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The Decree of Cyrus

1 In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken through Jeremiah, the LORD roused the spirit of King Cyrus to issue a proclamation throughout his entire kingdom and to put it in writing:

²This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: “The LORD, the God of the heavens, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and has appointed me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah.

³Any of his people among you, may his God be with him, and may he go to Jerusalem in Judah and build the house of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem. ⁴Let every survivor, wherever he resides, be assisted by the men of that region with silver, gold, goods, and livestock, along with a freewill offering for the house of God in Jerusalem.”

Return from Exile

⁵So the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, along with the priests and Levites — everyone whose spirit God had roused — prepared to go up and rebuild the LORD’s house in Jerusalem. ⁶All their neighbors supported them with silver articles, gold, goods, livestock, and valuables, in addition to all that was given as a freewill offering. ⁷King Cyrus also brought out the articles of the LORD’s house that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem and had placed in the house of his gods. ⁸King Cyrus of Persia had them brought out under the supervision of Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah. ⁹This was the inventory:

30 gold basins, 1,000 silver basins,

29 silver knives, ¹⁰30 gold bowls,

410 various silver bowls, and 1,000 other articles.

¹¹The gold and silver articles totaled 5,400. Sheshbazzar brought all of them when the exiles went up from Babylon to Jerusalem.



The Exiles Who Returned

2 These now are the people of the province who came from those captive exiles King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had deported to Babylon. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town. ²They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah.

The number of the Israelite men included

³	Parosh's descendants	2,172
⁴	Shephatiah's descendants	372
⁵	Arah's descendants	775
⁶	Pahath-moab's descendants:	
	Jeshua's and Joab's descendants	2,812
⁷	Elam's descendants	1,254
⁸	Zattu's descendants	945
⁹	Zaccai's descendants	760
¹⁰	Bani's descendants	642
¹¹	Bebai's descendants	623
¹²	Azgad's descendants	1,222
¹³	Adonikam's descendants	666
¹⁴	Bigvai's descendants	2,056
¹⁵	Adin's descendants	454
¹⁶	Ater's descendants: of Hezekiah	98
¹⁷	Bezai's descendants	323
¹⁸	Jorah's descendants	112
¹⁹	Hashum's descendants	223
²⁰	Gibbar's descendants	95
²¹	Bethlehem's people	123
²²	Netophah's men	56
²³	Anathoth's men	128
²⁴	Azmaveth's people	42
²⁵	Kiriatharim's, Chephirah's, and Beeroth's people	743
²⁶	Ramah's and Geba's people	621



27	Michmas's men	122
28	Bethel's and Ai's men	223
29	Nebo's people	52
30	Magbish's people	156
31	the other Elam's people	1,254
32	Harim's people	320
33	Lod's, Hadid's, and Ono's people	725
34	Jericho's people	345
35	Senaah's people	3,630
36	The priests included	
	Jedaiah's descendants of the house of Jeshua	973
37	Immer's descendants	1,052
38	Pashhur's descendants	1,247
39	and Harim's descendants	1,017
40	The Levites included	
	Jeshua's and Kadmiel's descendants	
	from Hodaviah's descendants	74
41	The singers included	
	Asaph's descendants	128
42	The gatekeepers' descendants included	
	Shallum's descendants, Ater's descendants,	
	Talmon's descendants, Akkub's descendants,	
	Hatita's descendants, Shobai's descendants, in all	139
43	The temple servants included	
	Ziha's descendants, Hasupha's descendants,	
	Tabbaoth's descendants, ⁴⁴ Keros's descendants,	
	Siaha's descendants, Padon's descendants,	
45	Lebanah's descendants, Hagabah's descendants,	



Akkub's descendants, ⁴⁶ Hagab's descendants,
 Shalmi's descendants, Hanan's descendants,
⁴⁷ Giddel's descendants, Gahar's descendants,
 Reaiah's descendants, ⁴⁸ Rezin's descendants,
 Nekoda's descendants, Gazzam's descendants,
⁴⁹ Uzza's descendants, Paseah's descendants,
 Besai's descendants, ⁵⁰ Asnah's descendants,
 Meunim's descendants, Nephusim's descendants,
⁵¹ Bakbuk's descendants, Hakupha's descendants,
 Harhur's descendants, ⁵² Bazluth's descendants,
 Mehida's descendants, Harsha's descendants,
⁵³ Barkos's descendants, Sisera's descendants,
 Temah's descendants, ⁵⁴ Neziah's descendants,
 and Hatipha's descendants.

⁵⁵ The descendants of Solomon's servants included
 Sotai's descendants, Hassophereth's descendants,
 Peruda's descendants, ⁵⁶ Jaalah's descendants,
 Darkon's descendants, Giddel's descendants,
⁵⁷ Shephatiah's descendants, Hattil's descendants,
 Pochereth-hazzebaim's descendants,
 and Ami's descendants.

⁵⁸ All the temple servants
 and the descendants of Solomon's servants 392.

⁵⁹ The following are those who came from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer but were unable to prove that their ancestral families and their lineage were Israelite:

⁶⁰ Delaiah's descendants,
 Tobiah's descendants,
 Nekoda's descendants 652

⁶¹ and from the descendants of the priests: the descendants of Hobaiah, the descendants of Hakkoz, the descendants of



Barzillai — who had taken a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite and who bore their name. ⁶²These searched for their entries in the genealogical records, but they could not be found, so they were disqualified from the priesthood. ⁶³The governor ordered them not to eat the most holy things until there was a priest who could consult the Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁴ The whole combined assembly numbered 42,360

⁶⁵ not including their 7,337 male and female servants,
and their 200 male and female singers.

⁶⁶ They had 736 horses, 245 mules,

⁶⁷ 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys.

Gifts for the Work

⁶⁸After they arrived at the LORD's house in Jerusalem, some of the family heads gave freewill offerings for the house of God in order to have it rebuilt on its original site. ⁶⁹Based on what they could give, they gave 61,000 gold coins, 6,250 pounds of silver, and 100 priestly garments to the treasury for the project.

⁷⁰The priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, temple servants, and some of the people settled in their towns, and the rest of Israel settled in their towns.

Sacrifice Restored

3 When the seventh month arrived, and the Israelites were in their towns, the people gathered as one in Jerusalem. ²Jeshua son of Jozadak and his brothers the priests along with Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his brothers began to build the altar of Israel's God in order to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the law of Moses, the man of God. ³They set up the altar on its foundation and offered burnt offerings for the morning and evening on it to the LORD even though they feared the surrounding peoples. ⁴They celebrated the Festival of Shelters as prescribed, and offered burnt offerings each day,

