

وَبَعْدَ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ فِي مُلْكِ أَرْتَخَسْسَتَا مَلِكِ فَارِسَ،
 عَزْرَا بْنُ سَرَائِا بْنُ عَزْرَيَا بْنِ حَلْقِيَا² بْنِ سَلَوَمَ بْنِ
 صَادُوقَ بْنِ أَخِي طُوبَ بْنِ أَمْرَيَا بْنِ عَزْرَيَا بْنِ مَرَأِيُوتَ بْنِ
 رَرْجِيَا بْنِ عُرْيَ بْنِ قُقَيْ بْنِ أَبِيسُشَوْ بْنِ فِيَحَاسَ بْنِ
 الْعَارَارَ بْنِ هَارُونَ الْكَاهِنِ الرَّأْسِ،⁶ عَزْرَا هَذَا صَعَدَ مِنْ
 بَابِلَ، وَهُوَ كَاتِبٌ مَاهِرٌ فِي شَرِيعَةِ مُوسَى الَّتِي أَعْطَاهَا
 الرَّبُّ إِلَهُ إِسْرَائِيلَ. وَأَعْطَاهُ الْمَلِكُ حَسَبَ يَدِ الرَّبِّ إِلَهِ
 عَلَيْهِ، كُلَّ سُوْلَهِ. وَصَعَدَ مَعَهُ مِنْ بَيْنِ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَالْكَهْنَةِ
 وَاللَّاوِيْنَ وَالْمُعَيْنَ وَالْبَوَّابِينَ وَالثَّنِينِ إِلَى أُورُشَلَيْمَ فِي
 السَّيْنَةِ السَّابِعَةِ لِأَرْتَخَسْسَتَا الْمَلِكِ.⁸ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أُورُشَلَيْمَ
 فِي الْشَّهْرِ الْخَامِسِ فِي السَّيْنَةِ السَّابِعَةِ لِلْمَلِكِ. لَاهُ فِي
 الْشَّهْرِ الْأَوَّلِ ابْتَدَأْتُ صَعْدَةً مِنْ بَابِلَ، وَفِي أَوَّلِ الْشَّهْرِ
 الْخَامِسِ جَاءَ إِلَى أُورُشَلَيْمَ حَسَبَ يَدِ اللَّهِ الْطَّالِحَةِ
 عَلَيْهِ.¹⁰ لَأَنَّ عَزْرَا هَيَّأَ فَلَيْهَ لَطَّابَ شَرِيعَةِ الرَّبِّ وَالْعَمَلِ
 بِهَا وَلِيُعْلَمَ إِسْرَائِيلَ فَرِيقَةً وَقَصَاءً.¹¹ وَهَذِهِ صُورَةُ
 الرَّسَالَةِ الَّتِي أَعْطَاهَا الْمَلِكُ أَرْتَخَسْسَتَا لِعَزْرَا الْكَاهِنِ
 الْكَاتِبِ، كَاتِبِ كَلَامِ وَصَابِيَا الرَّبِّ وَفَرَائِصِهِ عَلَى
 إِسْرَائِيلِ،¹² مِنْ أَرْتَخَسْسَتَا مَلِكِ الْمُلُوكِ، إِلَى عَزْرَا
 الْكَاهِنِ كَاتِبِ شَرِيعَةِ إِلَهِ السَّمَاءِ الْكَامِلِ، إِلَى
 آخِرِهِ.¹³ قَدْ صَدَرَ مِنِّي أَمْرٌ أَنَّ كُلَّ مَنْ أَرَادَ فِي مُلْكِي مِنْ
 شَعْبِ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَكَهْنَتِهِ وَاللَّاوِيْنِ أَنْ يَرْجِعَ إِلَى أُورُشَلَيْمَ
 مَعَكَ فَلَيَرْجِعَ. مِنْ أَجْلِ أَنِّكَ مُرْسَلٌ مِنْ قِبَلِ الْمَلِكِ
 وَمُشَبِّرِيِ السَّيْنَةِ لِأَجْلِ السُّوَالِ عَنْ بَهُودَا وَأُورُشَلَيْمِ
 حَسَبَ شَرِيعَةِ الْهَكَ الَّتِي يَبْدِكُ، وَلِحَمْلِ فِضَّةٍ وَدَهْبٍ
 يُبَرَّغِ بِهِ الْقِلْكَ وَمُسْبِرُوهُ لِإِلَهِ إِسْرَائِيلِ الَّذِي فِي
 أُورُشَلَيْمِ مَسْكِيَهِ.¹⁶ وَكُلُّ الْفِضَّةِ وَالْدَّهَبِ الَّتِي تَجِدُ فِي
 كُلِّ بِلَادِ بَابِلِ مَعَ بَرْعَاتِ الشَّعْبِ وَالْكَهْنَةِ الْمُبَتَرِّعِينَ
 لِيَسْتَ إِلَيْهِمُ الَّذِي فِي أُورُشَلَيْمِ،¹⁷ لِيَسْتَرِي عَاجِلًا يَهُذِّهِ
 الْفِضَّةَ شِرَانًا وَكِبَاسًا وَخَرَافًا وَقَدْمَاتِهَا وَسَكَانِهَا،
 وَتُقْرِبُهَا عَلَى الْمَدْبُوحِ الَّذِي فِي بَيْتِ إِلَهِكُمُ الَّذِي فِي
 أُورُشَلَيْمِ.¹⁸ وَمَهْمَا حَسُنَ عِنْدَكَ وَعَنْدِ إِخْرَوْكَ أَنْ تَعْمَلُوهُ
 بِبَيْقَيِ الْفِضَّةِ وَالْدَّهَبِ فَحَسَبَ إِرَادَةِ إِلَهِكُمْ
 تَعْمَلُوهُنَّهُ. وَالْآيَةُ الَّتِي تُعْطِي لَكَ لِخَدْمَةِ بَيْتِ إِلَهِكَ
 فَسِلْمَهَا أَمَامَ إِلَهِ أُورُشَلَيْمِ. وَبَيْقَيِ احْتِيَاجِ بَيْتِ إِلَهِكَ
 الَّذِي يَتَفَقَّدُ لَكَ أَنْ تُعْطِلِهِ، فَأَعْطَاهُ مِنْ بَيْتِ حَرَائِنِ
 الْمَلِكِ.²¹ وَمَمِّي أَنَا أَرْتَخَسْسَتَا الْمَلِكُ صَدَرَ أَمْرٌ إِلَى كُلِّ
 الْخَرَّةِ الَّذِينَ فِي عَبْرِ النَّهَرِ أَنَّ كُلَّ مَا يَطْلُبُهُ مِنْكُمْ عَزْرَا
 الْكَاهِنُ كَاتِبُ شَرِيعَةِ إِلَهِ السَّمَاءِ فَلِيُعْمَلْ بِسُرْعَةٍ،²² إِلَى

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, ²The son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, ³The son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, ⁴The son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, ⁵The son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest: ⁶This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him. ⁷And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. ⁸And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. ⁹For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. ¹⁰For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. ¹¹Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of his statutes to Israel. ¹²Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time. ¹³I make a decree, that all they of

مِنْهُ وَرْتَهٖ مِنَ الْفِصَّةِ وَمِنْهُ كُرْ مِنَ الْجِنْطَةِ وَمِنْهُ بَتٌ مِنَ الْحَمْرِ وَمِنْهُ بَتٌ مِنَ الرَّبِّ وَالْمَلِحِ مِنْ دُونِ تَفْبِيْدٍ.²³ كُلُّ مَا أَفَرَ بِهِ اللَّهُ السَّمَاءِ فَلَيَقْمِلْ بِإِنْتَهَادِ لَبِيْتِ اللَّهِ السَّمَاءِ، لَأَنَّ اللَّهَ لِمَا دَادَ يَكُونُ عَصْبُ عَلَى مُلْكِ الْمَلِكِ وَبَنِيهِ. وَنُعْلَمُكُمْ أَنَّ جَمِيعَ الْكَهْنَةِ وَاللَّوَّبِينَ وَالْمَعْنَى وَالْبَوَّابِينَ وَالشَّنِينِ وَخُدَّادِ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ هَذَا، لَا يُؤْدِنُ أَنَّ بُلْقَى عَلَيْهِمْ حِرْبَهُ أَوْ حَرَاجَهُ أَوْ خَفَارَهُ.²⁵ أَمَّا أَنَّ يَا عَزْرَا، فَحَسَبَ حِكْمَةِ الْهَكَّ الَّتِي يَبْدُكَ صَعْ حُكَّامًا وَفُصَّاهَ يَقْصُونَ لِجَمِيعِ السُّفَّاجِ الَّذِي فِي عَيْنِ النَّهَرِ مِنْ جَمِيعِ مَنْ يَعْرِفُ شَرَائِعَ الْهَكَّ. وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْرِفُونَ قَعْلَمُوْهُمْ، وَكُلُّ مَنْ لَا يَعْمَلُ شَرِيعَةَ الْهَكَّ وَشَرِيعَةَ الْمَلِكِ، فَلَيَقْصُ عَلَيْهِ عَاجِلًا إِمَّا بِالْمَوْتِ أَوْ بِالنَّفِيِّ أَوْ بِعَرَامَةِ الْمَالِ أَوْ بِالْجَنِسِ.²⁷ مَتَارُكُ الرَّبِّ إِلَهِ آبَائِنَا الَّذِي كَعَلَ مِنْهُ هَذَا فِي قَلْبِ الْمَلِكِ لِأَجْلِ تَرْبِينِ بَيْتِ الرَّبِّ الَّذِي فِي أُورُسَلَيمَ. وَقَدْ بَسَطَ عَلَيَّ رَحْمَةً أَمَّا الْمَلِكُ وَمُشَبِّرِيهِ وَأَقَامَ جَمِيعَ رُؤْسَاءِ الْمَلِكِ الْمُفْقَدِرِينَ. وَأَمَّا أَنَا فَقَدْ تَسَدَّدْتُ حَسَبَ يَدِ الرَّبِّ إِلَهِي عَلَيَّ، وَجَمَعْتُ مِنْ إِسْرَائِيلَ رُؤْسَاءِ لِيَصْعُدُوا مَعِي.

the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee.¹⁴ Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand;¹⁵ And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem,¹⁶ And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem:¹⁷ That thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house of your God which is in Jerusalem.¹⁸ And whatsoever shall seem good to thee, and to thy brethren, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the will of your God.¹⁹ The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the house of thy God, those deliver thou before the God of Jerusalem.²⁰ And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the king's treasure house.²¹ And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,²² Unto an hundred talents of silver, and to an hundred measures of

wheat, and to an hundred baths of wine, and to an hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much.²³ Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for 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 certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.²⁵ And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not.²⁶ And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.²⁷ Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem:²⁸ And hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me.