

¹فَتَنَبَّأَ النَّبِيُّانِ حَجَّيَ النَّبِيِّ وَزَكَرِيَّا بْنِ عَدُوٍّ لِلْيَهُودِ الَّذِينَ فِي يَهُودَا وَأَوْرَشَلِيمَ بِاسْمِ إِلَهِ إِسْرَائِيلَ عَلَيْهِمْ. ²جِيئَ قَامَ زَرْبَابَلُ بْنُ شَالْتِيئِيلَ وَيَشُوعُ بْنُ يُوَصَادَاقَ وَشَرَعَا بَنِيانَ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي فِي أَوْرَشَلِيمَ وَمَعَهُمَا أَنْبِيَاءُ اللَّهِ يُسَاعِدُونَهُمَا. ³فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ جَاءَ إِلَيْهِمْ تَنَائِي وَالِي غَبَرِ النَّهْرِ وَشَتَرْبُوزَنَائِي وَرَفَقَاؤُهُمَا وَقَالُوا لَهُمْ، مَنْ أَمَرَكَ أَنْ تَبْنُوا هَذَا الْبَيْتَ وَتُكْمَلُوا هَذَا السُّورَ. ⁴جِيئَ أَجْبَرَتَاهُمْ بِأَسْمَاءِ الرِّجَالِ الَّذِينَ يَبْنُونَ هَذَا الْبَيْتَ. وَكَانَتْ عَلَى شُيُوحِ الْيَهُودِ عَيْنُ إِلَيْهِمْ فَلَمْ يُوَفِّقُوهُمْ حَتَّى وَصَلَ الْأَمْرُ إِلَى دَارِيُوسَ، وَجِيئَ جَاوَبُوا بِرِسَالَةٍ عَنْ هَذَا. ⁵صَوَّرَهُ الرِّسَالَةُ الَّتِي أَرْسَلَهَا تَنَائِي وَالِي غَبَرِ النَّهْرِ وَشَتَرْبُوزَنَائِي وَرَفَقَاؤُهُمَا الْأَقْرَسَكِيِّينَ الَّذِينَ فِي غَبَرِ النَّهْرِ إِلَى دَارِيُوسَ الْمَلِكِ. ⁷لِدَارِيُوسَ الْمَلِكِ كُلِّ سَلَامٍ. ⁸لَيْكُنْ مَعْلُومًا لَدَى الْمَلِكِ أَنَّنَا دَهَبْنَا إِلَى بِلَادِ يَهُودَا إِلَى بَيْتِ الْإِلَهِ الْعَظِيمِ وَإِذَا بِهِ يَبْنَى بِحَجَارَةٍ عَظِيمَةٍ، وَبُوضِعَ حَسَبُ فِي الْحِيطَانِ. وَهَذَا الْعَمَلُ يُعْمَلُ بِسُرْعَةٍ وَيَنْجُ فِي أَيْدِيهِمْ. ⁹جِيئَ سَأَلْنَا أُولَئِكَ الشُّيُوحَ، مَنْ أَمَرَكَ بِنَاءِ هَذَا الْبَيْتِ وَتُكْمِيلِ هَذِهِ الْأَسْوَارِ. ¹⁰وَسَأَلْتَاهُمْ أَيْضًا عَنْ أَسْمَائِهِمْ لِنُعْلِمَكَ، وَكَتَبْنَا أَسْمَاءَ الرِّجَالِ رُؤُوسِهِمْ. ¹¹وَبِمَنْلِ هَذَا الْجَوَابِ جَاوَبُوا، نَحْنُ عَبِيدُ إِلَهِ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ، وَبَنِي هَذَا الْبَيْتِ الَّذِي بُنِيَ قَبْلَ هَذِهِ السِّنِينَ الْكَثِيرَةِ، وَقَدْ بَنَاهُ مَلِكٌ عَظِيمٌ لِإِسْرَائِيلَ وَأَكْمَلَهُ. ¹²وَلَكِنْ بَعْدَ أَنْ أَسْخَطَ آبَاؤُنَا إِلَهَ السَّمَاءِ دَفَعَهُمْ لِيَدِ تَبُوحْدَتَصَّرَ مَلِكِ بَابِلَ الْكِلْدَانِيِّ الَّذِي هَدَمَ هَذَا الْبَيْتَ وَسَبَى الشَّعْبَ إِلَى بَابِلَ. ¹³عَلَى أَنَّهُ فِي السَّنَةِ الْأُولَى لِكُورَشَ مَلِكِ بَابِلَ أَصْدَرَ كُورَشُ الْمَلِكُ أَمْرًا بِبِنَاءِ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ هَذَا. ¹⁴حَتَّى إِنَّ آيَةَ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ هَذَا الَّتِي مِنْ دَهَبٍ وَفِصَّةِ الَّتِي أَخْرَجَهَا تَبُوحْدَتَصَّرُ مِنَ الْهَيْكَلِ الَّذِي فِي أَوْرَشَلِيمَ وَأَتَى بِهَا إِلَى الْهَيْكَلِ الَّذِي فِي بَابِلَ، أَخْرَجَهَا كُورَشُ الْمَلِكُ مِنَ الْهَيْكَلِ الَّذِي فِي بَابِلَ وَأَعْطَيْتُ لِوَاحِدِ اسْمِهِ شَيْسَبَتَصَّرَ الَّذِي جَعَلَهُ وَإِلِيَّا. ¹⁵وَقَالَ لَهُ، خُذْ هَذِهِ الْآيَةَ وَادْهَبْ وَاحْمِلْهَا إِلَى الْهَيْكَلِ الَّذِي فِي أَوْرَشَلِيمَ، وَلْيَبْنِ بَيْتُ اللَّهِ فِي مَكَانِهِ. ¹⁶جِيئَ جَاءَ شَيْسَبَتَصَّرُ هَذَا وَوَضَعَ أَسَاسَ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي فِي أَوْرَشَلِيمَ. وَمِنْ ذَلِكَ الْوَقْتِ إِلَى الْآنَ يُبْنَى وَلَمْ يُكْمَلْ. ¹⁷وَالآنَ إِذَا حَسُنَ عِنْدَ الْمَلِكِ فَلْيَقْشَرَنَّ فِي بَيْتِ خَزَائِنِ الْمَلِكِ الَّذِي هُوَ هُنَاكَ فِي بَابِلَ، هَلْ كَانَ قَدْ صَدَرَ أَمْرٌ مِنْ كُورَشَ الْمَلِكِ بِبِنَاءِ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ هَذَا فِي أَوْرَشَلِيمَ، وَلْيُرْسِلِ الْمَلِكُ إِلَيْنَا مُرَادَهُ فِي ذَلِكَ.

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

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.