

¹Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them.²Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them.³At the same time came to them Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai, and their companions, and said thus unto them, Who hath commanded you to build this house, and to make up this wall?⁴Then said we unto them after this manner, What are the names of the men that make this building?⁵But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease, till the matter came to Darius: and then they returned answer by letter concerning this matter.⁶The copy of the letter that Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai, and his companions the Apharsachites, which were on this side the river, sent unto Darius the king:⁷They sent a letter unto him, wherein was written thus; Unto Darius the king, all peace.⁸Be it known unto the king, that we went into the province of Judea, to the house of the great God, which is builded with great stones, and timber is laid in the walls, and this work goeth fast on, and prospereth in their hands.⁹Then asked we those elders, and said unto them thus, Who commanded you to build this house, and to make up these walls?¹⁰We asked their names also, to certify thee, that we might write the

¹فَتَنَبَّأَ النَّبِيُّنَ حَاجِّي النَّبِيِّ وَزَكَرِيَّا بْنُ إِدُّو لِّلْيَهُودِ الَّذِينَ فِي يَهُودَا وَأَوْرَشَلِيمَ بِاسْمِ إِلَهِ إِسْرَائِيلَ عَلَيْهِمْ.²حِينَئِذٍ قَامَ زَرْبَابَئِيلُ بْنُ شَيْئَلْتِيَالِ وَيִשׁוּעُ بْنُ يُوֹصَادָاقِ وَشَرَعَا يُبْنِيَانِ بَيْتَ اللَّهِ الَّذِي فِي أَوْرَشَلِيمَ وَمَعَهُمَا أَنْبِيَاءُ اللَّهِ يُسَاعِدُونَهُمَا.³فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ جَاءَ إِلَيْهِمْ ثَنَائِي وَإِلَى غَيْرِ النَّهَرِ وَشَتَرْبُوزَنَائِي وَزُقَفَاوُهُمَا وَقَالُوا لَهُمْ، مَنْ أَمَرَكُمْ أَنْ تَبْنُوا هَذَا الْبَيْتَ وَتُكْمَلُوا هَذَا السُّورَ..⁴حِينَئِذٍ أَخْبَرْتَاهُمْ بِأَسْمَاءِ الرِّجَالِ الَّذِينَ يَبْنُونَ هَذَا الْبَيْتَ. وَكَانَتْ عَلَى شُيُوحِ الْيَهُودِ عَيْنُ إِيَّاهُمْ فَلَمْ يُوقِفُوهُمْ حَتَّى وَصَلَ الْأَمْرُ إِلَى دَارِيُوسَ، وَحِينَئِذٍ جَاوَبُوا بِرِسَالَةٍ عَنْ هَذَا.⁶صُورَةُ الرِّسَالَةِ الَّتِي أَرْسَلَهَا ثَنَائِي وَإِلَى غَيْرِ النَّهَرِ وَشَتَرْبُوزَنَائِي وَزُقَفَاوُهُمَا الْأَفْرَسَكِيِّينَ الَّذِينَ فِي غَيْرِ النَّهَرِ إِلَى دَارِيُوسَ الْمَلِكِ،⁷لِدَارِيُوسَ الْمَلِكِ كُلِّ سَلَامٍ.⁸لِيَكُنْ مَعْلُومًا لَدَى الْمَلِكِ أَنَّنَا دَهَبْنَا إِلَى بِلَادِ يَهُودَا إِلَى بَيْتِ الْإِلَهِ الْعَظِيمِ وَإِذَا بِهِ يُبْنَى بِحِجَارَةٍ عَظِيمَةٍ، وَيُوضَعُ حَسَبُ فِي الْجِبْطَانِ. وَهَذَا الْعَمَلُ يُعْمَلُ بِسُرْعَةٍ وَيَتَجَدَّدُ فِي أَيِّدِهِمْ.⁹حِينَئِذٍ سَأَلْنَا أُولَئِكَ الشُّيُوحَ، مَنْ أَمَرَكُمْ بِنَاءِ هَذَا الْبَيْتِ وَتُكْمِيلِ هَذِهِ الْأَسْوَارِ.¹⁰وَسَأَلْتَاهُمْ أَيْضًا عَنْ أَسْمَانِهِمْ لِنَعْلَمَكَ، وَكَتَبْنَا أَسْمَاءَ الرِّجَالِ رُؤُوسِهِمْ.¹¹وَيُمَثِّلُ هَذَا الْجَوَابَ جَاوَبُوا، نَحْنُ عَبِيدُ إِلَهِ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ، وَنُبْنِي هَذَا الْبَيْتَ الَّذِي بُنِيَ قَبْلَ هَذِهِ السَّنِينَ الْكَثِيرَةِ، وَقَدْ بَنَاهُ مَلِكُ عَظِيمٍ لِإِسْرَائِيلَ وَأَكْمَلَهُ.¹²وَلَكِنْ بَعْدَ أَنْ أَسْحَطَ آبَاؤُنَا إِلَهِ السَّمَاءِ دَفَعَهُمْ لِيَدِ تَبُوحْدَنْصَرُ مَلِكِ بَابِلَ الْكِلْدَانِيِّ الَّذِي هَدَمَ هَذَا الْبَيْتَ وَسَبَى الشَّعْبَ إِلَى بَابِلَ.¹³عَلَى أَنَّهُ فِي السَّنَةِ الْأُولَى لِكُورْشَ مَلِكِ بَابِلَ أَصْدَرَ كُورْشُ الْمَلِكُ أَمْرًا بِبِنَاءِ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ هَذَا.¹⁴حَتَّى إِنَّ آيَةَ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ هَذَا الَّتِي مِنْ دَهَبٍ وَفِصَّةٍ الَّتِي أَخْرَجَهَا تَبُوحْدَنْصَرُ مِنَ الْهَيْكَلِ الَّذِي فِي أَوْرَشَلِيمَ وَأَتَى بِهَا إِلَى الْهَيْكَلِ الَّذِي فِي بَابِلَ، أَخْرَجَهَا كُورْشُ الْمَلِكُ مِنَ الْهَيْكَلِ الَّذِي فِي بَابِلَ وَأَعْطَيْتُ لِوَاحِدٍ اسْمُهُ شَيْشْبَصَّرُ الَّذِي جَعَلَهُ وَالِيًا.¹⁵وَقَالَ لَهُ، خُذْ هَذِهِ الْآيَةَ وَادْهَبْ وَاحْمِلْهَا إِلَى الْهَيْكَلِ الَّذِي فِي أَوْرَشَلِيمَ، وَلْيَبْنِ بَيْتُ اللَّهِ فِي مَكَانِهِ.¹⁶حِينَئِذٍ جَاءَ شَيْشْبَصَّرُ هَذَا وَوَضَعَ أَسَاسَ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي فِي أَوْرَشَلِيمَ. وَمِنْ ذَلِكَ الْوَقْتِ إِلَى الْآنَ يُبْنَى وَلَمْ يُكْمَلْ.¹⁷وَالْآنَ إِذَا حَسُنَ عِنْدَ الْمَلِكِ فَلْيَقْعَسْ فِي بَيْتِ خَزَائِنِ الْمَلِكِ الَّذِي هُوَ هُنَاكَ فِي بَابِلَ، هَلْ كَارَ قَدْ صَدَرَ أَمْرٌ مِنْ كُورْشَ الْمَلِكِ بِنَاءِ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ هَذَا فِي أَوْرَشَلِيمَ، وَلْيُرْسِلِ الْمَلِكُ إِلَيْنَا مُرَادَهُ فِي ذَلِكَ.

names of the men that were the chief of them.¹¹ And thus they returned us answer, saying, We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and build the house that was builded these many years ago, which a great king of Israel builded and set up.¹² But after that our fathers had provoked the God of heaven unto wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house, and carried the people away into Babylon.¹³ But in the first year of Cyrus the king of Babylon the same king Cyrus made a decree to build this house of God.¹⁴ And the vessels also of gold and silver of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem, and brought them into the temple of Babylon, those did Cyrus the king take out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered unto one, whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor;¹⁵ And said unto him, Take these vessels, go, carry them into the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be builded in his place.¹⁶ Then came the same Sheshbazzar, and laid the foundation of the house of God which is in Jerusalem: and since that time even until now hath it been in building, and yet it is not finished.¹⁷ Now therefore, if it seem good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure house, which is there at Babylon, whether it be so, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter.