

Ezra 7:1-28 **Ezra & Company go to Jerusalem – Seventh year of Artaxerxes**

Artaxerxes sent Ezra the Priest / Scribe and his company from Babylon to Jerusalem

¹ Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, ² the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, ³ the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, ⁴ the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, ⁵ the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest —

⁶ this Ezra came up from Babylon; and he was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which Yahweh Elohey Yisrael (the Lord God of Israel) had given. The king granted him all his request, according to the hand of Yahweh Elohayv (the Lord his God) upon him.

⁷ Some of the children of Israel, the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

⁸ And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

⁹ **On the first day of the first month he began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem,** according to the good hand of Elohayv (his God) upon him.

¹⁰ **For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of Yahweh (the Lord), and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.**

The Letter of Artaxerxes to Ezra

¹¹ This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave Ezra the priest, the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments of Yahweh (the Lord), and of His statutes to Israel:

¹² Artaxerxes, king of kings,

To Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Law of Elah Shamayaa (the God of heaven): Perfect peace, and so forth.

¹³ I issue a decree that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm, who volunteer to go up to Jerusalem, may go with you.

¹⁴ And whereas **you are being sent by the king and his seven counselors to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, with regard to the Law of Elaahaak (your God) which is in your hand;**

¹⁵ and whereas you are to carry the silver and gold which the king and his counselors have freely offered to Elah Yisrael (the God of Israel), whose dwelling is in Jerusalem;

¹⁶ and whereas all the silver and gold that you may find in all the province of Babylon, along with the freewill offering of the people and the priests, are to be freely offered for Beit Elaahahom (the house of their God) in Jerusalem —

¹⁷ now therefore, be careful to buy with this money bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them on the altar of Beit Elaahaak (the house of your God) in Jerusalem.

¹⁸ And whatever seems good to you and your brethren to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, do it according to the will of Elaahaak (your God).

¹⁹ Also the articles that are given to you for the service of Beit Elaahaak (the house of your God), deliver in full before Elah (the God of) Jerusalem.

²⁰ **And whatever more may be needed for Beit Elaahaak (the house of your God), which you**

may have occasion to provide, pay for it from the king's treasury.

21 And I, even I, Artaxerxes the king, issue a decree to all the treasurers who are in the region beyond the River, that whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of Elah Shamayaa (the God of heaven):, may require of you, let it be done diligently, ²² up to one hundred talents of silver, one hundred kors of wheat, one hundred baths of wine, one hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribed limit.

²³ Whatever is commanded by Elah Shamayaa (the God of heaven):, let it diligently be done for Beit Elah Shamayaa (the house of the God of heaven):. **For why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?**

24 Also we inform you that it shall not be lawful to impose tax, tribute, or custom on any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, Nethinim, or servants of Beit Elahaa (this house of God).

25 And you, Ezra, according to Elahaak (your God)-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who are in the region beyond the River, all such as know the laws of Elahaak (your God); and teach those who do not know them.

²⁶ Whoever will not observe the law of Elahaak (your God) and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him, whether it be death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment.

Ezra rejoiced in God's mercy

²⁷ Blessed be Yahweh Elohey (the Lord God of) our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord) which is in Jerusalem,

²⁸ and has extended mercy to me before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes.

So I was encouraged, as the hand of Yahweh Elohay (the Lord my God) was upon me; and I gathered leading men of Israel to go up with me.

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Facts Revealed:

Artaxerxes sent Ezra the Priest / Scribe and his company from Babylon to Jerusalem [Ezra 7:1-10]

✧ **Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of Yahweh (the Lord), and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.**

✧ Ezra a priest and descendant of Aaron had distinguished himself in the eyes of Artaxerxes the king of Persia by his skill as scribe and ability to teach the laws of Yahweh.

The Letter of Artaxerxes to Ezra [Ezra 7:11-26]

✧ King Artaxerxes gave a letter to Ezra the priest, the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments of Yahweh (the Lord), and of His statutes to Israel: [Ezra 7:11]

✧ The letter authorized all the people of Israel, priests, and Levites who so volunteered to go with Ezra to Jerusalem.

✧ **You are being sent by the king and his seven counselors to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, with regard to the Law of Elahaak (your God) which is in your hand.**

✧ The letter instructed Ezra to carry the silver and gold which the king and his counselors have freely offered to Elah Yisrael (the God of Israel), whose dwelling is in Jerusalem

along with all they may find in province of Babylon and the freewill offerings of the people and priests for Beit Elaahahom in Jerusalem.

- ✧ The money is for the purchase of whatever is needed for offerings on the altar of Beit Elaahaak. All will be accounted for before Elah in Jerusalem.
- ✧ All else is to be paid for from the king's treasury and authorized by decree to all the treasurers in the region beyond the River, up to one hundred talents of silver, one hundred kors of wheat, one hundred baths of wine, one hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribed limit, whatever Ezra the priest scribe may require for Beit Elaah Shamayaa.
- ✧ **For why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?**
- ✧ It shall not be lawful to impose tax, tribute, or custom on any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, Nethinim, or servants of Beit Elahaa (this house of God).
- ✧ Ezra is commanded according to Elaahaak (your God)-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who are in the region beyond the River, all such as know the laws of Elaahaak (your God); and teach those who do not know them.
- ✧ Whoever will not observe the law of Elaahaak (your God) and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him, whether it be death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment.

Ezra rejoiced in God's mercy

- ✧ Blessed be Yahweh Elohey (the Lord God of) our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord) which is in Jerusalem, and has extended mercy to me before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes.

So I was encouraged, as the hand of Yahweh Elohay (the Lord my God) was upon me; and I gathered leading men of Israel to go up with me. [\[Ezra 7:27-28\]](#)