

Chapter 7

Efdras, with manie other Prieftes and Leuites, afcendeth to Ierufalem to teach, and affift the people: 11. bringing Artaxerxes Edict, declareth it to the people, 27. and geueth thanks to God.

The fecond
part.
Efdras
instructeth the
people.

And after thefe things in the reigne of Artaxerxes king of Perfians, Efdras the fonne of Saraïas, the fonne of Azarias, the fonne of Helcias, ² the fonne of Sellum, the fonne of Sadoc, the fonne of Achitob, ³ the fonne of Amarias, the fonne of Azarias, the fonne of Maraioth, ⁴ the fonne of Zarahias, the fonne of Ozi, the fonne of Bocci, ⁵ the fonne of Abifue, the fonne of Phinees, the fonne of Eleazar, the fonne of Aaron the Prieft from the begynning. ⁶ The fame Efdras ^a)came vp from Babylon, and he was a quicke fcribe in the law of Moyfes, which our Lord God gaue to Ifrael: and the king gaue him according to the hand of our Lord his God vpon him al his petition. ⁷ And there came vp of the children of Ifrael, and of the children of the Prieftes, and of the children of the Leuites, and of the finging men, and of the porters, and of the Nathineites into Ierufalem in the feuenth yeare of Artaxerxes the king. ⁸ And they came into Ierufalem the fifth moneth, that is the feuenth yeare of the king. ⁹ For in the firft day of the firft moneth he began to goe vp from Babylon, and in the firft day of the fifth moneth he came into Ierufalem according to the good hand of his God vpon him. ¹⁰ For Efdras prepared his hart to fearch the law of our Lord, and to doe and to teach in Ifrael preceptes and iudgement. ¹¹ And this is the copie of the epiftle of the edict, which king Artaxerxes gaue to Efdras the Prieft, the learned fcribe, in the wordes and preceptes of our Lord, and his ceremonies in Ifrael. ¹² Artaxerxes the king of kings to Efdras the Prieft, the moft learned fcribe of the law of God of heauẽ, greeting.

^a Efdras came with the firft from Babylon (*2. Efd. 12.*) but returned thither and now afcended the fecond time to Ierufalem.

¹³ It is decreed by me that whōfoeuer it ſhal pleaſe in my kingdom of the people of Iſrael, and of the Prieſtes and Leuites, to goe into Ieruſalē, let him goe with thee. ¹⁴ For thou art ſent from the face of the king, and of his ſeuen counſelers, that thou mayſt viſite Iewrie and Ieruſalem in the law of thy God, which is in thy hand. ¹⁵ And that thou maiſt carie the ſiluer & gold, which the king & his counſelers haue voluntarily offered to the God of Iſrael, whoſe tabernacle is in Ieruſalem. ¹⁶ And al the ſiluer and gold whatſoeuer thou ſhalt finde in al the prouince of Babylon, and the people wil offer, and of the Prieſtes that ſhal voluntarily offer to the houſe of theyr God, which is in Ieruſalem, ¹⁷ take freely, and bye diligently of this money calues, rammes, lambes, and the ſacrifices and libamentes of them, and offer them vpon the altar of the temple of your God, that is in Ieruſalem. ¹⁸ Yea and if it ſhal pleaſe thee, and thy brethren to doe any thing with the reſt of the ſiluer and gold, doe ye according to the wil of your God. ¹⁹ The veſſels alſo, which are geuen thee for the miniſterie of the houſe of thy God, deliuer thou in the fight of God in Ieruſalem. ²⁰ Yea and other thinges wherof neede ſhal be for the houſe of thy God, how much ſoeuer is neceſſarie for thee to ſpend, thou ſhalt geue it out of the treaſure, and exchequer of the king, and from me. ²¹ I Artaxerxes the king haue appointed and decreed to al the keepers of the common coffer, that are beyond the Riuer, that whatſoeuer Eſdras the Prieſt, the ſcribe of the law of God of heauen, ſhal aſke of you, you geue it without delay, ²² vnto an hundred talentes of ſiluer, and vnto an hundred cores of wheat, and vnto an hundred bates of wyne, and vnto an hundred bates of oyle, but ſalt without meaſure. ²³ Al that pertayneth to the rite of the God of heauen, let it be geuen diligantly in the houſe of the God of heauen: left perhaps he be angrie agaynſt the kingdom of the king, and of his ſonnes. ²⁴ We doe you alſo to vnderſtand concerning al the Prieſtes, and Leuites, and the ſingers, and the porters, the Nathineites, and miniſters of the houſe of this God, that you haue no authoritie to put tolle and tribute, and yearlie rentes vpon them. ²⁵ And thou

Efdras according to the wifedom of thy God, which is in thy hand, appoynt iudges and prefidentes, that they may iudge for al the people, that is beyond the Riuer, that is for them which know the law of thy God, yea and the ignorant teach ye frely. ²⁶ And euerie one that fhall not doe the law of thy God, and the law of thy king diligently, there fhall be iudgement of him, either vnto death, or into banifhment, or to the confifcation of his fubftance, or at the leaft into prifon. ²⁷ Bleffed be our Lord, the God of our fathers, which hath put this in the kinges hart, that he would glorifie the houle of our Lord, which is in Ierufalem, ²⁸ and hath inclined his mercie toward me before the king and his counfelers, and al the mightie princes of the king: and I taking courage by the hand of our Lord my God, which was on me, gathered together out of Ifrael princes that fhould goe vp with me.