

Ezra 8

King James Version (KJV)

8 These are now the chief of their fathers, and this is the genealogy of them that went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king. (The heads of the families) (Artaxerxes = the great king- a title – this king is Darius)

(Ezra is leading the second group of Israelites to return to Jerusalem)

² Of the sons of Phinehas; Gershom: of the sons of Ithamar; Daniel: of the sons of David; Hattush. (The high priest line)

³ Of the sons of Shechaniah, of the sons of Pharosh; Zechariah: and with him were reckoned by genealogy of the males an hundred and fifty.

⁴ Of the sons of Pahathmoab; Elihoenai the son of Zerahiah, and with him two hundred males.

⁵ Of the sons of Shechaniah; the son of Jahaziel, and with him three hundred males.

⁶ Of the sons also of Adin; Ebed the son of Jonathan, and with him fifty males.

⁷ And of the sons of Elam; Jeshaiah the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy males.

⁸ And of the sons of Shephatiah; Zebadiah the son of Michael, and with him fourscore males.

⁹ Of the sons of Joab; Obadiah the son of Jehiel, and with him two hundred and eighteen males.

¹⁰ And of the sons of Shelomith; the son of Josiphiah, and with him an hundred and threescore males.

¹¹ And of the sons of Bebai; Zechariah the son of Bebai, and with him twenty and eight males.

¹² And of the sons of Azgad; Johanan the son of Hakkatan, and with him an hundred and ten males.

¹³ And of the last sons of Adonikam, whose names are these, Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah, and with them threescore males.

¹⁴ Of the sons also of Bigvai; Uthai, and Zabbud, and with them seventy males.

¹⁵ And I gathered them together to the river that runneth to Ahava; and there abode we in tents three days: and I viewed the people, and the priests, and found there none of the sons of Levi. (There was not one Levite priests in the whole bunch. Every Levite priest had chosen to stay in the comforts of Babylon. The priests that came out with Ezra were all Nethinim = given unto labor. None of these were approved by God to be priests)

See Mathew-23:2 (Jesus commented that the Pharisees had made themselves the established synagogue – not approved by God. They corrupted the temple and taught traditions of men to the people instead of teaching the Word of God)

(We have the same problem today with priests. They preach sermons that they wrote; instead of reading God's Word – chapter by chapter, verse by verse. The result is that the people learn nothing about what God says. They remain Biblically ignorant)

¹⁶ Then sent I for Eliezer, for Ariel, for Shemaiah, and for Elnathan, and for Jarib, and for Elnathan, and for Nathan, and for Zechariah, and for Meshullam, chief men; also for Joiarib, and for Elnathan, men of understanding. (Wise and prudent – capable of teaching the Word of God to the people)

¹⁷ And I sent them with commandment unto Iddo the chief at the place Casiphia, and I told them what they should say unto Iddo, and to his brethren the Nethinims, at the place Casiphia, that they should bring unto us ministers for the house of our God. (Iddo was a Levite; brethren = associates, not related; the brethren were Nethinims)

¹⁸ And by the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a man of understanding, of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel; and Sherebiah, with his sons and his brethren, eighteen; (Israel = Jacob, whom God renamed; these guys were Levites and qualified to be priests)

¹⁹ And Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiah of the sons of Merari, his brethren and their sons, twenty; (Again, Levites to work in the temple)

²⁰ Also of the Nethinims, whom David and the princes had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinims: all of them were expressed by name. (That was a lot of non-Levites to do work around the temple; such as to cut wood for the fire, and to bring water to wash the sacrifices)

²¹ Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. (Humbling themselves before God; asking Him to make the long journey to Jerusalem successful. Ezra was a wise man)

²² For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. (They traveled on foot and could fall to highway robbers. They were carrying a lot of goods and money)

(Ezra didn't ask Darius for an armed escort because he thought that Darius would see doubt in Ezra's faith in God to protect them)

²³ So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us. (God heard our prayers and granted us a safe journey)

²⁴ Then I separated twelve of the chief of the priests, Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them, (He selected 12 priests and 12 Levites)

²⁵ And weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, even the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Israel there present, had offered: (These men were responsible for the treasury that they were bringing to Jerusalem. They did some accounting of what valuables they were bringing)

²⁶ I even weighed unto their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels an hundred talents, and of gold an hundred talents;

²⁷ Also twenty basons of gold, of a thousand drams; and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold. (Most of these vessels had been taken by Babylon when they defeated Judah)

²⁸ And I said unto them, Ye are holy unto the LORD; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the LORD God of your fathers. (All these items are sanctified or holy - as offerings to God)

²⁹ Watch ye, and keep them, until ye weigh them before the chief of the priests and the Levites, and chief of the fathers of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of the LORD.

³⁰ So took the priests and the Levites the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem unto the house of our God.

³¹ Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way. (God granted them a safe journey)

³² And we came to Jerusalem, and abode there three days.

³³ Now on the fourth day was the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our God by the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas; and with them was Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, Levites; (Always have more than one person to be accountable for the treasury)

³⁴ By number and by weight of every one: and all the weight was written at that time. (They repeated the accounting to ensure that nothing was lost on the way)

³⁵ Also the children of those that had been carried away, which were come out of the captivity, offered burnt offerings unto the God of Israel, twelve bullocks for all Israel, ninety and six rams, seventy and seven lambs, twelve he goats for a sin offering: all this was a burnt offering unto the LORD. (They made offerings to thank God. Always thank God when He blesses you)

Hebrews-9:13-14 (Jesus ended all blood sacrifices for all time. Our offerings today are our love and obedience to God)

³⁶ And they delivered the king's commissions unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors on this side the river: and they furthered the people, and the house of God. (They delivered the king's

letter to the local authorities to establish their own granted authority in Judah)