It is being built with smoothed stones and wood is being embedded within its walls. This work is progressing diligently and is enjoying great success.
9 We demanded of their elders: 'Who authorized you to rebuild this House
10 and to perfect these goods?' We even asked for their names, so that we could
11 write and inform you of the names of the men who are their leaders. And this was their reply to us: 'We are the servants of the God of the heavens and the earth. We are rebuilding the House which was built many years ago; a great
12 king of Israel built it and completed it. But because our ancestors angered the God of the heavens, He placed them in the power of Nevukhadnetzar, the Chaldean, king of Babylon, who destroyed the House and exiled the people
13 to Babylon. However, in the first year of the reign of Koresh, king of Babylon, King Koresh issued an edict that this Temple should be rebuilt.
14 Furthermore, regarding the silver and gold vessels of the House of God that Nevukhadnetzar had taken away from the Sanctuary in Jerusalem and brought to the sanctuary in Babylon – King Koresh released them from the sanctuary in Babylon and handed them over to a man named Sheshbatzar
15 whom he appointed governor. And he said to him: "These are the vessels. Take them, carry them with you, and place them in the Temple in Jerusalem,
16 and the House of God shall be rebuilt at its original site." Then that Sheshbatzar came and laid the foundation of the House of God in Jerusalem; and ever since, it has been under construction but has not been
17 completed.' Now, if it pleases the king, let a search be conducted there in the royal archives in Babylon, to clarify whether an edict permitting the building of the House of God in Jerusalem was indeed issued by King Koresh. Let
6 1 the king notify us what he wishes to do in this matter." So King Daryavesh issued an edict, and they searched in the archive in Babylon where
2 the treasures were stored. But it was in the citadel of Aḥmeta, in the province of Media, that one scroll was found, and this is what was written therein: "A
3 memorandum: In the first year of the reign of King Koresh, King Koresh issued an edict regarding the House of God in Jerusalem. He ordered that the House be rebuilt – a place where sacrifices are offered – its foundations shall be fortified. Its height shall be sixty cubits and its width
4 sixty cubits. It shall have three courses of smoothed stones and one course of
5 wood, and the cost shall be paid out of the king's coffers. Additionally, the gold and silver vessels of the House of God that Nevukhadnetzar had taken from the Sanctuary in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon shall be returned. Each one shall be replaced in the Temple in Jerusalem; you shall deposit it in
6 the House of God. Now, Tattenai, governor of the province beyond the River, and Shetar Bozenai and associates, the surveyors of the province
7 beyond the River: keep your distance from there. Stop interfering with the work of this House of God; let the governor of the Jews and their elders build
8 this House of God on its original site. I hereby issue a decree listing what you must do to help these elders of these Jews rebuild this House of God; the expense will be paid out of the king's coffers, from the taxes of the province

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גְּלָל וְאֶע מִתְּשָׁם בְּכִתְלַיָּא וַעֲבִידְתָּא דֶךְ אָסְפַּרְנָא מִתְעַבְדָא וּמַצְלַח
ט בִּידֵהֹם: אֱדַיִן שְׁאַלְנָא לְשָׁבַיָּא אִלֵּךְ כְּנֶמָא אֲמַרְנָא לְהֹם מַן־שָׁם לְכֹם
י טְעֵם בַּיְתָא דְנָה לְמִבְנְיָה וְאִשְׁרְנָא דְנָה לְשַׁכְלָלָה: וְאַף שְׁמָהָתְהֹם
יא שְׁאֵלְנָא לְהֹם לְהוֹדָעוּתָךְ דִּי נִכְתֻּב שֻׁם־גַּבְרַיָּא דִּי בְרָאשֵׁיהֹם: וּכְנֶמָא
פִּתְגָמָא הֲתִיבוּנָא לְמֵמַר אֲנַחְנָא הֻמּוֹ עַבְדְּוֹהִי דִּי־אֱלָהָּ שְׁמַיָּא
וְאַרְעָא וּבְנַיִן בַּיְתָא דִּי־הֲוָא בְנֵה מִקַּדְמַת דְּנָה שְׁנִין שַׂגִּיאִן וּמֶלֶךְ
יב לְיִשְׂרָאֵל רַב בְּנָהִי וְשַׁכְלְלֵה: לָהֵן מִן־דִּי הַרְגִּזוּ אֲבָהָתַנָא לֶאֱלָהָ
שְׁמַיָּא יְהַב הֻמּוֹ בִּיד נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר מֶלֶךְ־בָּבֶל כַּסְדָיָא וּבַיְתָה דְנָה סַתְּרֵה כַּסְדָאָה
יג וְעַמָּה הַגְלִי לְבָבֶל: בְּרַם בִּשְׁנַת חֲדָה לְכוֹרֶשׁ מַלְכָּא
יד דִּי בָבֶל כּוֹרֶשׁ מַלְכָּא שָׂם טְעֵם בֵּית־אֱלָהָא דְנָה לְבְנָא: וְאַף מָאנַיָּא
דִּי־בֵית־אֱלָהָּא דִּי דַהֲבָה וְכַסְפָּא דִּי נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר הַנְפֵּק מִן־הֵיכְלָא דִּי
בִירוּשְׁלֶם וְהֵיבֶל הֻמּוֹ לְהֵיכְלָא דִּי בָבֶל הַנְפֵּק הֻמּוֹ כּוֹרֶשׁ מַלְכָּא מִן־
טו הֵיכְלָא דִּי בָבֶל וְיִהִיבוּ לְשֵׁשְׁבַּצַּר שְׁמֵהּ דִּי פֶּחָה שָׂמֵהּ: וַאֲמַר־לֵהּ ו
אֵל אֵלֶּה מָאנַיָּא שֵׁא אֵזֵל־אַחֵת הֻמּוֹ בְּהֵיכְלָא דִּי בִירוּשְׁלֶם וּבֵית אֱלָהָא
טז יִתְבְּנֵא עַל־אַתְרֵהּ: אֱדַיִן שֵׁשְׁבַּצַּר דֵּךְ אָתָא יְהַב אְשַׁיָּא
דִּי־בֵית אֱלָהָא דִּי בִירוּשְׁלֶם וּמִן־אֱדַיִן וְעַד־כְּעַן מִתְבְּנֵא וְלָא שְׁלִם:
יז וּכְעַן הֵן עַל־מַלְכָּא טָב יִתְבַּקַּר בְּבֵית גִּנְזַיָּא דִּי־מַלְכָּא תַּמָּה דִּי בְבָבֶל
הֵן אִיתַי דִּי־מִן־כּוֹרֶשׁ מַלְכָּא שִׂים טְעֵם לְמִבְנֵא בֵּית־אֱלָהָא דֵךְ
ו א בִּירוּשְׁלֶם וּרְעוּת מַלְכָּא עַל־דְּנָה יִשְׁלַח עֲלֵינָא: בֵּאדַיִן
דָּרְיָוֶשׁ מַלְכָּא שָׂם טְעֵם וּבַקָּרוּ ו בְּבֵית סִפְרַיָּא דִּי גִנְזַיָּא מְהַחֲתִין תַּמָּה
ב בְּבָבֶל: וְהִשְׁתְּכַח בְּאַחְמְתָא בְּבִירְתָא דִּי בְמָדַי מְדִינְתָּא מְגִלָּה חֲדָה
ג וְכֵן־כְּתִיב בְּגַוֵּהּ דִּכְרוֹנָה: בִּשְׁנַת חֲדָה לְכוֹרֶשׁ מַלְכָּא כּוֹרֶשׁ
מַלְכָּא שָׂם טְעֵם בֵּית־אֱלָהָא בִירוּשְׁלֶם בֵּיתָא יִתְבְּנֵא אֲתַר דִּי־דָבְחִין
ד דָּבְחִין וְאֻשּׁוֹהִי מְסוֹבְלִין רוּמֵהּ אַמִּין שִׁתִּין פְּתָיֵהּ אַמִּין שִׁתִּין: נְדַבְּכִין
דִּי־אֶבֶן גְּלָל תְּלָתָא וְנִדְבַּךְ דִּי־אָע חַדַּת וְנִפְקָתָא מִן־בֵּית מַלְכָּא
ה תִּתְיְהַב: וְאַף מָאנֵי בֵית־אֱלָהָּא דִּי דַהֲבָה וְכַסְפָּא דִּי נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר הַנְפֵּק
מִן־הֵיכְלָא דִּי־בִירוּשְׁלֶם וְהֵיבֶל לְבָבֶל יְהֵתִיבוּן וְיֵהָךְ לְהֵיכְלָא דִּי־
ו בִירוּשְׁלֶם לְאַתְרֵהּ וְתֵחֵת בְּבֵית אֱלָהָא: כְּעַן תְּתְנַי פַּחַת
עֲבַר־נַהֲרָה שְׁתַר בּוֹזְנַי וּכְנָוָתְהוֹן אַפַּרְסְכָיֵא דִּי בַעֲבַר נַהֲרָה רַחִיקִין
ז הֲווֹ מִן־תַּמָּה: שְׁבֻקוּ לַעֲבִידַת בֵּית־אֱלָהָא דֵךְ פַּחַת יְהוּדָיֵא וּלְשָׁבֵי
ח יְהוּדָיֵא בֵּית־אֱלָהָא דֵךְ יִבְנוֹן עַל־אַתְרֵהּ: וּמִנִּי שִׂים טְעֵם לְמָא דִּי־
תַעַבְדוּן עִם־שָׁבֵי יְהוּדָיֵא אִלֵּךְ לְמִבְנֵא בֵּית־אֱלָהָא דֵךְ וּמִנְכְסֵי מַלְכָּא

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beyond the River. These funds shall be given to these men diligently so that
9 the work is not discontinued. And all that is needed: bulls, rams, and sheep
for offerings to the God of the heavens; wheat, salt, wine, and oil – whatever
is requested by the priests in Jerusalem – shall be provided to them daily,
10 without delay, so that they might offer fragrant sacrifices to the God of the
11 heavens and pray for the life of the king and his children. I hereby decree that
if anyone deviates from this edict, a beam shall be removed from his house,
12 and he will be impaled on it; his house shall be made into a ruin for this. May
the God who has established His name there overthrow any king or nation
who dares deviate thereupon by harming this House of God in Jerusalem. I,
13 Daryavesh, have issued this edict; let it be implemented in full." So
Tattenai, governor of the province beyond the River, and Shetar Bozenai and
14 their associates followed Daryavesh's edict in full. And the elders of the Jews
went on with the building successfully encouraged by the prophecy of Ḥagai
the prophet and Zekharya son of Ido; they built the House and completed it
according to the command of the God of Israel and in keeping with the edict
15 of Koresh, Daryavesh, and King Artaḥshasta of Persia. The construction of
this House was completed by the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, in the
16 sixth year of the reign of King Daryavesh. The Israelites, the priests
and the Levites, and all the other returning exiles celebrated the dedication
17 of the House of God with joy. In honor of the dedication of the House of
God, they offered one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs
as well as goats to atone for all of Israel. There were twelve goats representing
18 the twelve tribes of Israel. They established the shifts of the priests and the
divisions of the Levites for the worship in the Temple in Jerusalem as
19 prescribed in the book of Moshe. The[18] returning exiles sacrificed
20 the Passover offering on the fourteenth day of the first month. For the priests
and the Levites had all purified themselves; every one of them was pure. They
slaughtered the Passover offering for all the returning exiles, and for their
21 brothers the priests, and for themselves. The Israelites who returned from the
exile partook of it, along with all those who separated themselves from the
impurity of the nations of the land and came to worship the LORD, God of
22 Israel. They celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with
joy, for the LORD had brought them joy, by causing the king of Assyria[19] to
change his heart, supporting their construction of the House of the God of
7 1 Israel. Some time after this, during the reign of Artaḥshasta, king of
2 Persia, came Ezra, son of Seraya, son of Azarya, son of Ḥilkiya, son of Shalum,
3 son of Tzadok, son of Aḥituv, son of Amarya, son of Azarya, son of Merayot,
4 5 son of Zeraḥya, son of Uzi, son of Buki, son of Avishua, son of Pinḥas, son of
6 Elazar, son of Aharon the High Priest; this Ezra ascended from Babylon. He
was a scholar,[20] expert in the Torah of Moshe given by the LORD, God of
Israel; the king granted him his every wish, for the hand of the LORD, his God,

18 | Starting with this verse, the text reverts from Aramaic to Hebrew.
19 | Daryavesh.
20 | Literally "scribe."

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דִּי מִדַּת עֲבַר נַהֲרָה אָסְפַּרְנָא נִפְקְתָא תֶּהוֹא מִתְיְהֲבָא לְגֻבְרַיָּא אִלֶּךְ
ט דִּי־לָא לְבַטָּלָא: וּמָה חַשְׁחָן וּבְנֵי תוֹרִין וְדִכְרִין וְאִמְּרִין ׀ לַעֲלָוָן ׀
לֵאלָהּ שְׁמַיָּא חִנְטִּין מְלַח ׀ חֲמַר וּמְשַׁח כְּמֵאמַר כָּהֲנַיָּא דִּי־בִירוּשְׁלֶם
י לֶהֱוֹא מְתְיְהֵב לְהֹם יוֹם ׀ בְּיוֹם דִּי־לָא שָׁלוּ: דִּי־לֶהֱוֹן מְהַקְרְבִין נִיחוֹחִין
יא לֵאלָהּ שְׁמַיָּא וּמְצַלַּיִן לְחַיֵּי מַלְכָּא וּבְנוֹהִי: וּמִנִּי שִׂים טְעֵם דִּי כָל־אֱנָשׁ
דִּי יְהַשְׁנֵא פִּתְגָמָא דְנָה יִתְנְסַח אָע מִן־בֵּיתֵהּ וְזִקִיף יִתְמְחֵא עֲלֹהִי
יב וּבַיְתֵהּ נְוָלוּ יִתְעֲבֵד עַל־דְּנָה: וֵאלָהָּא דִּי שַׁכֵּן שְׁמֵהּ תַּמָּה יְמַגַּר
כָּל־מֶלֶךְ וְעַם דִּי ׀ יִשְׁלַח יְדֵהּ לְהַשְׁנָיָה לְחַבָּלָה בֵּית־אֱלָהָא דֶךְ דִּי
יג בִירוּשְׁלֶם אֲנָה דָרְיָוֶשׁ שָׂמֶת טְעֵם אָסְפַּרְנָא יִתְעֲבֵד: אֱדַיִן
תַּתְּנַי פַּחַת עֲבַר־נַהֲרָה שְׁתַר בּוֹזְנַי וּכְנָוָתְהוֹן לָקְבֵל דִּי־שְׁלַח דָּרְיָוֶשׁ
יד מַלְכָּא כְּנֶמָא אָסְפַּרְנָא עֲבָדוּ: וְשָׁבֵי יְהוּדָיֵא בָּנַיִן וּמַצְלְחִין בִּנְבוּאַת
חַגַּי נְבִיָּאָה וּזְכַרְיָה בַּר־עִדּוֹא וּבְנוֹ וְשַׁכְלִלוּ מִן־טַעֲם אֱלָהּ יִשְׂרָאֵל נְבִיָּא
טו וּמִטְּעֵם כֹּורֶשׁ וְדָרְיָוֶשׁ וְאַרְתַּחְשַׁשְׂתְּא מַלְכָּא פָּרְס: וְשֵׁיצִיאָ בַּיְתָה
דְנָה עַד יוֹם תְּלָתָה לְיַרַח אֲדָר דִּי־הִיא שְׁנַת־שֵׁת לְמַלְכוּת דָּרְיָוֶשׁ
טז מַלְכָּא: וְעֲבַדוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּהֲנַיָּא וְלֵוָיֵא וּשְׁאָר בְּנֵי־גָלוּתָא
יז חֲנָכַת בֵּית־אֱלָהָא דְנָה בְּחֶדְוָה: וְהַקְרִבוּ לַחֲנֻכַּת בֵּית־אֱלָהָא דְנָה
תּוֹרִין מְאָה דִּכְרִין מָאתַיִן אִמְּרִין אַרְבַּע מְאָה וּצְפִירֵי עִזִּין לְחַטִּיא לְחַטָּאָה
יח עַל־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל תְּרֵי־עַשַׂר לְמִנְיַן שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וְהַקִימוּ כָּהֲנַיָּא ג
בְּפְלֻגָּתְהוֹן וְלֵוָיֵא בְּמַחְלְקָתְהוֹן עַל־עֲבִידַת אֱלָהָא דִּי בִירוּשְׁלֶם
יט כִּכְתָב סִפְרָ מֹשֶׁה: וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בְנֵי־הַגּוֹלָה אֶת־הַפָּסַח בְּאַרְבָּעָה
כ עָשָׂר לַחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן: כִּי הִטַּהֲרוּ הַכֹּהֲנִים וְהַלְוִיִּם כְּאֶחָד כֻּלָּם
טְהוֹרִים וַיִּשְׁחֲטוּ הַפֶּסַח לְכָל־בְּנֵי הַגּוֹלָה וְלַאֲחֵיהֶם הַכֹּהֲנִים וְלָהֶם:
כא וַיֹּאכְלוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל הַשָּׁבִים מִן־הַגּוֹלָה וְכֹל הַנִּבְדָּל מִטֻּמְאַת גּוֹיֵי־
כב הָאָרֶץ אֲלֵהֶם לִדְרֹשׁ לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיַּעֲשׂוּ חַג־מַצּוֹת שִׁבְעַת
יָמִים בְּשִׂמְחָה כִּי ׀ שִׂמְּחָם יְהוָה וַיֵּסֶב לֵב מֶלֶךְ־אַשּׁוּר עֲלֵיהֶם לְחַזֵּק
ז א יְדֵיהֶם בִּמְלֶאכֶת בֵּית־הָאֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וְאַחַר
הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה בְּמַלְכוּת אַרְתַּחְשַׁסְתְּא מֶלֶךְ־פָּרַס עֶזְרָא בֶּן־שְׂרָיָה
ב ג בֶּן־עֲזַרְיָה בֶּן־חִלְקִיָּה: בֶּן־שַׁלּוּם בֶּן־צָדוֹק בֶּן־אֲחִיטוּב: בֶּן־אֲמַרְיָה
ד ה בֶּן־עֲזַרְיָה בֶּן־מְרָיוֹת: בֶּן־זַרְחְיָה בֶּן־עֻזִּי בֶּן־בֻּקִּי: בֶּן־אֲבִישׁוּעַ בֶּן־
ו פִּינְחָס בֶּן־אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן־אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן הָרֹאשׁ: הוּא עֶזְרָא עָלָה מִבָּבֶל
וְהוּא־סֹפֵר מָהִיר בְּתוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר־נָתַן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּתֶּן־

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