

EZRA CHAPTER 5

¹ And Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the *son* of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel. ² Then Zerubbabel the *son* of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jehozadak rose up, and began to build the house of God that was in Jerusalem, and with them *were* the prophets of God assisting them.

³ At the same time Tattenai the governor on this side the river, and Shethar-Boznai, and their fellow servants came to them, and spoke thus to them: "Who has ordained a decree for you to build this house, and to *provide* this preparation?" ⁴ Then they spoke thus to them: "What are the names of the men that build this city?" ⁵ But the eyes of God were upon the captivity of Judah, and they did not cause them to cease till the decree was brought to Darius; and then was sent by the tax collector concerning this.

⁶ *This is* the copy of a letter which Tattenai, the governor of the part on this side the river, and Shethar-Boznai, and their fellow servants the Apharsachaeans, who were on this side of the river, sent to King Darius. ⁷ They sent an account to him, and thus it was written in it: "All peace to King Darius. ⁸ Be it known to the king, that we went into the land of Judea, to the house of the great God; and it is building with choice stones, and they are laying beams in the walls, and that work is prospering, and goes on favorably in their hands. ⁹ Then we asked those elders, and thus we said to them, 'Who gave you the order to build this house, and to *provide* this preparation?' ¹⁰ And we asked them their names, *in order* to declare *them* to you, so as to write to you the names of their leading men. ¹¹ And they answered us thus, saying, 'We *are* the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we *are* building the house which had been built many years before this, and a great king of Israel built it, and established it for them. ¹² But after that our fathers provoked the God of heaven, *and* He gave them into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar the Chaldean, king of Babylon, and he destroyed this house, and carried the people away captive to Babylon. ¹³ And in the first year of King Cyrus, Cyrus the king made a decree that this house of God should be built. ¹⁴ And the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar brought out from the house that was in Jerusalem, and carried them into the temple of the king, those King Cyrus brought out from the temple of the king, and gave to Sheshbazzar the treasurer, who was over the treasury, ¹⁵ and said to him, "Take all the vessels, and go, put them in the house that is in Jerusalem in their place." ¹⁶ Then that Sheshbazzar came, and laid the foundations of the house of God in Jerusalem. And from that time even until now it has been building, and has not been finished.' ¹⁷ And now, if it *seems* good to the king, let a search be made in the treasure house of the king at Babylon, that you may know whether *it is so*, that a decree was made by King Cyrus to build that house of God that was in Jerusalem, and let the king send to us when he has learned concerning this *matter*."