntil the third day of the moneth of Adar, which is the fixth yeare of Darius the king. ¹⁶ And the children of Ifrael, the Prieftes and the Leuites, and the reft of the tranfmigration, made the dedication of the houle of God in ioy. ¹⁷ And they offered in the dedication of the houle of God, calues an hundred, rammes two hundred, lambes foure hundred, buckgoates for the finne of al Ifrael twelue, according to the number of the tribes of Ifrael. ¹⁸ And they fet the Prieftes in theyr orders, and the Leuites in theyr courfes ouer the workes of

^a The hart of the king is in the hand of our Lord. *Prouerb. 21.*

God in Ierufalem, as it is writen in the booke of Moyfes.
¹⁹ And the children of Ifrael of the tranfmigration made
the Phafe, the fourteenth day of the firft moneth. ²⁰ For
al the Prieftes and the Leuites were purified as it were
one man: al cleane to immolate the Phafe for al the
children of the tranfmigration, and for theyr brethren
the Prieftes, and them felues. ²¹ And the children of
Ifrael that were returned from the tranfmigration, did
eate, and al that had feperated them felues from the
coinquination of the Gentiles of the earth vnto them,
to feeke our Lord the God of Ifrael. ²² And they made
the folemnitie of Azymes feuen dayes in ioy, becaufe our
Lord had made them ioyful, and had turned the hart of
the king of Affur to them, that he fhould helpe theyr
handes in the worke of the houle of our Lord the God of
Ifrael.

Chapter 7

The fecond part.
Efdras inſtructeth
the people.

Efdras, with manie other Prieftes and Leuites, afcendeth to Ierufalem to teach, and affift the people: 11. bringing Artaxerxes Edict, declareth it to the people, 27. and geueth thanks to God.

And after theſe thinges in the reigne of Artaxerxes king of Perfians, Efdras the ſonne of Saraias, the ſonne of Azarias, the ſonne of Helcias, ² the ſonne of Sellum, the ſonne of Sadoc, the ſonne of Achitob, ³ the ſonne of Amarias, the ſonne of Azarias, the ſonne of Maraioth, ⁴ the ſonne of Zarahias, the ſonne of Ozi, the ſonne of Bocci, ⁵ the ſonne of Abifue, the ſonne of Phinees, the ſonne of Eleazar, the ſonne of Aaron the Prieſt from the begynning. ⁶ The ſame Efdras ^acame vp from Babylon, and he was a quicke ſcribe in the law of Moyſes, which our Lord God gaue to Ifrael: and the king gaue him according to the

^a Efdras came with the firſt from Babylon (*2. Efd. 12.*) but returned thither and now aſcended the ſecond time to Ierufalem.

hand of our Lord his God vpon him al his petition. ⁷ And there came vp of the children of Ifrael, and of the children of the Priestes, and of the children of the Leuites, and of the finging men, and of the porters, and of the Nathineites into Ierufalem in the feuenth yeare of Artaxerxes the king. ⁸ And they came into Ierufalem the fifth moneth, that is the feuenth yeare of the king. ⁹ For in the first day of the first moneth he began to goe vp from Babylon, and in the first day of the fifth moneth he came into Ierufalem according to the good hand of his God vpon him. ¹⁰ For Efdras prepared his hart to searck the law of our Lord, and to doe and to teach in Ifrael preceptes and iudgement. ¹¹ And this is the copie of the epistle of the edict, which king Artaxerxes gaue to Efdras the Priest, the learned scribe, in the wordes and preceptes of our Lord, and his ceremonies in Ifrael. ¹² Artaxerxes the king of kings to Efdras the Priest, the most learned scribe of the law of God of heauē, greeting. ¹³ It is decreed by me that whōfoeuer it shal please in my kingdom of the people of Ifrael, and of the Priestes and Leuites, to goe into Ierusalē, let him goe with thee. ¹⁴ For thou art sent from the face of the king, and of his feuen counsellers, that thou mayst visite Iewrie and Ierufalem in the law of thy God, which is in thy hand. ¹⁵ And that thou maist carie the siluer & gold, which the king & his counsellers haue voluntarily offered to the God of Ifrael, whose tabernacle is in Ierufalem. ¹⁶ And al the siluer and gold whatfoeuer thou shalt finde in al the prouince of Babylon, and the people wil offer, and of the Priestes that shal voluntarily offer to the house of theyr God, which is in Ierufalem, ¹⁷ take freely, and bye diligently of this money calues, rammes, lambes, and the sacrifices and libamentes of them, and offer them vpon the altar of the temple of your God, that is in Ierufalem. ¹⁸ Yea and if it shal please thee, and thy brethren to doe any thing with the rest of the siluer and gold, doe ye according to the wil of your God. ¹⁹ The vessels also, which are geuen thee for the ministerie of the house of thy God, deliuer thou in the fight of God in Ierufalem. ²⁰ Yea and other thinges wherof neede shal be for the

houfe of thy God, how much foeuer is neceffarie for thee to fpend, thou shalt geue it out of the treafure, and exchequer of the king, and from me. ²¹ I Artaxerxes the king haue appointed and decreed to al the keepers of the common coffer, that are beyond the Riuer, that whatfoeuer Efdras the Prieft, the fcribe of the law of God of heauen, fhall afke of you, you geue it without delay, ²² vnto an hundred talentes of filuer, and vnto an hundred cores of wheat, and vnto an hundred bates of wyne, and vnto an hundred bates of oyle, but falt without meafure. ²³ Al that pertayneth to the rite of the God of heauen, let it be geuen diligently in the houfe of the God of heauen: left perhaps he be angrie agaynft the kingdom of the king, and of his fonnes. ²⁴ We doe you alfo to vnderftand concerning al the Prieftes, and Leuites, and the fingers, and the porters, the Nathineites, and minifters of the houfe of this God, that you haue no authoritie to put tolle and tribute, and yearlie rentes vpon them. ²⁵ And thou Efdras according to the wifedom of thy God, which is in thy hand, appoynt iudges and prefidentes, that they may iudge for al the people, that is beyond the Riuer, that is for them which know the law of thy God, yea and the ignorant teach ye frely. ²⁶ And euerie one that fhall not doe the law of thy God, and the law of thy king diligently, there fhall be iudgement of him, either vnto death, or into banifhment, or to the confication of his fubftance, or at the leaft into prifon. ²⁷ Bleffed be our Lord, the God of our fathers, which hath put this in the kinges hart, that he would glorifie the houfe of our Lord, which is in Ierufalem, ²⁸ and hath inclined his mercie toward me before the king and his counfelers, and al the mightie princes of the king: and I taking courage by the hand of our Lord my God, which was on me, gathered together out of Ifrael princes that fhould goe vp with me.

Chapter 8

Eldras reciteth thofe that came with him from Babylon, 21. the faft which he appointed, 33. and how they brought the holie veffel into the Temple.

Thefe therfore are the princes of the families, and the genealogie of them, that came vp with me in the reigne of Artaxerxes the king ^{a)}out of Babylon. ² Of the children of Phinees, Gerfom. Of the children of Ithamar, Daniel. Of the children of Daudid, Hattus. ³ Of the children of Sechenias, the children of Pharos, Zacharias: and with him were numbered an hundred fiftie men. ⁴ Of the children of Phahath Moab, Eleoenai the fonne of Zareha, and with him two hundred men. ⁵ Of the children of Sechenias, the fonne of Ezechiel, and with him three hundred men. ⁶ Of the children of Adan, Abed the fonne of Ionathan, and with him fiftie men. ⁷ Of the children of Alam, Ifaias the fonne of Athalia, and with him feuentie men. ⁸ Of the children of Saphatia, Zebedia the fonne of Michael, and with him eightie men. ⁹ Of the children of Ioab, Obedia the fonne of Iahiel, and with him two hundred and eightene men. ¹⁰ Of the children of Selomith, the fonne of Iofphias, and with him an hundred fixtie men. ¹¹ Of the children of Bebai, Zacharias the fonne of Bebai, and with him twentie eight men. ¹² Of the children of Azgad, Ioanan the fonne of Eccetan, and with him an hundred and ten men. ¹³ Of the children of Adonicam, which were the laft: and thefe are theyr names: Elipheleth, and Iehiel, and Samaias, and with them fixtie men. ¹⁴ Of the children of Begui, Vthai and Zachur, and with them feuentie men. ¹⁵ And I gathered them to the riuer, which runneth downe to Ahaua, and we taried there three daies: and I fought among the people and among the Prieftes for the children of Leui, and found none there.

^a This great number which by Eldras perfwafion came from Babylon, fignified the great fruct of foules conuerted from finne by the exhortation of holie preachers. *S. Beda li. 2. in Efdras c. 10.*

¹⁶ Therefore I fent Eliezer, and Ariel, and Semeias, and Elnathan, and Iarib, and other Elnathan, and Nathan, and Zacharias, and Mofollam princes: and Ioiarib, and Elnathan wife men. ¹⁷ And I fent them to Eddo, which is chiefe in the place of Chafphia, and I did put in theyr mouth the wordes that they fhould fpeake to Eddo, and his brethren the Nathineites in the place of Chafphia, that they fhould bring vs minifters of the houle of our God. ¹⁸ And they brought vs by the good hand of our God vpon vs a moft learned man of the children of Mocholi the fonne of Leui the fonne of Ifrael, and Sarabias and his fonnes, and his brethren eightene, ¹⁹ and Hafabias, and with him Ifaias of the children of Merari, and his brethren, and his fonnes twentie. ²⁰ And al the Nathineites, which Daud gaue, and the princes for the minifteries of the Levites, Nathineites two hundred twentie: al thefe were called by theyr names. ²¹ And I proclaymed there ^aa faft befide the Riuer of Ahaua, that we might be afflicted before the Lord our God, and might defire of him a right way for vs and our children, and al our fubftance. ²² For I was afhamed to afke the king ayde and horfemen, that might defend vs from the enemie in the way: becaufe we had fayd to the king: The hand of our God is vpon al them, that feeke him in goodneffe: and his empire and ftrengh, and furie vpon al them that forfake him. ²³ And we fafted, and befought our God hereby: and it fel out prosperoufely vnto vs. ²⁴ And I feparated twelue of the chief Prieftes, Sarabias, and Hafabias, and with them ten of theyr brethren. ²⁵ And I weyed vnto them the filuer and gold, and the confecrated veffels of the houle of our God, which the king had offered and his counfellers, and his princes, and al Ifrael of them, that were found: ²⁶ and I weyed in theyr handes of filuer fix hundred fiftie talentes, and veffels of filuer an hundred, of

^a It fufficeth not to part from Babylon (that is, from finne) but we muft alfo doe workes of fatisfaction, and therefore Efdras here proclaimed an extraordinarie faft to thofe that were come from captiuitie.

gold an hundred talentēs: ²⁷ and cuppes of gold twentie, which had a thousand folides, and two veffels of the beſt ſhyning braſſe, fayre, as gold. ²⁸ And I fayd to them: You are the holie of our Lord, and the veffels are holie, and the filuer and gold, that is voluntarily offered to our Lord the God of our fathers. ²⁹ Watch & keepe it, vntil you deliuer it by weight before the princes of the Prieſtes, and of the Leuites, and the princes of the families of Iſrael in Ieruſalem, into the treaſure of the houſe of our Lord. ³⁰ And the Prieſtes and the Leuites receiued the weight of the filuer and gold, and of the veffels, to carie it to Ieruſalem into the houſe of our God. ³¹ We therefore did ſette forward from the riuer of Ahaua the twelfth day of the firſt moneth to goe on to Ieruſalem: and the hand of our God was vpon vs, and deliuered vs from the hand of the enemie, and the lyer in wayte by the way. ³² And we came to Ieruſalem, and we taried there three dayes. ³³ And in the fourth day the filuer was weyed, and the gold, and the veffels in the houſe of our God by the hand of Meremoth the ſonne of Vrias the Prieſt, and with him Eleazar the ſonne of Phinees, and with them Iozabed the ſonne of Iofue, and Noadaia the ſonne of Bemai Leuites, ³⁴ according to the number and weight of al: and al the weight was deſcribed at that tyme. ³⁵ Yea and the children of the tranſmigration that were come from the captiuitie, offered holocauſtes to the God of Iſrael, calves twelue for al the people of Iſrael, rammes nyntie fix, lambes ſeuentie ſeuen, buckegoates for finne twelue: al for holocauſt to our Lord. ³⁶ And they gaue the kings edictes to the princes, that were ouerſeers for the king, and the dukes beyond the Riuer, and they aduanced the people and the houſe of God.

Chapter 9

For mariages and other affociation which the Iewes had with Gentiles, Elſdras lamenteth, 5. and confeſſing the peoples iniquitie, prayeth God to conferue them from vtter deſtruction.

And after these thinges were accomplished, the princes came to me, faying: The people of Ifrael, and the Priests and Levites ^{a)}are not feperated from the people of the landes, and from the abhominations of them, to witte, of the Chananeite, and Hetheite, and Pherezeite, and Iebufeite, and of the Ammonites, and Moabites, and the Ægyptians, and Amorrhaites. ² For they haue taken of their daughters to them and to their fonnnes, and haue mingled the holie feede with the people of the landes. The hand alfo of the princes and magiftrates hath bene firft in this tranfgreffion. ³ And when I had heard this word, I rent my cloke and my coate, and plucked of the heares of my head and bearde, and fate mourning. ⁴ And there affembled to me al that feared the God of Ifrael, for the tranfgreffion of them, that were come from the captiuitie, and I fate forowful, vntil the euening facrifice. ⁵ And at the euening facrifice I rofe out of my affliction, and my cloke and coate being rent I fell vpon my knees, and fpred forth my hands to our Lord my God, ⁶ and faid: My God I am confounded and afhamed to lifte vp my face to thee: becaufe our iniquities are multiplied ouer our head, and our finnes haue growen euen vnto heauen, ⁷ from the dayes of our fathers: yea and we our felues alfo haue finned greuoufly vnto this day, and in our iniquities haue we bene deliuered our felues, and our Kinges, and our Prieftes into the hand of the kinges of the landes, and into the fword, and into captiuitie, and into fpoyle, and into confufion of countenance, as alfo at this day. ⁸ And now as it were a litle, and for a moment was our prayer made before the Lord our God, that a remnant might be left vs, and ^{b)}a nayle might be geuen vs in his holie place, and that our

^a Malachias the Prophet complaineth alfo of this fault *c. 2. v. 11.* threatning Gods punifhment both to fuperiors and fubietes for not correcting it. *v. 12.*

^b In refpect of their great iniquities Efdras prefumeth not to afke the conferuation of the whole people, but fome reliques or fmalleft part, as it were a litle poft, or a naile of a whole houfe towards the reedifying therof.

God would illuminate our eies, and would geue vs a litle life in our bondage. ⁹ Because we are bondmen, and in our bondage our God did not forsake vs, & he inclined mercie vpon vs before the king of the Perfians, to geue vs life, and to aduance the house of our God, and to build the defolations therof and to geue vs a hedge in Iuda and Ierufalem. ¹⁰ And now what shal we say, o our God, after these things? because we haue forsaken thy cōmandmēts, ¹¹ which thou hast cōmanded in the hand of thy seruantes the prophetes, saying: The land, to the which you enter to possesse it, is an vncleane land, according to the vncleannesse of peoples, and of other landes, by the abominations of them that haue filled it from mouth vnto mouth in their coinquination. ¹² Now therefore geue not your daughters to their fannes, and their daughters take not for your fannes, and doe ye not seeke their peace, and their prosperity for euer: that you may be strengthened, and may eate the goodes that are of the land, and may haue your children heyres for euer. ¹³ And after al thinges that come vpon vs in our most wicked workes, and our most great sinne, because thou our God hast deliuered vs from our iniquitie, and hast geuen vs health as it is at this day, ¹⁴ that we shal not turne away, and make frustrate thy commandementes, neither should ioyne matrimonies with the peoples of these abominations Why art thou angrie with vs vnto vtter destruction, not to leaue vs a remnant vnto saluation? ¹⁵ Lord God of Ifrael thou art iust: because we are leift, which should be faued as at this day. Behold we are before thee in our sinne, for there can be no standing before thee vpon this.

Chapter 10

Eldras calling the people together commandeth them to dismisse the strange women, which they haue married: 14. appointing officers to see it executed: 18. and reciteth those which had married such women.

Efdras therfore thus praying, and befeeching, and weeping, and lying before the temple of God, there was gathered to him of Ifrael an exceeding great companie of men and wemen and children, and the people wept with much lamentation. ² And Sechenias the sonne of Iehiel of the children of Aelam answered, and said to Efdras: We haue tranfgreffed againft our God, and haue taken to wiues ftrange wemen of the people of the land: and now if there be penance in Ifrael vpon this, ³ let vs make a couenant with the Lord our God, to put away al the wiues, and them that are borne of them, according to the wil of our Lord, and of them that feare the precept of the Lord our God: be it done according to the law. ⁴ Arife, it is thy part to difcerne, and we wil be with thee: take courage, and doe it. ⁵ Efdras therefore rofe vp, and adiured the Princes of the Priestes and of the Leuites, and al Ifrael, that they fhould doe according to this word, and they fware. ⁶ And Efdras rofe vp before the houle of God, and went to the chamber of ^aIohanan the sonne of Eliafib, and entered into it: he did eate no bread, and dranke no water: for he mourned for the tranfgreffion of them, that were come out of the captiuitie. ⁷ And there was a proclamation fent in Iuda and Ierufalem, to al the children of the tranfmigration, that they fhould affemble together into Ierufalem. ⁸ And euerie one that fhall not come within three dayes, according to the counfel of the princes and ancientes, al his fubftance fhall be taken away, and him felfe fhall be caft out of the companie of the tranfmigration. ⁹ There affembled therfore al the men of Iuda, and Benjamin into Ierufalem withing three dayes, that is the ninth moneth, the twentieth day of the moneth: and al

^a Efdras being extraordinarily fent by God, to correct the people, repayreth to the high Priests sonne, by his authoritie calleth the people together, and fo procedeth to make reformation. So S. Paul conferred with other Apoftles. *Gal. 2.*

the people fate in the ftreate of the houle of God, trembling for the finne, and ^a)the rayne. ¹⁰ And Efdras the Prieft arofe, and fayd to them: You haue tranfgreffed, and taken ftrange wemen to wife, to adde vpon the finne of Ifrael. ¹¹ And now geue confeffion to our Lord the God of your fathers, and doe his pleafure, and be feperated from the people of the land, and from your wiues the ftrangers. ¹² And al the multitude answered, and fayd with a lowde voyce: According to thy word vnto vs, fo be it done. ¹³ Neuertheleffe becaufe there is much people, and a tyme of rayne, and we can not abyde to fstand without, and it is not a worke of one day or two (for we haue exceedingly finned in this thing) ¹⁴ let there be princes appoynted in al the multitude: and let al in our cities that haue taken ftrangers to wife, come at fette tymes, and with them the ancientes by citie and citie, and the iudges therof, vntil the wrath of our God be turned away from vs for this finne. ¹⁵ Therfore Jonathan the fonne of Azahel, and Iaazia the fonne of Thecua were appoynted ouer this, and Mefollam and Sebethai Leuites did helpe them: ¹⁶ and the children of the tranfmigration did fo. And Efdras the Prieft, and the men, princes of the families went into the houfes of theyr fathers, and al by theyr names, and they fate in the firft day of the tenth moneth to fearch out the matter. ¹⁷ And al the men were fully counted that had taken ftrangers to wife, vnto the firft day of the firft moneth. ¹⁸ And there were found of the fonnes of the Prieftes that had taken ftrangers to wife. Of the children of Iofue the fonne of Iofedec, and his brethren, Maafia, and Eliezer, and Iarib, and Godolia. ¹⁹ And they gaue theyr handes to put away theyr wiues, and to offer for theyr offence a ramme of the flocke. ²⁰ And of the children of Emmer, Hanani, and Zebedia. ²¹ And of the children of Harim, Maafia, and Elia, and Semeia, and Iehiel, and Ozias. ²² And of the children of Phefhur, Elionai, Maafia, Ifmael, Nathanael, Iozabed, and Elafa. ²³ And of the children of the Leuites,

^a Their finne was punifhed by ouer much rayne. *v. 13.* And fo affliction gaue them more feeling of their faultes.

Iozabed, and Semei, and Celaia, the fame is Calita, Phataia, Iuda, and Eliezer. ²⁴ And of the finging men Eliafib: and of the porters, Sellum, and Thelem, and Vri. ²⁵ And of Ifrael, of the children of Pharos, Remeia, and Iezia, and Melchia, and Miamin, and Eliezer, and Melchia, and Banea. ²⁶ And of the children of Aelam, Mathania, Zacharias, and Iehiel, and Abdi, and Ierimoth, and Elia. ²⁷ And of the children of Zethua, Elioenai, Eliafib, Mathania, Ierimuth, and Zabad, and Aziza. ²⁸ And of the children of Bebai, Iohanan, Hanamia, Zababai, Athalai. ²⁹ And of the children of Bani, Mofollam, and Melluch, and Adaia, Iafub, and Saal, and Ramoth. ³⁰ And of the children of Phahath Moab, Edna, and Chahal, Bananias, and Maafias, Mathanias, Befeleel, Bennui, and Manaffe. ³¹ And of the children of Herem, Eliezer, Iofue, Melchias, Semeias, Simeon, ³² Benjamin, Maloch, Samarias. ³³ And of the children of Hafom, Mathanai, Mathatha, Zabad, Eliphelet, Iermai, Manaffe, Semei. ³⁴ Of the children of Bani, Maaddi, Amram, and Vel, ³⁵ Baneas, and Badaias, Cheliau, ³⁶ Vania, Marimuth, and Eliafib, ³⁷ Mathanias, Mathanai, and Iafi, ³⁸ and Bani, and Bennui, Semei, ³⁹ and Salmias, and Nathan, and Adaias, ⁴⁰ and Mechnedebai, Sifai, Sarai, ⁴¹ Ezrel, and Selemiau, Semeria, ⁴² Sellum, Amaria, Iofeph. ⁴³ Of the children of Nebo, Iehiel, Mathathias, Zabad, Zabina, Ieddu, and Ioel, and Banaia. ⁴⁴ Al thefe had taken ftrangers to wife, and there were of them that had borne ^a)children.

^a Amongft other inconuenciences of vnlawful mariages one is that children are borne illegitimate.