27 imprisonment." Blessed is the LORD, God of our ancestors, for
turning the king's heart toward the cause of beautifying the House of the
28 LORD in Jerusalem. And for showing me kindness in the eyes of the king and
his ministers and all his valiant officers. So, by the grace of the LORD my God,
I gathered courage and assembled leaders from Israel to ascend to the land
with me.

8 1 These are the heads of families – along with their family lines – who came
2 up with me from Babylon during the reign of King Artaḥshasta. From the
family of Pinḥas: Gershom; from the family of Itamar: Daniel; from the family
3 of David: Ḥatush, a descendant of Shekhanya. From the family of Parosh:
Zekharya; along with him were one hundred fifty men whose lineage was
4 recorded. From the family of Paḥat Moav: Elyeho'einai son of Zeraḥya; along
5 with him were two hundred men. From the family of Shekhanya, the son of
6 Yaḥaziel; along with him were three hundred men. And from the family of
Adin: Eved son of Yonatan, of the sons of Adin; along with him were fifty
7 men; from the family of Eilam: Yeshaya son of Atalya; along with him were
8 seventy men. And from the family of Shefatya: Zevadya son of Mikhael; along
9 with him were eighty men. From the family of Yoav: Ovadya son of Yeḥiel;
10 along with him were two hundred eighteen men; from the family of Shlomit:
11 Ben Yosifya; along with him were one hundred sixty men; from the family
of Bevai: Zekharya son of Bevai; along with him were twenty-eight men;
12 from the family of Azgad: Yoḥanan son of Hakatan; along with him were
13 one hundred ten men; and from the family of Adonikam, the last ones,[22] and
these were their names: Elifelet, Ye'iel, and Shemaya; along with them were
14 sixty men. And from the family of Bigvai: Utai and Zakur; along with them
were seventy men.
15 I assembled them at the river that flows to Ahava, and we encamped there
for three days; I noted the presence of Israelites and priests, but I did not find
16 any of the Levites there. So I called upon Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaya, Elnatan,
Yariv, Elnatan, Natan, Zekharya, and Meshulam, who were leaders, as well
17 as Yoyariv and Elnatan, who were teachers. I charged them with the task of
approaching Ido, the master of a place called Kasifya. I placed words in their
mouths to relay to Ido and his brother, Netinim[23] in Kasifya, requesting that
18 they send us men to serve in the House of our God. And God's good hand
was upon us; they sent us a wise man who was descended from Maḥli son
of Levi, the son of Yisrael, namely Shereveya and his sons and brothers,
19 eighteen men. And also Ḥashavya, along with Yeshaya who was from the
20 family of Merari and his brothers and their sons, twenty men; As
well as two hundred twentyof the Netinim who had been dedicated to the
21 service of the Levites by David and his ministers, all listed by name. I then
proclaimed a fast there, upon the Ahava River, so that we might abstain from
sustenance before our God, asking Him for a smooth journey for ourselves,
22 for our small children, and for all of our possessions. For I was ashamed

22 | Likely the last members of the family to leave Babylon.
23 | See note on 2:43.

The above text and translation has been kindly provided by
Koren Publishers Jerusalem from the Magerman Edition Koren Tanakh

אָסְפַּרְנָא דִּינָּה לֶהֱוֹא מִתְעַבֵּד מִנֶּהּ הֵן לְמוֹת הֵן לִשְׁרִשׁוּ הֵן לַעֲנָשׁ לִשְׁרֹשִׁי
כו נִכְסִין וְלַאֲסוּרִין: בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אֲשֶׁר
כח נָתַן כָּזֹאת בְּלֵב הַמֶּלֶךְ לְפָאֵר אֶת־בֵּית יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר בִּירוּשָׁלִָם: וְעָלַי
הִטָּה־חֶסֶד לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְיוֹעֲצָיו וּלְכָל־שָׂרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ הַגִּבֹּרִים וַאֲנִי
הִתְחַזַּקְתִּי כְּיַד־יְהוָה אֱלֹהַי עָלַי וָאֶקְבְּצָה מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל רָאשִׁים לַעֲלוֹת
עִמִּי:
ח א וְאֵלֶּה רָאשֵׁי אֲבֹתֵיהֶם וְהִתְיַחֵשָׂם הָעֹלִים עִמִּי בְּמַלְכוּת אַרְתַּחְשַׁסְתְּא
ב הַמֶּלֶךְ מִבָּבֶל: מִבְּנֵי פִינְחָס גֵּרְשֹׁם מִבְּנֵי אִיתָמָר דָּנִיֵּאל מִבְּנֵי דָוִיד
ג חַטּוּשׁ: מִבְּנֵי שְׁכַנְיָה מִבְּנֵי פַרְעֹשׁ זְכַרְיָה וְעִמּוֹ הִתְיַחֵשׂ לִזְכָרִים מֵאָה
ד וַחֲמִשִּׁים: מִבְּנֵי פַּחַת מוֹאָב אֶלְיְהוֹעֵינַי בֶּן־זַרְחְיָה וְעִמּוֹ מָאתַיִם
ה הַזְּכָרִים: מִבְּנֵי שְׁכַנְיָה בֶּן־יַחֲזִיאֵל וְעִמּוֹ שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת הַזְּכָרִים: וּמִבְּנֵי
ז עָדִין עֶבֶד בֶּן־יוֹנָתָן וְעִמּוֹ חֲמִשִּׁים הַזְּכָרִים: וּמִבְּנֵי עֵילָם יְשַׁעְיָה בֶּן־
ח עֲתַלְיָה וְעִמּוֹ שִׁבְעִים הַזְּכָרִים: וּמִבְּנֵי שְׁפַטְיָה זְבַדְיָה בֶּן־מִיכָאֵל וְעִמּוֹ
ט שְׁמֹנִים הַזְּכָרִים: מִבְּנֵי יוֹאָב עֹבַדְיָה בֶּן־יְחִיאֵל וְעִמּוֹ מָאתַיִם וּשְׁמֹנָה
י עָשָׂר הַזְּכָרִים: וּמִבְּנֵי שְׁלוֹמִית בֶּן־יוֹסִפְיָה וְעִמּוֹ מֵאָה וְשִׁשִּׁים הַזְּכָרִים:
יא וּמִבְּנֵי בֵבַי זְכַרְיָה בֶּן־בֵּבָי וְעִמּוֹ עֶשְׂרִים וּשְׁמֹנָה הַזְּכָרִים: וּמִבְּנֵי עַזְגָּד
יג יוֹחָנָן בֶּן־הַקָּטָן וְעִמּוֹ מֵאָה וַעֲשָׂרָה הַזְּכָרִים: וּמִבְּנֵי אֲדֹנִיקָם אַחֲרֹנִים
וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹתָם אֱלִיפֶלֶט יְעִיאֵל וּשְׁמַעְיָה וְעִמָּהֶם שִׁשִּׁים הַזְּכָרִים:
יד וּמִבְּנֵי בִגְוַי עוּתַי וְזַבּוּד וְעִמָּהֶם שִׁבְעִים הַזְּכָרִים: וְזַכּוּר
טו וָאֶקְבְּצֵם אֶל־הַנָּהָר הַבָּא אֶל־אַהְוָא וַנַּחֲנֻ שָׁם יָמִים שְׁלֹשָׁה וָאֶבִינָה
טז בָּעָם וּבַכ�ֹּהֲנִים וּמִבְּנֵי לֵוִי לֹא־מָצָאתִי שָׁם: וָאֶשְׁלְחָה לֶאֱלִיעֶזֶר לַאֲרִיאֵל
לִשְׁמַעְיָה וְלֶאֱלְנָתָן וְיָרִיב וְלֶאֱלְנָתָן וְנָתָן וְזַכַרְיָה וְלִמְשֻׁלָּם רָאשִׁים
יז וְיוֹיָרִיב וְלֶאֱלְנָתָן מְבִינִים: וְאוֹצְאָה אוֹתָם עַל־אִדּוֹ הָרֹאשׁ בְּכַסְפְיָא וְאֲצַוֶּה
הַמָּקוֹם וְאָשִׂימָה בְּפִיהֶם דְּבָרִים לְדַבֵּר אֶל־אֲחִיו הַנְּתוּנִים הַנְּתִינִים
יח בְּכַסְפְיָא הַמָּקוֹם לְהָבִיא־לָנוּ מְשָׁרְתִים לְבֵית אֱלֹהֵינוּ: וַיָּבִיאוּ לָנוּ
כְּיַד־אֱלֹהֵינוּ הַטּוֹבָה עָלֵינוּ אִישׁ שֵׂכֶל מִבְּנֵי מַחְלִי בֶּן־לֵוִי בֶּן־יִשְׂרָאֵל
יט וְשֵׁרֵבְיָה וּבָנָיו וְאֶחָיו שְׁמֹנָה עָשָׂר: וְאֶת־חֲשַׁבְיָה וְאִתּוֹ יְשַׁעְיָה מִבְּנֵי
כ מְרָרִי אָחָיו וּבְנֵיהֶם עֶשְׂרִים: וּמִן־הַנְּתִינִים שָׁנָתַן
דָּוִיד וְהַשָּׂרִים לַעֲבֹדַת הַלְוִיִּם נְתִינִים מָאתַיִם וְעֶשְׂרִים כֻּלָּם נִקְּבוּ
כא בְּשֵׁמוֹת: וָאֶקְרָא שָׁם צוֹם עַל־הַנָּהָר אַהְוָא לְהִתְעַנּוֹת לִפְנֵי אֱלֹהֵינוּ
כב לְבַקֵּשׁ מִמֶּנּוּ דֶּרֶךְ יְשָׁרָה לָנוּ וּלְטַפֵּנוּ וּלְכָל־רְכוּשֵׁנוּ: כִּי בֹשְׁתִּי לִשְׁאוֹל

The above text and translation has been kindly provided by
Koren Publishers Jerusalem from the Magerman Edition Koren Tanakh

to ask the king for a detachment of soldiers and cavalry to protect us from enemies on the journey, since we had already said to the king: "The hand of our God is upon those who seek Him in their favor, but His fierce wrath is
23 upon all those who forsake Him." So we fasted and implored our God for
24 this, and He granted our plea. Then I set aside twelve of the leading priests in addition to Shereveya and Ḥashavya and the ten kinsmen who were with
25 them. I weighed the silver and gold and vessels for them: all that the king and his ministers and advisors and all the Israelites who had been present
26 had donated to the House of our God. These are the amounts I weighed for them: six hundred fifty talents of silver and an additional one hundred silver
27 vessels worth one talent each; one hundred talents of gold; twenty golden bowls worth one thousand gold darics,[24] and two vessels of brightly gleaming
28 copper as precious as gold. And I said to them: "You are holy to the LORD, and the vessels are holy, and the silver and gold are a gift to the LORD, God
29 of your ancestors. Be vigilant and safeguard them until you weigh them in the presence of the leaders of the priests and the Levites and the heads of the fathers' households of Israel in Jerusalem, in the chambers of the House of
30 the LORD." So the priests and the Levites took it upon themselves to transport the entire amount of silver, gold, and vessels to Jerusalem, to the House of our
31 God. We journeyed from the Ahava River on the twelfth day of the first month, heading for Jerusalem; the providence of our God was upon us, and He saved us from falling into the hands of enemies and from ambushes
32 on the road. We arrived in Jerusalem and rested there for three days. On
33 the fourth day, the silver and gold and vessels were weighed in the House of our God and entrusted to Meremot, son of Uriya the priest, along with Elazar son of Pinḥas; also present were the Levites, Yozavad son of Yeshua
34 and Noadya son of Binui. Everything was counted out and weighed, and the
35 weight of the lot was recorded in writing on that occasion. Those who returned from the captivity, the exiles, presented burnt offerings to the God of Israel: twelve bulls representing all of Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven sheep, and twelve goats for atonement; all of these a burnt offering to
36 the LORD. And they delivered the king's orders to the king's viceroys and to the governors of the province beyond the River, who held the people and
9 1 the House of God in great esteem. When all of this was over, the leaders approached me and said: "The people Israel, and even the priests and Levites, have failed to separate themselves from the people of the land. They engage in abominations in the manner of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Amonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians,
2 and the Amorites. For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and for their sons, and the holy seed has been mixed up with that of the people of the land; the leaders and the officials have led the way in this
3 unfaithfulness." When I heard this, I rent my garment and my mantle, tore
4 out hair from my head and beard, and sat down, dumbfounded. And those who feared the word of the God of Israel gathered around me because of the

24 | A Persian currency.

The above text and translation has been kindly provided by
Koren Publishers Jerusalem from the Magerman Edition Koren Tanakh

מִן־הַמֶּלֶךְ חַיִל וּפָרָשִׁים לְעָזְרֵנוּ מֵאוֹיֵב בַּדֶּרֶךְ כִּי־אָמַרְנוּ לַמֶּלֶךְ לֵאמֹר
כג יַד־אֱלֹהֵינוּ עַל־כָּל־מְבַקְשָׁיו לְטוֹבָה וְעֻזּוֹ וְאַפּוֹ עַל כָּל־עֹזְבָיו: וַנָּצוֹם
כד וַנְּבַקְּשָׁה מֵאֱלֹהֵינוּ עַל־זֹאת וַיֵּעָתֶר לָנוּ: וָאַבְדִּילָה מִשָּׂרֵי הַכְּהֲנִים
כה שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר לְשֵׁרֵבְיָה חֲשַׁבְיָה וְעִמָּהֶם מֵאֲחֵיהֶם עֲשָׂרָה: וָאשקוֹלָה וָאֶשְׁקְלָה
לָהֶם אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף וְאֶת־הַזָּהָב וְאֶת־הַכֵּלִים תְּרוּמַת בֵּית־אֱלֹהֵינוּ
כו הַמֶּלֶךְ וְיֹעֲצָיו וְשָׂרָיו וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל הַנִּמְצָאִים: וָאֶשְׁקְלָה עַל־
יָדָם כֶּסֶף כִּכָּרִים שֵׁשׁ־מֵאוֹת וַחֲמִשִּׁים וּכְלֵי־כֶסֶף מֵאָה לְכִכָּרִים זָהָב
כז מֵאָה כִּכָּר: וּכְפֻרֵי זָהָב עֶשְׂרִים לַאֲדַרְכֹנִים אֶלֶף וּכְלֵי נְחֹשֶׁת מְצֻהָב
כח טוֹבָה שְׁנַיִם חֲמוּדַת כַּזָּהָב: וָאֹמְרָה אֲלֵהֶם אַתֶּם קֹדֶשׁ לַיהוָה וְהַכֵּלִים
כט קֹדֶשׁ וְהַכֶּסֶף וְהַזָּהָב נְדָבָה לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתֵיכֶם: שִׁקְדוּ וְשִׁמְרוּ עַד־
תִּשְׁקְלוּ לִפְנֵי שָׂרֵי הַכְּהֲנִים וְהַלְוִיִּם וְשָׂרֵי־הָאָבוֹת לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בִּירוּשָׁלַם
ל הַלִּשְׁכוֹת בֵּית יהוה: וְקִבְּלוּ הַכֹּהֲנִים וְהַלְוִיִּם מִשְׁקָל הַכֶּסֶף וְהַזָּהָב
לא וְהַכֵּלִים לְהָבִיא לִירוּשָׁלַם לְבֵית אֱלֹהֵינוּ: וַנִּסְּעָה מִנְּהַר
אַהֲוָא בִּשְׁנֵים עָשָׂר לַחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן לָלֶכֶת יְרוּשָׁלַם וְיַד אֱלֹהֵינוּ
לב הָיְתָה עָלֵינוּ וַיַּצֵּלֵנוּ מִכַּף אוֹיֵב וְאוֹרֵב עַל־הַדָּרֶךְ: וַנָּבוֹא יְרוּשָׁלַם
לג וַנֵּשֶׁב שָׁם יָמִים שְׁלֹשָׁה: וּבַיּוֹם הָרְבִיעִי נִשְׁקַל הַכֶּסֶף וְהַזָּהָב וְהַכֵּלִים
בְּבֵית אֱלֹהֵינוּ עַל יַד־מְרֵמוֹת בֶּן־אוּרִיָּה הַכֹּהֵן וְעִמּוֹ אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן־
לד פִּינְחָס וְעִמָּהֶם יוֹזָבָד בֶּן־יֵשׁוּעַ וְנוֹעַדְיָה בֶן־בִּנּוּי הַלְוִיִּם: בְּמִסְפָּר
לה בְּמִשְׁקָל לַכֹּל וַיִּכָּתֵב כָּל־הַמִּשְׁקָל בָּעֵת הַהִיא: הַבָּאִים ד
מֵהַשְּׁבִי בְּנֵי־הַגּוֹלָה הִקְרִיבוּ עֹלוֹת ׀ לֵאלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל פָּרִים שְׁנֵים־עָשָׂר
עַל־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵילִים ׀ תִּשְׁעִים וְשִׁשָּׁה כְּבָשִׂים שִׁבְעִים וְשִׁבְעָה
לו צְפִירֵי חַטָּאת שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר הַכֹּל עוֹלָה לַיהוָה: וַיִּתְּנוּ ׀ אֶת־דָּתֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ
לַאֲחַשְׁדַּרְפְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וּפַחֲוֹת עֵבֶר הַנָּהָר וְנִשְּׂאוּ אֶת־הָעָם וְאֶת־בֵּית
ט א הָאֱלֹהִים: וּכְכַלּוֹת אֵלֶּה נִגְּשׁוּ אֵלַי הַשָּׂרִים לֵאמֹר לֹא־
נִבְדְּלוּ הָעָם יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהַכֹּהֲנִים וְהַלְוִיִּם מֵעַמֵּי הָאֲרָצוֹת כְּתֹעֲבֹתֵיהֶם
ב לַכְּנַעֲנִי הַחִתִּי הַפְּרִזִּי הַיְבוּסִי הָעַמֹּנִי הַמֹּאָבִי הַמִּצְרִי וְהָאֱמֹרִי: כִּי־
נָשְׂאוּ מִבְּנֹתֵיהֶם לָהֶם וְלִבְנֵיהֶם וְהִתְעָרְבוּ זֶרַע הַקֹּדֶשׁ בְּעַמֵּי הָאֲרָצוֹת
ג וְיַד הַשָּׂרִים וְהַסְּגָנִים הָיְתָה בַּמַּעַל הַזֶּה רִאשׁוֹנָה: וּכְשָׁמְעִי אֶת־
הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה קָרַעְתִּי אֶת־בִּגְדִי וּמְעִילִי וָאֲמָרְטָה מִשְּׂעַר רֹאשִׁי וּזְקָנִי
ד וָאֵשְׁבָה מְשׁוֹמֵם: וְאֵלַי יֵאָסְפוּ כָּל חָרֵד בִּדְבַרֵי אֱלֹהֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל עַל מַעַל

The above text and translation has been kindly provided by
Koren Publishers Jerusalem from the Magerman Edition Koren Tanakh