EZRA-NEHEMIAH.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE TWO BOOKS AS A WHOLE*,
ACCORDING TO THEIR CANONICAL ORDER.

(Division.)

A¹ | EZRA. THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE.
A² | NEHEMIAH. THE REBUILDING OF THE WALLS.

(A¹, above). EZRA. THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE.
(Introversion.)

A¹ | B | 1. 1-6 (N†). THE PEOPLE. EMANCIPATION.
   C | 1. 5—2. 70 (P). THE RETURN UNDER ZERUBBABEL.
   D | 3. 1-6 (Q). THE ALTAR. BUILDING AND FEAST.
   D | 3. 7—6. 22 (Q). THE TEMPLE. BUILDING AND FEAST.
   C | 7. 1—8. 36 (P). THE RETURN UNDER EZRA.
   B | 9. 1—10. 44 (N). THE PEOPLE. DEDICATION. REFORMATION.

(A², above). NEHEMIAH. THE REBUILDING OF THE WALLS.
(Introversion and Alteration.)

A² | E | 1. 1—6. 19 (K†). THE WALL. REBUILDING. DISORDERS OVERCOME.
   F | H | 7. 1-4 (N). JERUSALEM. CHARGE OVER.
   J | 7. 5—73— (P). THE RETURN UNDER ZERUBBABEL.
   G | 7. 73—8. 18 (Q). FEAST OF THE SEVENTH MONTH (426 B.C.).
   F | H | 11. 1—36 (N). JERUSALEM. RESIDENTS IN.
   J | 12. 1—26 (N). THE RETURN UNDER EZRA.
   E | 12. 27—13. 31 (K). THE WALL. DEDICATION. DISORDERS OVERCOME.

* In Hebrew manuscripts of the Bible, and the early printed editions of the Hebrew text, these two books are always treated and reckoned as one book: the 685 verses being numbered from the first verse of Ezra to the last verse of Nehemiah; the middle verse of the one book being given by the Massorites as Neh. 3. 32; while of the ten Sedarim (or Cycles for public reading), the fourth begins at Ezra 8. 35 and ends with Neh. 2. 18. See note at foot of p. 632. Moreover, the notes which the Massorites place at the end of each book are placed at the end of Nehemiah, and not at the end of Ezra. Cp. note on the books of SAMUEL, KINGS, AND CHRONICLES, p. 366.

The Structure of the one book is set forth as above, the two Divisions being given in their CANONICAL ORDER.

Ezra confines himself mainly to the events connected with the TEMPLE.
Neemiah confines himself mainly to the events connected with the WALL and the CITY.
Ezra comes first in the Canonical Order, because the TEMPLE is more important than the WALL, morally and spiritually.
Neemiah follows, because the WALL is of secondary importance.

When the whole of the events are looked at in their CHRONOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL order, a different Structure is necessarily observed: this Structure is determined by certain fixed points, common to both Orders. These fixed points determine the place of the remaining events recorded in the two parts respectively. See Table of Events and Chronological Structure on p. 618, and the Harmony of Events in Ap. 58.

† The letters of this fount (in brackets) correspond with the same letters in the Chronological Structure on page 617.
CERTAIN FIXED POINTS IN THE TWO DIVISIONS OF THE JOINT BOOKS

May be exhibited as follows, in brief: a complete list of all the events will be found in Appendix 58.

**EZRA.**

1. 1-4. The People. Emancipation.

2. 15. The Return under Zerubbabel.


4. 1-6. 15. The Temple: building.

5. 1-4. The Return under Zerubbabel.

6. 16-22. Dedication of the Temple.

7. 1-36. The Return under Ezra.


10. 1-44. Strange wives put away, and the Covenant made.

**NEHEMIAH.**


2. 7. The condition of the city. (People few. Houses not built.)

3. 7-73. The Return under Zerubbabel.

4. 7. Feast of the Seventh Month (426 B.C.).

5. 19. The Return under Zerubbabel.


7. 1-8. 36. The Return under Ezra.


9. 1-8. 36. The return under Ezra.

10. 1-38. Strange wives put away, and the Covenant made.

**THE STRUCTURE OF EZRA–NEHEMIAH AS A WHOLE, ACCORDING TO THE HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF EVENTS.**

* See notes on p. 618.

† The Index letters (in brackets) correspond with the same letters which indicate the same members in the Canonical Structure, on page 616.
NOTES TO THE CHRONOLOGICAL STRUCTURE (p. 617).

The Chronological Order of Events, and the Structure based thereon, revolutionises the traditional view, which treats this one book as two books; places Ezra historically as preceding Nehemiah; and inserts the book of Esther between Ezra, chapters 6 and 7, instead of before Ezra-Nehemiah. (See date, Est. 1. 3.)

Those who thus dislocate the two divisions of this book proceed to speak of certain portions as being "misplaced", and "not original", and as having "false connections". These so-called "discrepancies", after having thus been first made by the commentators, are charged home on the inspired writers themselves.

That the "difficulties" exist only in the minds of the critics will be seen if we note the following facts:—

1. The fixed points, common to the two parts of the book, determine for us the true position of all the other parts, and result in giving us the Chronological Structure of the whole on page 617.

2. The traditional view places the building of the temple by Ezra as coming many years before Nehemiah. But this is inconceivable in view of the report brought by Hanani to Nehemiah concerning the desolations (Neh. 1. 3) and repeated to the king (Neh. 2. 3).

3. Nehemiah would surely have inquired about the welfare of the 42,360 exiles who are supposed to have returned to Jerusalem, and not about "the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity" (Neh. 1. 2).

4. When the wall was finished, "the houses were not yet builded" (Neh. 7. 1-4).

5. When the Feast of the seventh month was kept (Neh. 8), "the foundation of the temple of the Lord was not yet laid" (Ezra 3. 1-6).

6. When the people dwelt in their "ceiled houses", the house of the Lord still lay waste (Hag. 1. 1-4). These facts are more certain than all chronology, and are more important and conclusive than all reasoning.

7. The names of some of the kings mentioned have been hitherto regarded as proper names; whereas, according to Sir Henry Rawlinson, Professor Sayce, The Encyclopaedia Britannica, and The Century Encyclopaedia of Names, three at least are appellatives (like Pharaoh, Abimelech, Czar, Shah, Sultan); viz. Ahasuerus, which means "The venerable king", Artaxerxes, which means "The great king", and Darius, which means "The maintainer". See the Genealogy of the Persian kings (Ap. 57). If these appellatives denote separate and different individual kings, no place can be found for them all on the page of history.

8. See the longer notes on special passages at the end of Nehemiah, page 658.
THE COMPANION BIBLE

E. W. Bullinger

C (P) A (p. 619)

1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, 2 the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

"Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, 3 The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

3 Who is there among you of all His People? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (5ες is the 2 God) which is in Jerusalem.

4 And whatsoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, 5 and with goods, and with beasts, besides the free will offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.

5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.

6 And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered.

7 Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods.

8 Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

9 And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives.

10 Thirty basons of gold, silver basons of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand.

11 All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem.

EZEKIAH.

TITLE, Ezra. For the Structure of the two books (Ezra-Nehemiah) as a whole, in their canonical order, see p. 616. For the Structure of the chronological order, see p. 617 and the reasons for it, on p. 618.

The book of Esther precedes (chronologically) the book of Ezra-Nehemiah.


3 God of heaven. See note on 1 Chron. 36:23. Appropriate in the mouth of Cyrus, and in contrast with all heathen inscriptions.

hath given me. The son of Astyages (the venerable king = Assuerus) and Esther. Trained by Mordecai and Nehemiah, he was brought up in the knowledge of God and His Word.

charged me to build. Cp. Isa. 44:21-28. 4:1-6, 13. an house. This proclamation put first, as it is the great subject treated of by Ezra.

3 Who is there among you of all His People? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (5ες is the 2 God) which is in Jerusalem.

5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.

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of Judah." chargers = basons or bowls. "charger", from French charger, to load. Hence used of both a dish and a horse.

619

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A: c 4. 2. In sum. The number.
   d 3-56. Names found.
   d 59-63. Names not found.
   c 64-67. In sum.

1 these are. This chapter is parallel with Neh. 7. 69.


children = sons.

the Province: i.e. the Persian province of Judah.

the People of Israel.

Nehemiah.


Joab, two thousand

Jeshua.

Seraiah = Azariah (Neh. 7. 7). Not Seraiah the high priest, put to death by Zedekiah (2 Kings 25. 18-21).

Mordecai. He had been taken in Jehoiachin’s deportation (Est. 2. 5, 6).


the People of Israel. See note on Neh. 1. 2, 3. In Neh. 7. 4 no houses built, but in Hag. 1. 4, houses built and yet Temple lying waste.

Jeshua. The great helper of Zerubbabel.


Seraiah = Azariah (Neh. 7. 7). Not Seraiah the high priest, put to death by Zedekiah (2 Kings 25. 18-21).

Mordecai. He had been taken in Jehoiachin’s deportation (Est. 2. 5, 6).


the People of Israel. See note on Neh. 1. 5. So 2. 59, 70; 3. 1; 7. 13; 9. 1; 10. 5. Cp. 1 Kings 12. 17.


Jedediah. The head of the ninth course (1 Chron. 24. 11).

Immer. The head of the sixteenth course (1 Chron. 24. 11).


Cp. 1 Chron. 24. 9 with Neh. 11. 12.

Harim. The third course. These four were subdivided into six each, making the twenty-four.

Nethinims — men given to God or His service.


33 The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty-five.

34 The children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five.

35 The children of Senaah, three hundred and sixty and thirty.

36 The priests: the children of Jedediah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three.

37 The children of Immer, a thousand five and two.

38 The children of Pashur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven.

39 The children of Harim, a thousand and seventeen.

40 The Levites: the children of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the children of Hodaviah, seventy and four.

41 The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred twenty and eight.

42 The children of the porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, in all an hundred thirty and nine.

43 The children of Zia, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth.

44 The children of Keros, the children of Siaha, the children of Padon.
426 The 1 children of Lebanon, the 1 children of Hagabah, the 1 children of Akkub, 46 The 1 children of Hagab, the 1 children of Shalmai, the 1 children of Hanan, 47 The 1 children of Giddel, the 1 children of Gahar, the 1 children of Reiaah, 48 The 1 children of Rezin, the 1 children of Nekoda, the 1 children of Gazzam, 49 The 1 children of Uzza, the 1 children of Besai, the 1 children of Besai, 50 The 1 children of Asnah, the 1 children of Mebida, the 1 children of Harsha, 51 The 1 children of Bakhu, the 1 children of Hakupha, the 1 children of Harhar, 52 The 1 children of Bazluth, the 1 children of Mehidah, the 1 children of Harsha, 53 The 1 children of Barkos, the 1 children of Siserah, the 1 children of Thamath, 54 The 1 children of Neziah, the 1 children of Hatipha. 55 The 1 children of Solomon's servants: the 1 children of Sotai, the 1 children of Pochereth of Zeboim, the 1 children of Solomon's servants, were three hundred ninety and two, And these were they which went up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsa, Cherub, Addan, and Immer: but they could not shew their father's title; 59 And all the 1 children of the priests: the 1 children of Habaiah, the 1 children of Koz, the 1 children of Barzillai; which took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name; 60 These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood. 63 And the 1 Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things: i.e. the remains of the meal offering, sin offering, and right shoulder of the peace offerings. Cp. Lev. 2. 3; 10. 12-14, 16, 17, Num. 18. 9, 10. 65 And some 1 portion. Ezra mentions what one portion gave. Nehemiah (7. 66) agrees with Neh. 11. 3. The two lists of names are not alike; but there is no "discrepancy". The two tails, while they agree in the numbers, and vary in names, yet have the totals identical. This shows the independence of the two accounts. Numbered in Ezra 2. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 42,900 Named in Ezra . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 31,089 " in Neh., not in Ezra . . . . 1,765 31,588 Difference between names and numbers 10,777 Numbered in Neh. 7. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 42,900 Named in Nehemiah . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 31,089 " in Neh., not in Ezra . . . . 494 31,583 Difference between names and numbers 10,777 65 maids - handmaids. 68 some 1 portion. Ezra mentions what one portion gave. Nehemiah (7. 60) mentions what he and two other portions gave. Hence the numbers "perforce" cannot be the same, and there is no "discrepancy". chief= heads. the LORD. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4. II. God. Heb. Elohim(with Art.) -- the [true] God. Ap. 4. I. 69 treasure = treasury. dramatic. See Ap. 51. I. 1 (2). pound. See Ap. 51. II. 4 (1). 70 all Israel. See note on 2. 2, and 1 Kings 12. 17.


C 1. 1-6. The setting up of the altar. 1-7. The foundation of the house.

1-7 [For Structure of C see next page].

1 seventh month. Tisri. See Ap. 51. III. 5, children = sons. of Israel. See note on 2. 2, and 1 Kings 12. 17, the cities. Some colics, with Sept., Syr., and Vulg., read "their cities". man. Heb. 1sh. Ap. 14. II. to=in. Therefore this was after Neh. 7. 1-4. 69 They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand 1 drams of gold, and five thousand pound of silver, and one hundred priests' garments. 70 So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

3 And when the 1 seventh month was come, and the 1 children of Israel were in the cities, the People gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.
2. Then stood up *Jeshua the son of *Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and *Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and built the altar of the *God of Israel, to *offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is *written in the law of Moses *the 1 man of God. 3 And they set the altar upon its bases; for fear was upon them because of the 2 people of those countries; and they *offered burnt offerings thereon unto *the LORD, even burnt offerings morning and evening. 4 They *kept also the feast of tabernacles, as it is *written, and *offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required; and of every one that willingly offered a free-will offering unto *the LORD. 5 And afterward *offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of *the LORD that were consecrated, and of every one that willingly offered a free-will offering unto *the LORD. 6 From the first day of the seventh month began they to *offer burnt offerings unto *the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of *the LORD was not yet laid. 7 They gave money also unto the masons, and to the 2 carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them of Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to *bring ceder trees from Lebanon to the sea of *Joppa, according to the *grant that they had *of Cyrus king of Persia. 8 Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of *God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to *set forward the work of the house of *the LORD. 9 Then stood Jeshua with his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brethren the Levites. 10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of *the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with 2 cymbals, to praise *the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. 11 And they sang together in praise and giving thanks unto *the LORD, because *He is good, for His *mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the People *shouted with a great shout, when they praised *the LORD, because the foundation of the house of *the LORD was laid. 12 But many of the priests and Levites and *chief of the fathers, *who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many *shouted aloud for joy: 13 So that the People could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the People: for the People shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

4. 2.

2 Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, "Let us build with you: for we are come hither, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto Him since the days of Esar-haddon king of Assyur, which brought us up hither."

H

3 But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, "Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the Lord one God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us."

J N

4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the People of Judah, and troubled them in building,

O from 425-410

5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

N

6 And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, wrote unto him an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

7 And in the days of Artaxerxes, wrote Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of their companions, unto Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the writing of the letter was written in the Syrian tongue, and interpreted in the Syrian tongue.

8 Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king in this sort:

9 Then wrote Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions; the Dinaites, the Apharsachites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Saschites, the Dehavites, and the Elamites,

10 And the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Asnapper brought over, and set in the cities of Samaria, and the rest that are on this side the river, and at such a time.

11 This is the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, even unto Artaxerxes the king; "Thy servants the men on this side the river, and at such a time.

O P i

12 Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad

like the French of to-day. Cp. 1 Kings 18. 26. From 6. 19-7. 11 is Hebrew; and Syria again from 7. 12-27; then Hebrew. the chancellor = the master of the judges or decrees. the scribe: or secretary. in this sort after this manner. 9 Dinaites. Probably from a Persian city. Apharsachrites. A Medo-Persian tribe. Tarpelites. Probably from east of Elymais. Apharsites. Of Persian origin. Archevites. From Babylonia. Cp. Gen. 10. 10. Saschites. From the Persian province or city of Shushan, the capital of Elam. Dehavites = the Dahae of Herodotus (i. 126). Elamites. From a province of Persia. 10 nations = peoples. Asnapper = Assur-bani-pal, or Sardanapalus, the only being only an appellative (= the maintainer), needs "Hystaspis" to be added, to identify him; as Astyages, the son and successor of Sennacherib (see note on 2 Kings 19. 37, and 2 Chron. 36. 11). Assur = Assyria. Jeshua. See note on 3. 2. Israel. See note on 2. 1 and 1 Kings 12. 17, 12. as = according as.

4. 4-16 (J, above). OPPOSITION. LETTER TO CYRUS. (Alteration.)


O | 5. Action. To frustrate.


4 troubled them in = terrified them from.


6 Darius: i.e. Darius Hystaspis (see Ap. 57, 58). "Darius" being only an appellative (= the maintainer), needs the addition of "the Mede." See Ap. 58, and notes on p. 618.

7 Ahasuerus = the venerable king. See Ap. 67, 58, and p. 618. An appellative, used here of Cyrus (v. 5), or retrospectively of Astyages; or, this verse may be retrospective, and should be in parenthesis.

8 Artaxerxes = the great king. Used here of the Cyrus of c. 3. See Ap. 67, 58, and p. 618. Verses 7-13 may also be retrospective of Neb. 20. 28-31, companions = colleagues or associates. the Syrian tongue: i.e. in Aramaic characters as well as in the Aramaic language. Cp. Est. 1. 22; 8. 9, where "writing" (Heb. kaddash, to grave) is the same word as in this book.

9 Rehum. From here to 6. 18 is in Syriac, which was

10 The building. (Introversion and Alteration.)


Q | 13. Hypothesis. "If".

14 Concern. Maintenance.


12 Jews. Nehemiah, Hanani, and friends. Occurs eight times in Ezra, viz. 4. 12, 23; 5. 1, 6; 6. 7, 7, 8, 14. The name by which they were known to Gentiles, because the majority belonged to Judah.
4. 12.

Ezra.

13 It be known now unto the king, that, if this city be built, and the walls set up again, then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so thou shalt endanger the revenue of the kings.

14 Now because we have maintenance from the king's palace, and it was not meet for us to see the king's dishonour, therefore have we sent and certified the king;

15 That search may be made in the book of the records of thy fathers: so shalt thou find in the book of the records, and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same time of old: for which cause was this city destroyed.

16 If it be certified the king that,

17 Then sent the king an answer unto Rehum the chancellor, and to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their companions that dwell in Samaria, and unto the rest beyond the river, "Peace, and at such a time."

18 The letter which ye sent unto us hath been plainly read before me.

19 And I commanded, and search hath been made, and it is found that this city of old time hath made insurrection against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made therein.

20 There have been mighty kings also over Jerusalem, which have ruled over all countries beyond the river; and toll, tribute, and custom, was paid unto them.

21 Give ye now commandment to cause these men to cease, and that this city be not built, until another commandment shall be given from me.

22 Take heed now that ye fail not to do this: why should damage grow to the hurt of the kings?"

23 Now when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the 13 Jews, and made them to cease by force and power.

24 Then ceased the work of the house of God, which is at Jerusalem.

5. 4.

KING'S ANSWER: SUCCESS OF PLOT. (Introversion.)

1 Then answered Chal'd. piteh-giti = an order or decree. A Persian word. Occurs only here and 5. 5, 11; 6. 11. Dan. 3. 16; 4. 17.

19 I commanded = made a decree, made insurrection. Chal'd. lifted itself up.

20 Mighty kings. Such as David and Solomon.

21 Commandment = decree.

22 Commandment = decree.

5. 1 Haggai. The prophet of that name. In the second year of Darius (Hag. 1. 1), "sixth month".

22 Zechariah. The prophet of that name. In the second year of Darius, "eighth month" (Zech. 1. 1).

23 by force. Chal'd. by arm; "arm" being put by Fig Metonymy (of Cause), Ap. 6, for the force put forth by it.

24 Chal'd. 'Hadâ', emphatic, same as Heb. Eloah. Ap. 4. V.

5. 3-17 (J, p. 623). OPPOSITION. LETTER TO DARIUS. (Extended Alternation.)

J R | 1, 4, Governor. "Who commanded?"
| T | 1-4. Appeal to Darius.

R | 5-10. Governor. "Who commanded?"
| T | 17. Appeal to Darius.

3 governor. Chal'd. pechâh (modern "Pasha").

Tatnai was governor in Syria, Zerubbabel was governor in Judah. Cp. vv. 6, 14; 6, 6, 7, 13; 8. 36. Dan. 3. 2, 3, 7; 6, 7; and Hag. 1. 1, 14; 2. 21. companions = colleagues or associates.

commanded you = made a decree to you; given a firman.

make up = build. So the wall had already been built by Nehemiah. See the Chronological Structure, p. 617, and notes on p. 618; and Ap. 58.

4 said = told. Chal'd. 'itmar, which must be followed by the words spoken (which are given in next clause).

We. Note this pronoun (first person sing. and pl.).

Here, and 7. 2-5, 16, and Neh. 1. 1-7, 13; 12. 27-43; 13. 4-31. Sept., Syr., and Arab. read "they", after this manner. Verse 4 should be rendered "we told them what the names were, accordingly the names of the men", &c.

It is not a question.

men. As in 4, 21.

make this building. Heb. "build this building", Fig. Polyptoton (Ap. 6), for emphasis.

3 At the same time came to them Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shethar-boznai, and their companions, and said thus unto them, "Who hath 'commanded you to build this house, and to make up this wall?"

4 Then said we unto them "after this manner, "What are the names of the men that 'make this building?'"
5 But the eye of their elders was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease,
T

6 The copy of the letter that Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shethar-boznai, and his companions the Aapharsachites, which were on this side the river, sent unto Darius the king:
R

7 They sent a letter unto him, wherein was written thus; Unto Darius the king, all peace.
8 Be it known unto the king, that we went into the province of Judea, to the house of the great, which is builded with great stones, and timber is laid in the walls, and this work goeth fast on, and prospereth in their hands.
9 Then asked we those elders, and said unto them thus, Who commanded you to build this house, and to make up these walls?
10 We asked their names also, to certify thee, that we might write the names of the men that were the chief of them.
S

11 And thus they returned us answer, saying, We are the servants of the house of heaven and earth,
O

and build the house that was builded these many years ago, which a great king of Israel builded and set up.
N

12 But after that our fathers had provoked the ten house of heaven unto wrath,
V

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 the great,
S

14 And the vessels also of gold and silver of the house of Nethaneel, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem, and brought into the temple of Babylon, did Cyrus send to a Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor;
O

15 And said unto him, Take these vessels, and carry them into the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of be builded in his place.
T

16 Then came the same Sheshbazzar, and laid the foundation of the house of which is in Jerusalem: and since that time even until now hath it been in building, and yet it is not finished.
O

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 at Jerusalem, and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter.
T

5. 5. EZRA. 6. 4.

q | 2-5. Decree found (Cyrus).
q | 6. Darius. Forbearance ordered.
q | 6-12. Decree made (Darius).

1 Darius: i.e. Darius (Hyastaspis). See Chronological Structure and notes (pp. 617, 618), and Ap. 57, 58.

Babylon. See note on 5. 13.

2 Achmetha = Ecbatana, the capital of ancient Media.


4 Great = Heb. Eloah (Ap. 4. V.) ; the final "ha" is for emphasis.


new timber. Should be "timber one" ; i.e. one row.

In changing the ancient characters into the modern square characters the aleph (a) in hada ("one"), in the ancient character, was mistaken for p, Tau, the "th" in hadath ("new"), and so was transaltered. The Sept. has preserved the original reading, and the R. V. notes it in the margin. The two lines should read: "layers of great stones, three ; and a layer of timber, one".

house = treasury ; "house" being put by Fig. Metonymy (of Adjunct), Ap. 6, for the treasures in it.

6 Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up at Babylon.

2 And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written:

3 In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of at Jerusalem. Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid ; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits ;

4 With three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber : and let the expenses be given out of the king's house:
5 And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל), which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to his place, and place them in the house of 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל)."

6 "Now therefore, 9 (תַּנְתָּי), governor beyond the river, Shethar-boznai, and your companions the Ahasuerus, which are beyond the river, be ye far from thence:
7 Let the work of this house of 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל) alone; let the governor of the 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל) and the elders of the Jews build this house of 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל) in his place.

8 Moreover "I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל) for the building of this house of 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל): that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered.
9 And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל) of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail:
10 That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל) of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.
11 Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this.
12 And the 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל) That hath caused His name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this house of 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל) of God which is at Jerusalem. 9 (דָּרָיוּס) have made a decree; let it be done with speed."

13 Then 9 (תַּנְתָּי), governor on this side the river, Shethar-boznai, and their companions, according to that which 9 (דָּרָיוּס) the king had sent, they did speedily.
14 And the elders of the 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל) builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished the house of 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל), according to the commandment of 9 (דָּרָיוּס), and the commandment of 9 (כִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל), and the commandment of 9 (כִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל), and 9 (דָּרָיוּס) and 9 (כִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל) king of Persia.

15 And this house was finished on the third day of the month 9 (אָדָר), which was in the sixth year of the reign of 9 (דָּרָיוּס) the king.

16 And the 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל), the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל), of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל) with joy,
17 And offered at the dedication of this house of 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל) an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

18 And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of 9 (יִשְׂרָאֵל), which is at Jerusalem; "as it is written in the book of Moses."

19 °The children of the captivity ° kept the passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month.
20 For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them ° were pure, and killed the passover for all the ° children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.
21 And the ° children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the heathen of the land, to seek ° the LORD ° God of Israel, did eat.
22 ° And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for ° the LORD had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king
of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of 41 God, the 41 God of Israel.

7 Now after these things, in the reign of 4 Artaxerxes king of Persia,

4 Ezra the 4 son of 4 Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,
2 The son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,
3 The son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth,
4 The son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,
5 The son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest:
6 This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a 4 ready scribe in the law of Moses, which 4 the LORD 4 God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of 4 the LORD his 4 God upon him.

7 And there went up some of the 4 children of Israel, 4 and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the 4 Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.

8 And he came to Jerusalem in the fifteenth month, which was in the seventh year of the king to

9 For upon 4 the first day of the 4 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 4 hand of his 4 God upon him.

10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of 4 the LORD, and to do it, and 4 to teach in 4 Israel statutes and judgments.

11 Now this is the copy of the letter that the king 4 Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, 4 the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of 4 the LORD, and of His statutes to 4 Israel.

12 And Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the 4 God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time.

13 I make a 4 decree, that all they of the People of 4 Israel, and of 4 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 4 seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy 4 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 4 God of 4 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 4 God which is in Jerusalem:

17 That thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their 4 meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer...
404. them upon the altar of the house of your 12 [§ D D] which is in Jerusalem. 
19. 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 12 [§ D D].

19. The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the house of thy 12 [§ D D], those deliver thou before the 12 [§ D D] of Jerusalem.

20. And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy 12 [§ D D], which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the king's treasure-house.

21. And I, even 3 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 12 [§ D D] of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,

22. Unto an hundred 10 talents of silver, and to an hundred 5 measures of wheat, and to an hundred 4 baths of wine, and to an hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much.

23. Whatsoever is commanded by the 12 [§ D D] of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the 12 [§ D D] 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, 7 Nehumims, or ministers of this house of 12 [§ D D], it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.

25. And 8 Ezra, after the wisdom of thy 12 [§ D D], 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 12 [§ D D]; and teach ye them that know them not.

26. And whatsoever will not do the law of thy 12 [§ D D], 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 chief princes.

29. And 3 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.

30. These are now the chief of their fathers, and this is the genealogy of them that went up from Babylon, in the reign of 3 Artaxerxes the king.

2. Of the sons of Phinehas; Gershom: of the sons of Ithamar; Daniel: of the sons of David; Hattush.

3. Of the sons of Shechaniah, of the sons of Pharosh; Zechariah: and with him were reckoned by genealogy of the males an hundred and fifty.
15 And I gathered them together to the river that runneth to Ahava; and there we abode in tents three days: and I viewed the People, and the priests, and found there none of the sons of Levi.

16 Then sent I for Elizebar, for Ariel, for Shemariah, and for Elathan, and for Jarib, and for Elathan, and for Nathan, and for Zechariah, and for Meshullam, scribes and priests; also for Joiarib, and for Elathan, men of understanding.

17 And I sent them with commandment unto Iddo the chief at the place Casiphia, and I told them what they should say unto Iddo, and to his brethren the Nethinims, at the place Casiphia, that they should bring unto us ministers for the house of our God.

18 And by the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a man of understanding, of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel; and Sherebiah, with his sons and his brethren, eighteen;

19 And Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merar, his brethren and their families, two hundred and twenty Nethinims: all of them were expressed by name.

20 Also of the Nethinims, whom David and the princes had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinims: all of them were expressed by name.

21 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of Him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

22 For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, “The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek Him; but His power and His wrath is against all them that forsake Him.”

23 So we fasted and besought our God for this: and He was intreated of us.

24 Then I separated twelve of the chief of the priests, Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them,

25 And weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, even the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Israel there present, had offered:

26 I even weighed unto their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels an hundred talents, and of gold an hundred talents;

27 Also twenty basins of gold, of a thousand drams; and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold.

28 And I said unto them, “Ye are holy unto the Lord; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the Lord God of your fathers.

29 Watch ye, and keep them, until ye weigh them before the chief of the priests and the Levites, and chief of the fathers of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of the Lord.”

30 So took the priests and the Levites the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem unto the house of our God.

31 Then we departed from the river of Ahava to go unto Jerusalem: and I sent out of the money that I brought up, and I delivered it into the hand of Joiarib the Levite;

32 And I delivered the gold and the silver, and the vessels into the hand of their lieutenants, and to the lieutenants of the God of Jerusalem.

33 Now on the fourth day was the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our God by the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him was Jeshua the son of Phinehas; and with them was Zadok the son of Hadoram, and with them was Ishiram the son of Obadiah the son of Binnui, the Levites;

34 By number and by weight of every one: or the whole number and weight.

35 Also, &c. the fourth of the ten Sabarim (or cycles for public reading) begins here and goes on to Neh. 2. 10, where it ends; thus uniting the two books in one. See note on 2. 43.


The Companion Bible http://worldeventsandthebible.com E. W. Bullinger
Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.

For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.

And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astounded.

And then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and sat down astounded until the evening sacrifice.

And at the evening sacrifice I arose up out of my humility; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God,

And said, O my God, I am ashamed and confounded to lift up my face to Thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.

And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in His holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reprieve in our bondage.

For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken Thy commandments,

Which Thou hast commanded by Thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness.

Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever.
13 And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that Thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this; 14 Should we again break Thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not Thou be angry with us till Thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping? 15 O LORD, God of Israel, art righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day: behold, we are before Thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before Thee because of this.”


10 When Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very congregation of men and women and children: for the People wept very sore. 2 And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the chief priests, stood up and said unto Ezra, “We have trespassed against our God, and have strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. 3 Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the law. 4 Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it.”

Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear unto God, that they would do according to this word. And they swore.

6 Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib: and when he came thither, he did eat no bread, nor drink water: for he mourned because of the transgression of them that had been carried away. 7 And they made proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem unto all the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together unto Jerusalem; 8 And that whosoever would not come within three days, according to the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his substance should be forfeited, and himself separated from the congregation of those that had been carried away.

9 Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together unto Jerusalem within three days. 32 It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month; and all the people sat in the street of the house of God, trembling because of this matter, and for the great rain.

Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, “Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel. 11 Now therefore make confession unto the LORD, God of your fathers, and do His pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.”

12 Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, “As thou hast said, so must we do. 13 But the People are many, and it is a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand without, neither is this a work of one day or two: for we are many that have transgressed in this thing.”

E. W. Bullinger
10. 44.

E. W. Bullinger

THE TEN SEDARIM

are as follows:

(1) Ezra 1. 1—3. 12.
(2) " 3. 13—6. 17.
(3) " 6. 18—8. 34.
(4) " 8. 35—Neh. 2. 10.
(5) Neh. 2. 11—3. 37.
(7) " 6. 15—9. 9.
(8) " 8. 10—10. 1 (Heb. 9. 37).
(9) " 10. 1 (Heb. 2.)—12. 25.
(10) " 12. 26—13. 31.

[Note: This division of the book Ezra-Nehemiah, in the later printed Hebrew Bibles, is quite modern. It breaks up the fourth of the ten Sedarim (or cycles for public reading) which begins at Ezra 8. 35 and ends with Neh. 2. 10. See note on p. 617, and cp. note on p. 366.]