

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

v92

Ezra

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

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Ezra

Ezra 1

Ezra 1:2

ULT	UST
“Thus says Cyrus, the king of Persia: Yahweh, the God of heaven, has given to me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he himself has appointed me to build for him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.	*“I, King Cyrus, rule the Persian Empire, and I say this: Yahweh, the God who is in heaven, has made me ruler over the great kingdoms of this part of the world. Now he has assigned me to make sure that his people build a temple for him in the city of Jerusalem in the province of Judah.*

Who did Yahweh appoint to build for him a house in Jerusalem?

Yahweh appointed Cyrus to build for him a house in Jerusalem.

Ezra 1:4

ULT	UST
And every one who is remaining in all of the places where he is sojourning there, let the men of his place lift him with silver and with gold, and with goods and with livestock, along with the freewill offering for the house of God, which is in Jerusalem.”	*There are other people who are living around the Israelites in the places where the Israelites have been living since their ancestors were exiled here. Those people must contribute silver and gold to the Israelites who go. They must also give to the Israelites animals and any supplies that they might need. They should also give them other gifts that they can use to help build the temple of God in Jerusalem.”*

Who would provide silver and gold and goods and livestock for the Jewish people who were returning to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple?

The Jewish people returning to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple were to be provided silver and gold and goods and livestock by the Jewish men who had been living in the same region.

Ezra 1:7

ULT	UST
And the king Cyrus brought out the vessels of the house of Yahweh that Nebuchadnezzar had brought out from Jerusalem and had put in the house of his gods.	*King Cyrus also commanded his servants to bring out the valuable things that King Nebuchadnezzar's soldiers had taken from the temple of Yahweh in Jerusalem and had put in the temples of their gods in Babylon.*

Where had Nebuchadnezzar put the objects belonging to Yahweh's house?

Nebuchadnezzar had put the objects belonging to Yahweh's house in the house of his own gods.

Ezra 1:11

ULT	UST
All the vessels of gold and of silver were 5, 400. Sheshbazzar brought up all this with the going up of the exiles from Babylon to Jerusalem.	*All together, Cyrus gave 5, 400 silver and gold items to Sheshbazzar to take with him when he and the others returned from the kingdom of Babylon to Jerusalem.*

How many gold and silver items did Sheshbazzar bring when the exiles went from Babylon to Jerusalem?

Sheshbazzar brought 5,400 gold and silver items when the exiles went from Babylon to Jerusalem.

Ezra 2

Ezra 2:1

ULT	UST
Now these are the sons of the province, the ones who went up from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had exiled to Babylon. And they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, a man to his city;	*Many years ago, the army of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had captured many Israelite people and taken them away to the kingdom of Babylon. Now, these Israelite people began to return to Judah. Some returned to Jerusalem, and some returned to other places in Judah. Each of them went to the towns where their ancestors had lived. This is a list of the groups who returned.*

Who had exiled the Jewish people living in Babylon?

King Nebuchadnezzar had exiled the Jewish people living in Babylon.

Ezra 2:62

ULT	UST
These ones sought their record among the ones who were enrolled by genealogy, but they were not found. And they were desecrated from the priesthood.	*The people in this group searched in the documents that listed the names of the descendants from the various Israelite clans, but they did not find their names there. So the officials did not permit them to do the work that priests did.*

Why were some of the priests' descendants excluded from the priesthood?

They were excluded from the priesthood because they could not find a record of their genealogy.

Ezra 2:63

ULT	UST
And the Tirshatha said to them that they must not eat from the holiest holy food until a priest stood with Urim and with Thummim.	*The governor told these men that they could not eat the shares of the sacrifices that only the priests could eat until a high priest could consult Yahweh by using the sacred lots to determine that they truly were descendants of priestly families. Only if the high priest determined that these men truly were priests could they eat the most sacred food.*

When could the priests' descendants eat the holiest holy food?

The priests' descendants could eat the holiest holy food after a priest stood with the Urim and Thummim.

Ezra 2:70

ULT	UST
So the priests, and the Levites, and some from the people, and the singers, and the gatekeepers, and the temple servants dwelt in their cities. So all Israel was in their cities.	*So all of these priests, Levites, musicians, gatekeepers, temple servants, and other people returned to live in the towns and villages of the province of Judah. They settled in the places where their ancestors had lived.*

Who lived in their cities?

The priests, and the Levites, and some from the people, and the ones who sang, and the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim lived in their cities.

Ezra 3

Ezra 3:2

ULT	UST
Then arose Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brothers, and they built the altar of the God of Israel to offer up burnt up offerings on it as is written in the law of Moses, the man of God.	*Then Joshua son of Jehozadak and his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates all began to rebuild the altar of the God of Israel. They did that so that they could sacrifice burnt offerings on it. They wanted to follow what the prophet Moses had written in the laws that God had given to him.*

What did Jeshua, the priests, and Zerubbabel and his brothers rise up to do?

They rose up to build the altar of the God of Israel so that burnt offerings could be offered on it.

Ezra 3:3

ULT	UST
And they set up the altar on its foundation, for dread was on them because of the peoples of the lands. Then they offered up on it burnt up offerings to Yahweh, burnt up offerings at the morning and at the evening.	*Even though they were afraid of the people who were already living in that area, they rebuilt the altar at the same place where the previous altar had been. They began to offer sacrifices to Yahweh on it every morning and every evening.*

How often did Jeshua and the priests and Zerubbabel and his brothers offer burnt offerings to Yahweh?

They offered burnt offerings to Yahweh in the morning and in the evening.

Ezra 3:7

ULT	UST
And they gave silver to the masons and to the carpenters, and food, and drink, and oil to the Sidonians and to the Tyrians, to bring trees of cedar from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the permission of Cyrus, the king of Persia, given to them.	*So the leaders of the Israelites hired stone-cutters and carpenters to do the construction work. They also bought logs of cedar trees from the people of the cities of Tyre and Sidon. To pay for the logs, the Israelites sent grain, wine, and olive oil to those people. Since King Cyrus had said that the Israelites could buy these things, the people of Tyre and Sidon agreed. They brought the logs down from the mountains in Lebanon to the seashore at Joppa and then floated them along the coast to the city of Joppa. Then they brought the logs inland from Joppa up to Jerusalem.*

Who gave permission for cedar trees to be sent from Lebanon to Joppa by sea?

Cyrus, king of Persia, gave permission for cedar trees to be sent from Lebanon to Joppa by sea.

Ezra 3:8

ULT	UST
Then in the second year of their coming to the house of God in Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all the ones who came from captivity to Jerusalem began, and they appointed the Levites from a son of 20 years and above to act as overseers for the work of the house of Yahweh.	*The Israelites started to rebuild the temple in the second month of the second year after they had returned to Jerusalem. Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, Joshua the son of Jozadak, their fellow leaders the priests and the Levites, and all the people who had come from where their enemies had taken them to Jerusalem supported this project. The leaders assigned the Levites who were twenty years old and older to supervise this work of rebuilding the temple for Yahweh.*

When did the work begin?

The work began in the second month of the second year after the Israelites came to the house of God in Jerusalem.

Ezra 3:11

ULT	UST
Then they sang in response, praising and giving thanks to Yahweh: "For he is good, for his covenant faithfulness to Israel is to eternity!" And all the people shouted a great shout in praise to Yahweh because the foundation of the house of Yahweh had been laid.	*Then the Levites praised Yahweh and thanked him by singing this song about him: "He is very good to us! He will continue to be faithful and kind to us Israelites and he will love us forever." Then all the people shouted loudly. They praised Yahweh because they had finished laying the foundation of his temple.*

How did all the people respond after the temple's foundations had been laid?

All the people shouted a great shout in praise to Yahweh because the temple's foundation had been laid.

Ezra 3:12

ULT	UST
But many from the priests and the Levites, and the heads of the fathers, the old men who had seen the first house, at the founding of this house in their eyes, were weeping with a loud voice. Yet many with a shout, with joy, were lifting up a voice.	*Many of the old priests, Levites, and leaders of families remembered seeing the first temple. They cried aloud when they saw the workers lay the foundation of this temple because they thought that this temple would not be as big or as beautiful as the first temple. But the other people shouted joyfully in loud voices.*

How did the people who had seen the first temple respond after seeing the foundation of the second temple?

They wept with a loud voice.

Ezra 4

Ezra 4:1

ULT	UST
Now the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the sons of the exile were building a temple for Yahweh, the God of Israel.	*The enemies of the people of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin learned that the Israelites who had returned from Babylon were rebuilding the temple for Yahweh, the God whom the people of Israel worship.*

What did the enemies of Judah and Benjamin hear that the people who had been exiled were doing?

The enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the people who had been exiled were building a temple for Yahweh, the God of Israel.

Ezra 4:2

ULT	UST
So they came to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the fathers and they said to them, "Let us build with you, for, like you, we seek your God and to him we have been sacrificing since the days of Esarhaddon, the king of Assyria, the one who caused us to come up here."	*So they approached Zerubbabel the governor and the other clan leaders and deceptively said to them, "We want to help you to build the temple. After all, we also worship your God. We have been offering sacrifices to him since the time that Esarhaddon, the king of Assyria, brought us here."*

For how long did the enemies of Judah and Benjamin say that they themselves had been sacrificing to Yahweh?

Judah and Benjamin's enemies said that they themselves had been sacrificing to Yahweh since the days of Esarhaddon, the king of Assyria.

Ezra 4:4-5

What were the people of the land doing to the people of Judah?

The people of the land were making the hands of the people of Judah weak, and making them afraid to build, and hiring counselors against them to frustrate their plans.

Ezra 4:5

ULT	UST
and hiring counselors against them to frustrate their plans all the days of Cyrus, the king of Persia, and until the reign of Darius, the king of Persia.	*They bribed government officials to prevent the Jews from fulfilling their plans to rebuild the temple and the city. They did that all during the time that Cyrus was king of Persia, and continued to do it during the time of the kings after him, including the time when Darius was king of Persia.*

For how long did the people of the land make the hands of the people of Judah weak and make them afraid to build and hire counselors against them to frustrate their plans?

They people of the land did this to the people of Judah all the days of Cyrus, the king of Persia, and until the reign of Darius, the king of Persia.

Ezra 4:6

ULT	UST
Now in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against those who dwelled in Judah and Jerusalem.	*These enemies of the Jews continued to accuse them during the time that Darius' son Ahasuerus was king. When Ahasuerus became king, they wrote a letter to him in which they accused the people living in the province of Judah and the city of Jerusalem of planning to rebel against the government.*

What did the enemies of Judah and Benjamin write at the beginning of Ahasuerus' reign?

At the beginning of Ahasuerus' reign, the enemies wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

Ezra 4:12

ULT	UST
let it be known to the king that the Jews who went up from near you have come to us at Jerusalem. Rebuilding the rebellious and evil city, they are completing the walls and repairing the foundations.	*"Your Majesty, we want you to know that the Jews who left from your territories are now living near us. They are rebuilding the city of Jerusalem. These people are wicked and want to rebel against you. Therefore, they are now rebuilding the walls of that city and repairing the foundations of its buildings.*

What did the enemies tell the king about Jerusalem?

The enemies told the king that Jerusalem was a rebellious city.

Ezra 4:19

ULT	UST
So from me was set a decree, and they searched and discovered that that city since the ancient days has risen up against kings and rebellion and revolt have been made in it.	*Then I ordered my officials to search the records. I have found out that what you said is true. The people of Jerusalem have repeatedly revolted against their rulers, beginning a long time ago.*

After the letter that the enemies sent to the king was read to him, what did the king do?

After the letter that the enemies sent to the king was read to him, the king ordered that the book of the records be searched to see if what the enemies had written about Jerusalem's past history of rebellion was true.

Ezra 4:24

ULT	UST
At that time the work of the house of God which is in Jerusalem stopped, and it was stopped until the second year of the reign of Darius, the king of Persia.	*Because the enemies of the Jews kept opposing them so strongly in these ways, the Jews had stopped rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem. They did not do any more work to rebuild the temple until the second year after Darius had become the king of Persia.*

For how long did the work on the house of God in Jerusalem stop?

The work on the house of God in Jerusalem stopped until the second year of the reign of Darius, king of Persia.

Ezra 5

Ezra 5:1

ULT	UST
Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet and Zechariah, the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and in Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel who was over them.	*At that time two prophets were giving messages from God to the Jews living in Jerusalem and in other cities in Judah, saying that they should continue rebuilding the temple. Those prophets were Haggai and Zechariah, the son of Iddo. They spoke their messages representing the God whom the people of Israel worshiped, the one who ruled them.*

What did the prophets Haggai and Zechariah do?

They prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and in Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel.

Ezra 5:2

ULT	UST
Then Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, arose and began to build the house of God which is in Jerusalem, and the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.	*So Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak led many other people to start rebuilding the temple of God in Jerusalem again. God's prophets Haggai and Zechariah were with them and helping them.*

What did the Jewish elders Zerubbabel and Jeshua arise and do?

The Jewish elders Zerubbabel and Jeshua arose and began to build the house of God in Jerusalem.

Ezra 5:5

ULT	UST
But the eye of God was on the elders of the Jews, and they did not stop them until the report came to Darius, and then they returned the letter concerning this matter.	*However, God was taking care of the Jewish leaders, and their enemies did not make them stop building the temple. Instead, the enemies sent King Darius a report and waited for him to send back a decree about it. The decree would either allow the Jewish leaders to finish their work on the temple, or else it would command them to stop their work completely.*

Did the Jewish elders stop their work of building the temple while they were waiting for King Darius to respond to the letter that Tattenai and Shethar-Bozenai and their companions sent?

The elders of the Jews did not stop their work of rebuilding God's house in Jerusalem while they were waiting for King Darius to respond to the letter that was sent to him.

Ezra 5:8

ULT	UST
Let it be known to the king that we went to Judah, the province, to the house of the great God, and it is being built of large stones, and timber is being placed in the walls. And this work is being done diligently and is succeeding in their hand.	*We want you to know that we went to the temple of the great God in the province of Judah. The people are building it with huge stones, and they are putting wooden beams in the walls. They are doing this work very carefully, and they are making good progress.*

How did Tattenai, Shethar Bozenai, and their fellow officials describe the work on the house of God?

They wrote that the work was being done diligently and was succeeding.

Ezra 5:12

ULT	UST
However, because of this, that our fathers caused the God of heaven to be angry, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, the Chaldean, and he destroyed this house and caused the people to be exiled to Babylon.	*But our ancestors did things that caused God, who is in heaven, to become very angry. So God allowed the armies of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, a Chaldean, to conquer them. His armies destroyed that temple, and they took many of the Israelite people to Babylon.*

Why did the God of heaven give the ancestors of the Jews into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon?

The God of heaven gave the Jews into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon because their ancestors caused him to be angry by sinning against him.

Ezra 5:14

ULT	UST
And also the vessels of the house of God, of gold and silver, that Nebuchadnezzar had taken out from the temple that was in Jerusalem and had brought them to the temple of Babylon—Cyrus the king took them out from the temple of Babylon and they were given to one whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had set as governor.	*There had been a lot of containers made of gold and silver in the temple of God. Nebuchadnezzar took them from the temple in Jerusalem and brought them to a temple for his god in Babylon. Later, King Cyrus removed those containers from that temple in Babylon and gave them to a man named Sheshbazzar, whom he appointed as governor of Judah.*

What items did King Cyrus give to Sheshbazzar the governor?

King Cyrus gave Sheshbazzar the gold and silver vessels belonging to the house of God.

Ezra 5:15

ULT	UST
Then he said to him, "Take away these vessels. Go deposit them in the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be built on its place."	*King Cyrus told Sheshbazzar to take these containers and put them back in the temple in Jerusalem. He also decreed that the Jews should rebuild the temple at the place where it had been before.*

What did Cyrus the king command Sheshbazzar to do with the silver and gold vessels that belonged to God's house?

King Cyrus commanded Sheshbazzar to take the silver and gold vessels and deposit them in God's temple in Jerusalem.

Ezra 5:17

ULT	UST
And now, if it is good to the king, let a search be made in the house of the treasures of the king which is there in Babylon, if it is that a decree was set by Cyrus the king to build this house of God in Jerusalem. And let him send to us the will of the king concerning this."	*Therefore, your Majesty, please order your officials to search in the place in Babylon where you keep the royal records. Have them find out whether or not it is true that King Cyrus decreed that the Jews should rebuild this temple of God in Jerusalem. Then please tell us what you would like us to do about this matter."*

What did Tattenai and Shethar-Bozenai and his companions request that the king do?

They requested that the king search in the house of the treasures of the king to see if Cyrus had made a decree to build the house of God in Jerusalem.

Ezra 6

Ezra 6:1

ULT	UST
Then Darius the king set a decree and they searched in the house of the books where the treasures had been deposited there in Babylon.	*So King Darius commanded his servants to search in the places where he kept important records there in the kingdom of Babylon.*

How did King Darius respond to the request that a search be made to see if Cyrus had made a decree to build the house of God in Jerusalem?

Darius the king responded to the request by making a decree that a search be made in the house of the books where the treasures had been deposited to see if it was true that King Cyrus had made a decree to build the house of God in Jerusalem.

Ezra 6:2

ULT	UST
And one scroll was found in the fortress at Ecbatana that is in the province of Media, and the record was written within it thusly:	*They searched, and they found a scroll that contained the information that they wanted to know in the fortress city of Ecbatana in the province of Media. This is what that scroll said:*

What was found when King Darius ordered a search be made in the house of archives in Babylon?

A scroll was found in the fortress at Ecbatana in the province of Media.

Ezra 6:3

ULT	UST
“In year one of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king set a decree about the house of God in Jerusalem: ‘Let the house be built, a place where sacrifices are sacrificed, and let its foundations be raised. Its height will be 60 cubits. Its width will be 60 cubits,	*“During the first year that King Cyrus ruled the empire, he sent out a decree concerning the temple of God that was in Jerusalem. He said, ‘I command that the Jews shall build a new temple in the same place where they had previously offered sacrifices. They must make the temple 27 meters high and 27 meters wide.*

What did King Cyrus do in his first year as king?

King Cyrus made a decree regarding the house of God in Jerusalem.

Ezra 6:4

ULT	UST
with three layers of large stone and a layer of new timber. And let the cost be given from the house of the king.	*They must build the temple from large stones. After putting down three layers of stones, the workers must put a layer of new timber on top of them. I will pay for this work with money from the royal treasury.*

According to the decree of King Cyrus how was the cost of building God's house in Jerusalem to be paid for?

The cost for building God's house in Jerusalem was to be paid for by the house of the king.

Ezra 6:5

ULT	UST
And also, the vessels of the house of God, of gold and silver, that Nebuchadnezzar had taken out from the temple that was in Jerusalem and had brought to Babylon, must be returned. And let each go to the temple that is in Jerusalem, to its place. So you must put them in the house of God.'"	*I also give back to the Jews the gold and silver containers that had belonged to the temple of God but that Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon. The Jews must take these and return them to the temple in Jerusalem. The Jews must put each one back in its original place in the temple of God.'"*

According to King Cyrus' decree, what was to be brought back to the house of God?

According to King Cyrus' decree, the gold and silver vessels belonging to the house of God in Jerusalem that Nebuchadnezzar had taken to Babylon were to be brought back to the house of God in Jerusalem.

Ezra 6:7

ULT	UST
Leave alone the work of that house of God. Let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build that house of God on its place.	*Allow them to continue the work of rebuilding that temple of God. Allow the governor of the Jews and their elders to lead their people in building this new temple on the same site as the former temple.*

After King Darius read the decree of Cyrus what did Darius write to Tattenai and Shethar-Bozenai and their companions regarding the work that was being done on the house of God in Jerusalem?

Darius commanded Tattenai and Shethar-Bozenai and their companions to leave the work on God's house alone and to stay far away from it so that it could be built successfully.

Ezra 6:10

ULT	UST
so that they may be offering sweet-smelling sacrifices to the God of heaven and praying for the life of the king and his sons.	*When you do that, they will be able to offer sacrifices that please the God who is in heaven, and they will be able to pray that God will bless me and my sons.*

Why did Cyrus say that he wanted the Jews to be given whatever they needed for building the house of God?

Cyrus said he wanted the Jews to be given whatever they needed to build the house of God so that the Jews could offer sweet-smelling sacrifices to the God of heaven and pray for the life of the king and his sons.

Ezra 6:11

ULT	UST
And from me is set a decree that, for any man who changes this edict, a beam shall be pulled from his house, and, being erect, he shall be impaled on it. And his house shall be made a rubbish heap on account of this.	*This is what I command about anyone who disobeys this decree. My soldiers will pull a beam from his house and sharpen one end of it. Then they will bury the other end of the beam in the ground so that it stands upright. Then they will pick that person up and ram his body onto the sharpened beam. Then they will completely destroy that person's house until only a pile of rubble is left, because he disobeyed me.*

What did Darius decree must happen to the person who changes the edict?

Darius decreed that a beam must be pulled from the person's house and the beam placed upright and the person who had changed the edict be impaled on the beam and their house be made into a rubbish heap.

Ezra 6:14

ULT	UST
And the elders of the Jews were building and prospering by the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and completed by the decree of the God of Israel and by the decree of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes, the king of Persia.	*So the Jewish leaders continued to progress in their work of rebuilding the temple. The messages that the prophets Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo preached encouraged them greatly. The people worked until they completed the temple, just as their God had commanded them to do, and just as the Persian kings Cyrus and Darius had decreed, and as the Persian king Artaxerxes would decree later.*

How did Haggai and Zechariah assist the Jewish elders in the work of rebuilding the temple?

Haggai and Zechariah prophesied and this helped the elders of the Jews prosper in their work of rebuilding the temple.

Ezra 6:15

ULT	UST
And this house was done by day three of the month of Adar, which was year six of the reign of Darius the king.	*The people finished building this temple on the third day of the month of Adar, during the sixth year that King Darius ruled the kingdom of Persia.*

When was the work of rebuilding the temple completed?

The work of rebuilding the temple was completed on day three of the month of Adar in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

Ezra 6:20

ULT	UST
For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves as one, all of them were pure. And they slaughtered the Passover for all the sons of the exile, and for their brothers, the priests, and for themselves.	*To qualify themselves for offering the sacrifices, all the priests and Levites had already purified themselves by performing the proper rituals. Then they slaughtered the lambs for the benefit of everyone who had returned from Babylonia, for the other priests, and for themselves.*

For whom did the priests and Levites slaughter the Passover lamb?

The priests and Levites slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the sons of the exile, and for their brothers, the priests, and for themselves.

Ezra 6:22

ULT	UST
Then they made the Festival of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, because Yahweh had caused them to be joyful, and had caused the heart of the king of Assyria to turn toward them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.	*Then for the next seven days, they joyfully celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread. They were joyful because Yahweh had caused the king of Assyria to be favorable to them. As a result, the king had helped them to rebuild the temple of God, the God whom Israel worshiped.*

Why did the Jews joyfully celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread?

The Jews joyfully celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread because Yahweh had caused them to be joyful, and had caused the heart of the king of Assyria to turn toward them, to strengthen their hands in their work of rebuilding the house of God.

Ezra 7

Ezra 7:6

ULT	UST
this Ezra went up from Babylon, and he was a skilled scribe in the law of Moses that Yahweh, the God of Israel, had given. And the king granted to him all his request according to the hand of Yahweh his God upon him.	*This man Ezra knew the laws of Moses very well. Those were the laws that Yahweh had given to the people who worship him, the Israelite people. Ezra asked the king for many things and the king gave Ezra everything that he asked for because Yahweh, the God whom Ezra worshiped, caused all of it to go well for him. Then Ezra traveled from Babylon to Jerusalem.*

What was Ezra's occupation?

He was a skilled scribe in the law of Moses.

Ezra 7:9

ULT	UST
For on the first of the first month was the beginning of the ascent from Babylon. And on the first of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.	*Consider this: They started out from Babylon on the first day of the first month. They arrived safely in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month of that year. God certainly acted very kindly toward them.*

Why did Ezra arrive in Jerusalem safely after a long journey from Babylon?

Ezra arrived in Jerusalem safely after a long journey from Babylon because the good hand of his God was on him.

Ezra 7:13

ULT	UST
from me is set a decree that everyone in my kingdom who freely offers to go to Jerusalem with you, from the people 'Israel' and its priests and the Levites, may go.	*I am commanding that any of the Israelite people in my kingdom may go with you to Jerusalem if they want to go. That includes priests and Levites.*

Who was allowed to go to Jerusalem with Ezra?

King Artaxerxes made a decree that everyone in his kingdom who freely offered to go to Jerusalem with Ezra from the people Israel and from the priests and Levites could go with Ezra.

Ezra 7:14

ULT	UST
Because it was sent from before the king and his seven counselors to inquire about Judah and about Jerusalem by the law of your God which is in your hand,	*I, the king, and my seven advisors are sending you to investigate whether the people of Judah and Jerusalem are following the law of your God that you carry.*

Why did the king and his seven counselors send the Israelites back to Jerusalem?

The king and his seven counselors sent the Israelites back to Jerusalem to inquire about Judah and Jerusalem and to bring the silver and gold that the king and his counselors had freely offered and to bring all the silver and gold that they found in all the province of Babylon, along with the freewill offerings of the people and the priests.

Ezra 7:16

ULT	UST
with all the silver and the gold that you find in all the province of Babylon, along with the freewill offering of the people and the priests who freely give for the house of God, which is in Jerusalem:	*You should also take any silver and gold that the people in the entire province of Babylonia may give to you. Add that to the money that the Israelite people and the priests freely give for you to use at the temple of their God in Jerusalem.*

Why did the king and his seven counselors send the Israelites back to Jerusalem?

The king and his seven counselors sent the Israelites back to Jerusalem to inquire about Judah and Jerusalem and to bring the silver and gold that the king and his counselors had freely offered and to bring all the silver and gold that they found in all the province of Babylon, along with the freewill offerings of the people and the priests.

Ezra 7:20

ULT	UST
And the rest of what is needed for the house of your God that falls to you to give, you may give from the house of the treasures of the king.	*If you need to supply any other things for the temple of your God, I permit you to get the money to pay for those things from the royal treasury.*

How were the Jews to pay for additional things they might need for the house of God?

King Artaxerxes decreed that the Jews should take anything else that they needed for the house of their God from Artaxerxes' treasury.

Ezra 7:23

ULT	UST
Everything that is from the decree of the God of heaven shall be done exactly for the house of the God of heaven. For why should there be wrath against the kingdom of the king and his sons?	*Be sure that you provide everything that the God who is in heaven requires for his temple. We certainly do not want this God to be angry with me or with my descendants, who will later be kings, because I did not provide what he required.*

Why did Artaxerxes say that the treasurers should do exactly what the God of Heaven decreed regarding the temple?

King Artaxerxes said that the treasurers should do exactly what the God of Heaven decreed regarding the temple so that God's wrath would not come against the kingdom of Artaxerxes and his sons.

Ezra 7:26

ULT	UST
And everyone who will not do the law of your God and the law of the king, judgment shall be exacted from him diligently, whether for death, whether for banishment, whether for confiscation of goods, or for imprisonment."	*You and the men whom you appoint must make sure to severely punish everyone who does not obey my law or the law of the God whom you worship. You may decide whether to execute them or to send them out of the country or to take away all of their property or to put them in prison."*

What did King Artaxerxes decree should be done to every person who did not obey the law of Ezra's God and the law of the king?

Artaxerxes decreed that whoever would not obey the law of Ezra's God and the law of the king should be punished diligently, either by death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or by imprisonment.

Ezra 7:28

ULT	UST
and caused covenant faithfulness to extend to me before the face of the king, and his counselors, and before all the mighty officials of the king. And as for me, I gained strength according to the hand of Yahweh my God upon me, and I gathered from Israel heads to go up with me.	*God also acted very kindly to me by causing the king and his advisors and all of his powerful officials to want to help me. When I saw how Yahweh, the God whom I worship, was making all of my plans succeed, I boldly asked some of the Israelite leaders to go to Jerusalem with me."*

What caused Ezra to be strengthened?

Ezra was strengthened because he realized that the hand of Yahweh his God was on him to help him.

Ezra 8

Ezra 8:15

ULT	UST
And I gathered them to the river, the one that goes to Ahava, and we encamped there three days. And I examined the people and the priests, but I did not find there any from the sons of Levi.	*This is an account of how we traveled to Jerusalem. I gathered together all of these Israelites at the canal that goes from Babylon to Ahava. We set up our tents and stayed there for three days. During that time I interviewed the people and the priests and discovered that there were no Levites among us.*

When Ezra examined the people and the priests by the river that flowed to Ahava, what could Ezra not find?

When Ezra examined the people and the priests by the river that flowed to Ahava, he could not find any descendants of Levi.

Ezra 8:17

ULT	UST
And I commanded them to go to Iddo, the head at the place Kasiphia. And I put in their mouth words to speak to Iddo and his brothers, the temple servants in the place Kasiphia, to bring to us those who minister for the house of our God.	*I sent them all to Iddo, a Levite leader who was living in a place called Kasiphia. I told them what to say to Iddo and to his fellow Levites, the descendants of temple workers whom he oversaw there. I wanted them to send us some men who would go with us to work in the temple of our God.*

Why did Ezra send men to go to Iddo and his brothers?

Ezra sent men to Iddo and his brothers because he wanted Iddo and his brothers to send him Levites who could minister in the house of God.

Ezra 8:18

ULT	UST
And according to the good hand of our God upon us, they brought to us: a man of insight from the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel, even Sherebiah, and his sons and his brothers were 18;	*Because God acted kindly toward us, they brought us a very wise man named Sherebiah and 18 of his sons and other relatives. He was a descendant of Mahli, who was a grandson of Levi, the son of Israel.*

How did Ezra describe Sherebiah?

Ezra described Sherebiah as a man of insight.

Ezra 8:22

ULT	UST
For I was ashamed to ask from the king an army and horsemen to help us from an enemy on the way. For we had spoken to the king, saying, "The hand of our God is for good upon all those who seek him, but his might and his nose are against all those who forsake him."	*Previously we had told the king that our God takes care of all those who truly trust in him, but that he powerfully punishes everyone who refuses to obey him. So I would have been ashamed to ask the king to send soldiers and men riding on horses to protect us from our enemies while we were traveling along the road.*

Why did Ezra not ask the king for an army or horsemen to protect the Jews against their enemies as they traveled to Jerusalem?

Ezra did not ask the king for an army or horsemen to protect the Jews against their enemies as they traveled because he was ashamed to ask since the Jews had told the king that the hand of their God is for good upon all those who seek him, and that God's might and nose are against all who forsake him.

Ezra 8:29

ULT	UST
Watch and keep until you weigh them out before the face of the leaders of the priests and the Levites and the leaders of the fathers of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of Yahweh."	*So guard them carefully. When we arrive in Jerusalem, weigh them out where the leading priests and Levites and the other leaders of the Israelite clans can see them. They will then put them in the storerooms in the temple of Yahweh.'*

How long were the twelve men to watch over the gold and silver?

The twelve men were to watch over the gold and silver until they weighed them out before the face of the leaders of the priests and the Levites and the leaders of the fathers of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of Yahweh.

Ezra 8:31

ULT	UST
Then we set out from the river Ahava on day 12 of the first month to go to Jerusalem. And the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the palm of the enemy and ambush on the way.	*On the twelfth day of the first month, we left the Ahava Canal and started to travel to Jerusalem. Our God took care of us, and while we traveled, he prevented any enemies from attacking or robbing us.*

How did Ezra say that God's hand was upon him and the rest of the Jews as they traveled to Jerusalem?

Ezra said that the hand of God was on him and his fellow Jews in that God protected them from the hand of their enemies and from ambush as they traveled to Jerusalem.

Ezra 8:36

ULT	UST
And they gave the laws of the king to the satraps of the king and the governors of Beyond-the-River. And they lifted the people and the house of God.	*Some of us who had returned from Babylonia took the letter that the king had given to us to the governors of the king's provinces and to the officials of the province west of the Euphrates River. After they read the letter, they did what the king commanded for us Israelite people and for the temple of God."*

To whom were the king's decrees given?

The king's decrees were given to the satraps of the king and the governors of Beyond-the-River.

Ezra 9

Ezra 9:2

ULT	UST
For they have lifted from their daughters for themselves and for their sons, so they have mixed the seed of holiness with the peoples of the lands. And the hand of the leaders and the rulers has been first in this unfaithfulness."	*Specifically, some Israelite men have married women from these groups, and they have allowed their sons to do the same thing. So they are making us, God's sacred people, to be no longer distinct from the other groups that live here. In fact, some of our leaders and officials have been the first ones to betray God in this way!'*

In what way did the people of Israel not separate themselves from the people of other lands?

The people of Israel did not separate themselves from the people of other lands in that they married non-Israelites and allowed their sons to marry non-Israelites.

Ezra 9:3

ULT	UST
And as soon as I heard this matter, I tore my garment and my robe. And I pulled out some from the hair of my head and my beard, and I sat down appalled.	*When I heard that, I was so sad and angry that I tore my clothes and my robe. I even pulled out some hair from my head and my beard. Then I sat down. I was very dismayed.*

How did Ezra respond to the people's unfaithfulness?

Ezra tore his garment and his robe and pulled out some of the hair of his head and beard, and sat down appalled.

Ezra 9:6

ULT	UST
And I said, "My God, I am ashamed and humiliated to raise my face to you, my God. For our iniquities have multiplied to above the head, and our guilt has grown up as far as to the heavens.	*and this is what I prayed: 'God, I belong to you. Yet I am very ashamed even to approach you in prayer. This is because the sins that we Israelites have committed are very bad. It is as though our sins are so many that they have risen up in a heap that is higher than our heads. We are so guilty for committing those sins that it is as though the heap of them has risen all the way up to you in heaven.*

Why was Ezra too ashamed and disgraced to raise his face to Yahweh?

Ezra was too ashamed and disgraced to raise his face to Yahweh because his people's iniquity and guilt were great.

Ezra 9:9

ULT	UST
For we are slaves, yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery. But he has extended to us covenant faithfulness before the face of the kings of Persia to give to us reviving, to raise up the house of our God and to cause its ruins to stand, and to give to us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.	*Yes, we are like slaves, but even so, you have not abandoned us. Instead, you have caused the kings of Persia to act very kindly toward us. They have given us some freedom and allowed us to rebuild your temple, which had been destroyed. They have allowed us to live safely here in the province of Judah and the city of Jerusalem.*

What did God extend to the Jewish people in their effort to build God's house?

God extended covenant faithfulness to the Jewish people in their effort to build his house.

Ezra 9:12

ULT	UST
So now, neither give your daughters to their sons nor lift their daughters for your sons, nor shall you seek their peace or their good until eternity, so that you may be strong and eat the good things of the land and cause your sons to inherit it until eternity.'	*They said, "Therefore do not allow your daughters to marry their sons! Do not allow your sons to marry their daughters! Do not ever try to cause things to go well for those people! If you obey these instructions, your nation will be strong. You will enjoy the good crops that grow on the land, and the land will belong to your descendants forever."*

Why did God not want the Israelites to intermarry with the people of the land?

God did not want the Israelites to intermarry with the people of the land because the people had made the land impure by their impure behavior and by doing things that were an abomination to God.

Ezra 9:13

ULT	UST
Yet after all that has come upon us because of our evil deeds and because of our great guilt (although you, our God, you have restrained it to lower than our iniquities, and you have given to us a survival such as this),	*But you punished us because we became very guilty for doing wicked things. Still, you, our God, have not punished us as much as we deserve for you to punish us. I say this because you have allowed this group of us to survive.*

What did God hold back?

God held himself back from fully judging the Jewish people as their sins deserved and he graciously allowed them to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

Ezra 10

Ezra 10:1

ULT	UST
And when Ezra prayed, and when he confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the face of the house of God, an extremely great assembly from Israel, men and women and children, gathered to him. Indeed the people wept an abundant weeping.	*Ezra prostrated himself on the ground in front of the temple as he cried and prayed to God. He was confessing to God the sins that the people had committed. While he was doing that, a very large crowd of Israelites gathered around him, consisting of men, women, and children. They all cried very, very much because they had sinned against God.*

What did Ezra do as he prayed and confessed?

As Ezra prayed and confessed, he wept and threw himself down before God's house.

Ezra 10:3

ULT	UST
So now, let us cut a covenant with our God to cause all the women to go out, and the ones who were born from them, by the counsel of my lord and the ones who tremble at the commandment of our God. And let it be done according to the law.	*Here is what I suggest. We should do what God told us to do in his laws. We should make an agreement with our God that we will divorce our foreign wives and send them away with their children. We will do everything according to what you, sir, and the others who greatly respect what our God has commanded, tell us to do.*

What covenant did Shekaniah say the Israelites should make?

Shekaniah said that they should make a covenant with their God to send away all the foreign women and their children.

Ezra 10:6

ULT	UST
And Ezra rose up from before the face of the house of God, and he went to the chamber of Jehohanan, the son of Eliashib. And he went there. He did not eat bread and he did not drink water, but was mourning on account of the unfaithfulness of the exiles.	*Then Ezra went away from in front of the temple and went to the room where Jehohanan the grandson of Eliashib lived. Ezra continued to grieve because some of the Israelites who had returned from Babylonia had not faithfully obeyed God's laws. So while he was there, he did not eat or drink anything.*

Why did Ezra not eat any bread or drink any water?

Ezra did not eat any bread or drink any water because he was mourning the unfaithfulness of the exiles.

Ezra 10:8

ULT	UST
And for all who did not come in three days according to the counsel of the leaders and the elders, all his property would be devoted to the ban. And he himself would be separated from the assembly of the exiles.	*The leaders announced the following penalties for anyone who did not arrive within three days. They would take away all the property belonging to that person, and they would banish that person from the community of Israelites.*

What was to happen to any Israelite who did not come to Jerusalem within three days?

Any Israelite who did not come to Jerusalem within three days was to have all his property devoted to the ban and was to be separated from the assembly of the exiles.

Ezra 10:9

ULT	UST
So all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered to Jerusalem in three days. It was the ninth month, on 20 in the month. And all the people sat in the open place of the house of God, trembling on account of the matter and because of the rains.	*So within three days, by the twentieth day of the ninth month, all the men from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin gathered in Jerusalem. They were sitting in the courtyard in front of the temple. They were trembling because it was raining hard and because they were worried that they would be punished for what they had done.*

What two things caused the people who stood in the open place of God's house to tremble?

All the people who stood in the open place of God's house trembled on account of the matter and because of the rains.

Ezra 10:13

ULT	UST
However, the people are many, and the time is rain showers and there is no strength to stand in the outdoors. And the work is neither for one day nor for two, for we have done much to rebel in this matter.	*Then one of them said, "But we are a very large group, and it is raining hard. We cannot continue to stand outside in this rain. Also, since many of us have committed this sin, it will take a long time to make things right again.*

Why did the Israelites want more time to send away the foreign women?

The Israelites wanted more time to send away the foreign women because the people were many, they had done much to rebel in this matter, and therefore, it would take them more than a day or two to complete the process. It was the rainy season, and they did not have the strength needed to stand in the outdoors to complete the process.

Ezra 10:17

ULT	UST
And they finished with all the men, the ones who had caused foreign women to dwell, by day one of the first month.	*By the first day of the first month of the next year they had finished determining which men had married women who were not Israelites.*

How long did it take to search out the matter of Israelite men who had taken foreign women as wives?

It took from day one of the tenth month until day one of the first month of the following year to search out the matter fully.

Ezra 10:19

ULT	UST
So they gave their hand to cause their wives to go out, and, being guilty ones, a ram of the flock for their guilt.	*They solemnly promised to divorce their wives and they each offered a ram as a sacrifice to atone for their sins.*

What did the Israelite men who were guilty of taking foreign women as wives do?

The guilty Israelite men promised to send away their foreign wives, and they offered a ram of the flock for their guilt.