

EZRA

Isahluko: **1** 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

ISAHLUKO 1

Ngomnyaka wokuqala kaKoresi, inkosi yasePheresiya, ukuba kufezeke izwi likaJehova, ngomlomo kaJeremiya uJehova wavusa umoya kaKoresi, inkosi yasePheresiya, ukuba amemezele embusweni wakhe wonke, alobe futhi ngokuthi:

² “Usho kanje uKoresi inkosi yasePheresiya, uthi: “ ‘UJehova uNkulunkulu wezulu unginikile yonke imibuso yomhlaba; ungiyalile ukumakhela indlu eJerusalema lakwaJuda.

³ Noma ngumuphi phakathi kwenu kubo bonke abantu bakhe, uNkulunkulu wakhe makabe naye, akhuphukele eJerusalema lakwaJuda, akhe indlu kaJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, yena onguNkulunkulu waseJerusalema.

⁴ Bonke abaseleyo, nakuziphi izindawo lapho begogobele khona, mabasizwe ngabantu bendawo yabo ngesiliva, nangegolide, nangempahla, nangezinkomo kanye nomnikelo wesihle wendlu kaNkulunkulu eseJerusalema.’ ”

⁵ Kwase kusuka izinhloko zawoyise bakwaJuda noBenjamini, nabapristi, namaLevi, bonke abamoya wabo uNkulunkulu ayewuvusile ukuba bakhuphuke bakhe indlu kaJehova eseJerusalema.

⁶ Bonke ababazungezayo basekela izandla zabo ngezitsha zesiliva, nangegolide, nangempahla, nangezinkomo, nangamagugu, kanye nakho konke okwanikelwa ngakho ngenhliziyo.

⁷ UKoresi inkosi wakhapha izinto zendlu kaJehova, uNebukadinesari ayezikhiphile eJerusalema wazibeka endlini yawonkulunkulu bakhe,

⁸ yebo, zona uKoresi inkosi yasePheresiya wazikhipha ngesandla sikaMithiredati umphathisikhwama, wazibalela kuSheshebasari isikhulu sakwaJuda.

⁹ Nanku umumo wazo: izingqwembe ezingamashumi amathathu zegolide, nezingqwembe eziyinkulungwane zesiliva, nawomese abangamashumi amabili nesishiyagalolunye,

¹⁰ nezindebe ezingamashumi amathathu zegolide, nezindebe zesiliva zohlobo lwesibili ezingamakhulu amane neshumi, nezinye izitsha eziyinkulungwane.

¹¹ Zonke izitsha zegolide nezesiliva zaziyizinkulungwane eziyisihlanu namakhulu amane. Zonke lezo uSheshebasari wazikhuphula ekukhushulweni kwabathunjwa eBabele ukuya eJerusalema.

ISAHLUKO 2

Nampa abantwana bezwe abakhuphuka ekuthunjweni kwababethunjiwe bayiswa eBabele nguNebukadinesari, inkosi yaseBabele, babuyela eJerusalema nakwaJuda, kwaba yilowo nalowo emzini wakubo,

- ² bafika noZerubabele, noJeshuwa, noNehemiya, noSeraya, noRehelaya, noMoridekayi, noBilishani, noMisipari, noBigivayi, noRehumi, noBahana. Umumo wamadoda abantu bakwa-Israyeli nanku:
- ³ abantwana bakwaPharoshi: yizinkulungwane ezimbili nekhulu namashumi ayisikhombisa nambili;
- ⁴ abantwana bakwaShefathiya: ngamakhulu amathathu namashumi ayisikhombisa nambili;
- ⁵ abantwana bakwa-Ara: ngamakhulu ayisikhombisa namashumi ayisikhombisa nanhlanu;
- ⁶ abantwana bakwaPhakati Mowabi babantwana bakwaJeshuwa noJowabe: yizinkulungwane ezimbili namakhulu ayisishiyagalombili neshumi nambili;
- ⁷ abantwana bakwa-Elamu: yinkulungwane namakhulu amabili namashumi ayisihlanu nane;
- ⁸ abantwana bakwaZathu: ngamakhulu ayisishiyagalolunye namashumi amane nanhlanu;
- ⁹ abantwana bakwaZakayi: ngamakhulu ayisikhombisa namashumi ayisithupha;
- ¹⁰ abantwana bakwaBani: ngamakhulu ayisithupha namashumi amane nambili;
- ¹¹ abantwana bakwaBebayi: ngamakhulu ayisithupha namashumi amabili nantathu;
- ¹² abantwana bakwa-Azigadi: yinkulungwane namakhulu amabili namashumi amabili nambili;
- ¹³ abantwana bakwa-Adonikamu ngamakhulu ayisithupha namashumi ayisithupha nesithupha;
- ¹⁴ abantwana bakwaBigivayi: yizinkulungwane ezimbili namashumi ayisihlanu nesithupha;
- ¹⁵ abantwana bakwa-Adini: ngamakhulu amane namashumi ayisihlanu nane;
- ¹⁶ abantwana bakwa-Atheri kaHezekiya: ngamashumi ayisishiyagalolunye nesishiyagalombili;
- ¹⁷ abantwana bakwaBesayi: ngamakhulu amathathu namashumi amabili nantathu;
- ¹⁸ abantwana bakwaJora: yikhulu neshumi nambili;
- ¹⁹ abantwana bakwaHashumi: ngamakhulu amabili namashumi amabili nantathu;
- ²⁰ abantwana bakwaGibari: ngamashumi ayisishiyagalolunye nanhlanu;
- ²¹ abantwana baseBetlehema: yikhulu namashumi amabili nantathu;
- ²² amadoda aseNethofa: ngamashumi ayisihlanu nesithupha;
- ²³ amadoda ase-Anathoti: yikhulu namashumi amabili nesishiyagalombili;
- ²⁴ abantwana base-Azimaveti: ngamashumi amane nambili;
- ²⁵ abantwana baseKiryati Arimi, naseKhefira, naseBeyeroti: ngamakhulu ayisikhombisa namashumi amane nantathu;
- ²⁶ abantwana baseRama naseGeba: ngamakhulu ayisithupha namashumi amabili nanye;
- ²⁷ amadoda aseMikimasi: yikhulu namashumi amabili nambili;
- ²⁸ amadoda aseBethete nase-Ayi: ngamakhulu amabili namashumi amabili nantathu;
- ²⁹ abantwana baseNebo: ngamashumi ayisihlanu nambili;
- ³⁰ abantwana baseMagibishi: yikhulu namashumi ayisihlanu nesithupha;
- ³¹ abantwana bakwa-Elamu omunye: yinkulungwane namakhulu amabili namashumi ayisihlanu nane;
- ³² abantwana bakwaHarimi: ngamakhulu amathathu namashumi amabili;
- ³³ abantwana baseLodi naseHadidi nase-Ono: ngamakhulu ayisikhombisa namashumi amabili nanhlanu;
- ³⁴ abantwana baseJeriko: ngamakhulu amathathu namashumi amane nanhlanu;

- ³⁵ abantwana baseSenawa; yizinkulungwane ezintathu namakhulu ayisithupha namashumi amathathu.
- ³⁶ Abapristi: abantwana bakwaJedaya bendlu kaJeshuwa: ngamakhulu ayisishiyagalolunye namashumi ayisikhombisa nantathu;
- ³⁷ abantwana bakwa-Imeri: yinkulungwane namashumi ayisihlanu nambili;
- ³⁸ abantwana bakwaPhashuri: yinkulungwane namakhulu amabili namashumi amane nesikhombisa;
- ³⁹ abantwana bakwaHarimi: yinkulungwane neshumi nesikhombisa.
- ⁴⁰ AmaLevi: abantwana bakwaJeshuwa noKadimiyeli babantwana bakwaHodaviya: ngamashumi ayisikhombisa nane;
- ⁴¹ Abahlabeleli: abantwana bakwa Asafa: yikhulu namashumi amabili nesishiyagalombili;
- ⁴² abantwana babalindisango: abantwana bakwaShalumi, nabantwana bakwa-Atheri, nabantwana bakwaThalimoni, nabantwana bakwa-Akubi, nabantwana bakwaHathita, nabantwana bakwaShobayi, bonke beyikhulu namashumi amathathu nesishiyagalolunye.
- ⁴³ AmaNethini: ngabantwana bakwaSiha, nabantwana bakwaHasufa, nabantwana bakwaThabawoti,
- ⁴⁴ nabantwana bakwaKerosi, nabantwana bakwaSiyaha, nabantwana bakwaPhadoni,
- ⁴⁵ nabantwana bakwaLebana, nabantwana bakwaHagaba, nabantwana bakwa-Akubi,
- ⁴⁶ nabantwana bakwaHagabi, nabantwana bakwaShamulayi, nabantwana bakwaHanani,
- ⁴⁷ nabantwana bakwaGideli, nabantwana bakwaGahari, nabantwana bakwaRewaya,
- ⁴⁸ nabantwana bakwaResini, nabantwana bakwaNekhoda, nabantwana bakwaGazamu,
- ⁴⁹ nabantwana bakwa-Uza, nabantwana bakwaPhaseya, nabantwana bakwaBesayi,
- ⁵⁰ nabantwana bakwa-Asina, nabantwana bakwaMehuni, nabantwana bakwaNefisimi,
- ⁵¹ nabantwana bakwaBakibuki, nabantwana bakwaHakufa, nabantwana bakwaHarihuri,
- ⁵² nabantwana bakwaBasiluthi, nabantwana bakwaMehida, nabantwana bakwaHarisha,
- ⁵³ nabantwana bakwaBarikhosi, nabantwana bakwaSisera, nabantwana bakwaThema,
- ⁵⁴ nabantwana bakwaNesiya, nabantwana bakwaHathifa.
- ⁵⁵ Abantwana bezinceku zikaSolomoni: ngabantwana bakwaSothayi, nabantwana bakwaHasofereti, nabantwana bakwaPheruda,
- ⁵⁶ nabantwana bakwaJahala, nabantwana bakwaDarikoni, nabantwana bakwaGideli,
- ⁵⁷ nabantwana bakwaShefathiya, nabantwana bakwaHathili, nabantwana bakwaPhokereti Hasebayimi, nabantwana bakwa-Ami.
- ⁵⁸ Onke amaNethini nabantwana bezinceku zikaSolomoni babe ngamakhulu amathathu namashumi ayisishiyagalolunye nambili.
- ⁵⁹ Nampa abakhuphuka eTheli Mela, naseTheli Harisha, naseKherubi, nase-Adani, nase-Imeri, kepha babengenakusho izindlu zawoyise nozalo lwabo ukuba babengabakwa-Israyeli yini:
- ⁶⁰ ngabantwana bakwaDelaya, nabantwana bakwaThobiya, nabantwana bakwaNekhoda, bengamakhulu ayisithupha namashumi ayisihlanu nambili.
- ⁶¹ Abantwana babapristi: ngabantwana bakwaHabaya, nabantwana bakwaHakhosi, nabantwana bakwaBarizilayi, owathatha umfazi emadodakazini kaBarizilayi wakwaGileyadi, wabizwa ngegama lawo.
- ⁶² Labo bafuna ukubhalwa kwabo phakathi kwababhaliweyo ngezizukulwane, kepha kabafunyanwanga; ngalokho bakhishwa ebupristini, kwathiwa bangcolile.
- ⁶³ Umbusi washo kubo ukuba bangadli okungcwelengcwele, kuze kuvele umpristi one-

Urimi neThumini.

⁶⁴ Lonke ibandla selihlangene laliyizinkulungwane ezingamashumi amane nambili namakhulu amathathu namashumi ayisithupha,

⁶⁵ ngaphandle kwezinceku zabo nezincekukazi zabo ezaziyizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa namakhulu amathathu namashumi amathathu nesikhombisa; babe nabahlabeleli besilisa nabesifazane abangamakhulu amabili.

⁶⁶ Amahhashi abo ayengamakhulu ayisikhombisa namashumi amathathu nesithupha; iminyuzi yabo yayingamakhulu amabili namashumi amane nanhlanu;

⁶⁷ amakamela abo ayengamakhulu amane namashumi amathathu nanhlanu; izimbongolo zaziyizinkulungwane eziyisithupha namakhulu ayisikhombisa namashumi amabili.

⁶⁸ Ezinye izinhloko zawoyise ekufikeni kwazo endlini kaJehova eseJerusalema zanikelela ngenhliziyo indlu kaNkulunkulu ukuba imiswe endaweni yayo;

⁶⁹ zanikelela isikhwama somsebenzi njengokwamandla azo amadarike ayizinkulungwane ezingamashumi ayisithupha nanye egolide, namamane ayizinkulungwane eziyisihlanu esiliva, nezambatho zabapristi eziyikhulu.

⁷⁰ Base behlala abapristi, namaLevi, nabanye abantu abathile, nabahlabeleli, nabalindisango, namaNethini emizini yabo, bonke abakwa-Israyeli emizini yabo.

ISAHLUKO 3

Lapho isondela inyanga yesikhombisa, abantwana bakwa-Israyeli besemizini, abantu babuthana eJerusalema njengomuntu munye.

² Kwase kusuka uJeshuwa indodana kaJosadaki, nabafofawo abapristi, noZerubabele indodana kaSheyalitiyeli, nabafofawo, bakha i-altare likaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ukuba banikele ngeminikelo yokushiswa phezu kwalo njengokulotshiweyo emthethweni kaMose umuntu kaNkulunkulu.

³ Balimisa i-altare endaweni yalo, ngokuba babe novalo ngenxa yabantu balawo mazwe, banikela ngeminikelo yokushiswa kuJehova phezu kwalo, yebo, iminikelo yokushiswa ekuseni nakusihlwa.

⁴ Bagcina umkhosi wamadokodo njengokulotshiweyo, banikela ngeminikelo yokushiswa imihla ngemihla ngomumo njengokomthetho nanjengokwesiyalezo sezinsuku ngezinsuku,

⁵ nangasemuva umnikelo oshiswa imihla yonke, neyokwethwasa kwenyanga, neyemikhosi yonke emisiweyo kaJehova eyayingcwelisiwe, neyabo bonke abanikela ngenhliziyo ngeminikelo yesihle kuJehova.

⁶ Ngosuku lokuqala lwenyanga yesikhombisa baqala ukunikela ngeminikelo yokushiswa kuJehova; kepha isisekelo sethempeli sasingakabekwa.

⁷ Banika nababazi bamatshe imali kanye nababazi bemithi; banika amaSidoni nabaseTire ukudla nokuphuza namafutha ukuba balande imisedari eLebanoni, bayiyise elwandle eJopha ngemvume kaKoresi inkosi yasePheresiya kubo.

⁸ Ngomnyaka wesibili wokufika kwabo endlini kaNkulunkulu eJerusalema ngenyanga yesibili uZerubabele, indodana kaSheyalitiyeli, noJeshuwa indodana kaJosadaki, nensali yabafofawo abapristi, namaLevi, nabo bonke abafike eJerusalema bevela ekuthunjweni baqala ukumisa amaLevi, kusukela kwabaneminyaka engamashumi amabili kuya phezulu ukuba babonise umsebenzi wendlu kaJehova.

⁹ Base bema uJeshuwa namadodana akhe nabafofawo, noKadimiyeli namadodana akhe, amadodana akwaJuda, njengomuntu munye ukuba babonise izisebenzi endlini kaJehova, kanye namadodana kaHenadadi namadodana awo nabafofawo amaLevi.

¹⁰ Lapho abakhi sebebeka isisekelo sethempeli likaJehova, bamisa abapristi begqokile benamacilongo kanye namaLevi, amadodana ka-Asafa, enamasimbali ukuba badumise uJehova njengehlelo likaDavide inkosi yakwa-Israyeli.

¹¹ Baphendulana ngokumdumisa nangokumbonga uJehova, bathi: “Ngokuba muhle, ngokuba umusa wakhe umi phakade phezu kuka-Israyeli.” Bonke abantu bakhamuluka ngokukhamuluka okukhulu ekumdumiseni kwabo uJehova, ngokuba isisekelo sendlu kaJehova sase sibekiwe.

¹² Abaningi babapristi namaLevi, nezinhloko zawoyise, abadala ababeyibonile indlu yokuqala, bakhala ngezwi elikhulu ekubekweni kwesisekelo saleyo ndlu phambi kwamehlo abo; abaningi bakhamuluka ngentokozo,

¹³ ngangokuba abantu babengenakwahlukanisa izwi lokukhamuluka kwentokozo nezwi lokukhala kwabantu, ngokuba abantu bakhamuluka ngokukhamuluka okukhulu, umsindo wezwakala kude.

ISAHLUKO 4

Kwathi lapho izitha zakwaJuda nezakwaBenjamini sezizwile ukuthi abathunjwa bakhela uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ithempeli,

² zasondela kuZerubabele nakuzo izinhloko zawoyise, zathi kubo: “Masakhe nani, ngokuba sifuna uNkulunkulu wenu njengani, sinikela kuye kwasemihleni ka-Esari Hadoni inkosi yase-Asiriya owasikhuphulela lapha.”

³ Kepha oZerubabele noJeshuwa nensali yezinhloko zawoyise bakwa-Israyeli bathi kuzo: “Aninandaba nathi yokwakhela uNkulunkulu wethu indlu, kepha thina sodwa siyakumakhela uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli njengokusiyala kwenkosi uKoresi, inkosi yasePheresiya.”

⁴ Abantu balelo zwe base bedangalisa izandla zabantu bakwaJuda, babesabisa ekwakheni,

⁵ babaqashela abeluleki, bashafisa amasu abo zonke izinsuku zikaKoresi, inkosi yasePheresiya, kwaze kwaba sekubuseni kukaDariyu inkosi yasePheresiya.

⁶ Ekubuseni kuka-Ahashiveroshi, ekuqaleni kokubusa kwakhe, baloba bamangalela abakhileyo kwaJuda naseJerusalema.

⁷ Emihleni ka-Aritahishashita oBishilamu, noMithiredati, noThabeyeli, nabanye abangane bakhe baloba ku-Aritahishashita inkosi yasePheresiya; okulotshiweyo kwakunjengokulotshwa kwesi-Aramu, kwachazwa ngesi-Aramu.

⁸ URehumi unqamulajuqu noShimshayi, umbhali, babhala incwadi enje ku-Aritahishashita inkosi ngeJerusalema ngokuthi:

⁹ URehumi unqamulajuqu noShimshayi, umbhali, nabanye abangane babo, amaDinayi, nama-Afarisathiki, namaTharipheli, nama-Afarisi, nama-Arikhevi, nabaseBabele, namaShushaniki, namaDehavi, nama-Elamu,

¹⁰ nezinye izizwe ezathunjwa ngu-Osinaphari omkhulu nodumileyo, zahlaliswa emzini waseSamariya nakwelinye phesheya koMfula, nokuthi nokuthi.

¹¹ Nansi impinda yencwadi abayithuma ku-Aritahishashita inkosi yokuthi: “Izinceku zakho, abantu abaphesheya koMfula, nokuthi nokuthi.

¹² “Makwazeke enkosini ukuthi abaJuda abakhuphuka kuwe sebefikile kithi eJerusalema; bayawakha umuzi ohlubukileyo nonengekayo; sebeyakuqeda izingange, bahlanganise izisekelo.

¹³ “Makwazeke enkosini, kalokhu, ukuthi uma lo muzi wakhiwa, ziqedwe izingange,

abayikuthela intela, nenkokhiso, nemali yendlela, okuyakulimaza amakhosi ekugcineni.

¹⁴ Njengokuba manje sidla usawoti wendlu yenkosi, kungasifanele ukuba sibone ihlazo lenkosi, ngalokho sithumele sayazisa inkosi

¹⁵ ukuba kucingwe encwadini yezindaba yawoyihlo; uyakufumana encwadini yezindaba, wazi ukuthi lo muzi ungumuzi ohlubukayo, olimaza amakhosi namazwe, nokuthi benzile ukwambuka phakathi kwawo kwasendulo; ngalokho lo muzi wachithwa.

¹⁶ Siyazisa inkosi ukuthi uma lo muzi wakhiwa, ziqedwe izingange zawo, ngalokho awusayikuba nasiqephu phesheya koMfula.”

¹⁷ Inkosi yayisithuma incwadi kuRehumi unqamulajuqu noShimshayi umbhali nabanye abangane babo ababehlala eSamariya nakwelinye phesheya koMfula yokuthi: “Ukuthula, nokuthi nokuthi.

¹⁸ “Incwadi enayithuma kithina ifundwe kahle phambi kwami.

¹⁹ Ngayaleza, kwacingwa, kufumanisekile ukuthi lowo muzi uziphakamisele amakhosi kwasendulo nokuthi ukuhlubuka nokwambuka kwenziwe phakathi kwawo.

²⁰ Kade kwakukhona amakhosi anamandla naphezu kweJerusalema, ayebusa lonke elingaphesheya koMfula; aphiwa intela, nenkokhiso, nemali yendlela.

²¹ Makuyalezwe ukuba labo bantu bathiywe, ungakhiwa lowo muzi, ngize ngiyaleze mina.

²² Xwayani ukuba ningayekethisi kulokho; kungase kwande ukonakala, kulimaze amakhosi, na?”

²³ Lapho impinda yencwadi yenkosi u-Aritahishashita isifundiwe phambi kwawoRehumi noShimshayi umbhali nabangane babo, bashesha baya eJerusalema kubaJuda, babathiya ngezikhwepha nangamandla.

²⁴ Wawusuthiywa umsebenzi wendlu kaNkulunkulu eseJerusalema. Wathiywa kwaze kwaba ngumnyaka wesibili wokubusa kukaDariyu inkosi yasePheresiya.

ISAPHLUKO 5

Abaprofethi, uHagayi umprofethi noZakariya indodana ka-Ido, baprofetha kubaJuda ababekwaJuda naseJerusalema ngegama likaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli owayephezu kwabo.

² Kwase kusuka uZerubabele indodana kaSheyalitiyeli noJeshuwa, indodana kaJosadaki, baqala ukwakha indlu kaNkulunkulu eseJerusalema; abaprofethi bakaNkulunkulu babenabo bebasiza.

³ Ngasona leso sikhathi kwafika kubo uThathenayi, umbusi phesheya koMfula, noShethati Bozenayi, nabangane babo, basho kanje kubo, bathi: “Ngubani owaniyaleza ukwakha le ndlu nokuqeda lolu gange na?”

⁴ Khona sabatshela ukuthi angobani amagama abantu abakha le ndlu.

⁵ Kepha iso likaNkulunkulu wabo laliphezu kwamalunga abaJuda, ababathiyanga, ize iye leyo ndaba kuDariyu, kubuyiselwe impendulo ngayo ngencwadi.

⁶ Nansi impinda yencwadi uThathenayi, umbusi waphesheya koMfula, noShethari Bozenayi, nabangane bakhe ama-Afarisaki ayengaphesheya koMfula abayithuma kuDariyu inkosi;

⁷ bathuma incwadi kuye okulotshwe kuyo ukuthi: “KuDariyu inkosi; makube ngukuthula konke.

⁸ “Makwazeke enkosini ukuthi saya ezweni lakwaJuda endlini kaNkulunkulu omkhulu eyakhiwe ngamatshe amakhulu, imithi ifakwe ezindongeni; lo msebenzi uqhubeka ngesineke, unempumelelo ezandleni zabo.

⁹ “Sase sibuzwa kulawo malunga, sasho kuwo kanje, sathi: ‘Ngubani owaniyaleza ukwakha le ndlu nokuqeda lolu gange na?’

¹⁰ Sabuza namagama abo ukuba sikwazise, sibhale amagama abantu ababe yizinhloko zabo.

¹¹ “Babuyisela impendulo kithi, bathi: ‘Thina siyizinceku zikaNkulunkulu wezulu nomhlaba, sakha indlu ekade yakhiwa sekudlule iminyaka eminingi, eyakhiwa yinkosi enkulu yakwa-Israelayeli, yaqedwa.

¹² Kepha ngokuba obaba bese bemthukuthelisile uNkulunkulu wezulu, wabanikela esandleni sikaNebukadinesari inkosi yaseBabele, umKaledi, owachitha le ndlu, wabamukisa, wabayisa eBabele.

¹³ “ ‘Kepha ngomnyaka wokuqala kaKoresi inkosi yaseBabele, uKoresi inkosi wakhipha isimemezelo sokuba kwakhiwe le ndlu kaNkulunkulu.

¹⁴ Futhi izitsha zegolide nezesiliva zendlu kaNkulunkulu azikhipha uNebukadinesari ethempelini elaliseJerusalema wazingenisa ethempelini laseBabele, zona lezo uKoresi inkosi wazikhipha ethempelini laseBabele, zanikwa omunye ogama lakhe lalinguSheshebasari, owayemenze umbusi;

¹⁵ wathi kuye: “Thatha lezi zitsha, uye uzibeke ethempelini eliseJerusalema, indlu kaNkulunkulu yakhiwe endaweni yayo.”

¹⁶ Wayesefika lowo Sheshebasari, wabeka izisekelo zendlu kaNkulunkulu eseJerusalema; kusukela kuleso sikhathi kuze kube manje isakhiwa njalo, kayikapheli.’

¹⁷ “Ngalokho uma kukuhle enkosini, makucingwe endlini yengcebo yenkosi elapho eBabele ukuba kunjalo yini ukuthi uKoresi inkosi wakhipha isimemezelo sokuba kwakhiwe le ndlu kaNkulunkulu eJerusalema; inkosi mayithume kithi inhloso yayo ngalokho.”

ISAHLUKO 6

Khona uDariyu wakhipha isimemezelo, kwacingwa endlini yezincwadi, lapho ingcebo yayibekelwa khona eBabele.

² Kwafunyanwa e-Akimetha endlini yamakhosi esezweni laseMediya umqulu okwakulotshwe kuwo isikhumbuzo sokuthi:

³ “Ngomnyaka wokuqala kaKoresi inkosi, uKoresi inkosi wakhipha isimemezelo sokuthi: Ngendlu kaNkulunkulu eseJerusalema, indlu mayakhiwe endaweni lapho benikelela khona ngemihlatshelo, zibekwe izisekelo zayo, ziqine, ukuphakama kwayo kube yizingalo ezingamashumi ayisithupha, ububanzi bayo bube yizingalo ezingamashumi ayisithupha;

⁴ ayibe nezinhla ezintathu zamatshe amakhulu, nohla lwemithi emisha, izindleko zikhishwe endlini yenkosi;

⁵ futhi izitsha zegolide nezesiliva zendlu kaNkulunkulu, uNebukadinesari azikhipha ethempelini eliseJerusalema waziyisa eBabele, mazibuyiswe, ziyiswe ethempelini eliseJerusalema, kube yilesa naleso endaweni yaso, zibekwe endlini kaNkulunkulu.

⁶ “Ngalokho, Thathenayi, mbusi phesheya koMfula, nawe Shethari Bozenayi nabangane benu ama-Afarisaki abangaphesheya koMfula, manibe kude nalapho;

⁷ wuyekeni umsebenzi waleyo ndlu kaNkulunkulu; umbusi wabaJuda namalunga abaJuda mabakhe le ndlu kaNkulunkulu endaweni yayo.

⁸ “Futhi ngikhipha isimemezelo ngeniyakukwenza kulawo malunga abaJuda ukuba kwakhiwe leyo ndlu kaNkulunkulu: labo bantu mabanikwe kakhulu izindleko empahleni yenkosi, intela yaphesheya koMfula, ukuba bangathiywa.

⁹ Abakudingayo, amaduna, nezingama, namawundlu okuyakuba yiminikelo yokushiswa

kuNkulunkulu wezulu, kanye nokolweni, nosawoti, newayini, namafutha, njengezwi labapristi abaseJerusalema, mabanikwe khona imihla ngemihla kungaphuthi

¹⁰ ukuba banikele ngemihlatshelo yephunga elimnandi kuNkulunkulu wezulu, bakhulekele ukuphila kwenkosi namadodana ayo.

¹¹ “Futhi ngikhiphe isimemezelo sokuthi yilowo nalowo oququla leli zwi, makukhishwe umuthi endlini yakhe, aphakanyiswe, abethelwe kuwo, indlu yakhe yenziwe ibe yiquba ngenxa yalokho,

¹² uNkulunkulu ohlalise khona igama lakhe awise phansi onke amakhosi nabantu abayakwelula izandla zabo ukuba baguqule lokho, bachithe le ndlu kaNkulunkulu eseJerusalema. Mina Dariyu ngikhiphe isimemezelo; masenziwe ngaso sonke isineke.”

¹³ Khona uThathenayi umbusi waphesheya koMfula, noShethari Bozenayi, nabangane babo benza kanjalo ngesineke sonke, ngokuba uDariyu inkosi wayethumele.

¹⁴ Amalunga abaJuda ayesakha, aba nempumelelo ngokuprofetha kukaHagayi umprofethi noZakariya indodana ka-Ido. Akha, aqeda njengokwesiyalezo sikaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, nanjengokwesiyalezo sikaKoresi, noDariyu, no-Aritahishashita, inkosi yasePheresiya.

¹⁵ Yaqedwa leyo ndlu ngosuku lwesithathu lwenyanga ka-Adari ngomnyaka wesithupha wokubusa kukaDariyu inkosi.

¹⁶ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli, abapristi namaLevi nabanye abathunjwa, bagcina ukuhlanjululwa kwaleyo ndlu kaNkulunkulu ngokuthokoza.

¹⁷ Banikela ekuhlanjululweni kwaleyo ndlu kaNkulunkulu ngezinkunzi eziyikhulu, nangezinqama ezingamakhulu amabili, nangamawundlu angamakhulu amane, kanye nezimpongo eziyishumi nambili zibe ngumnikelo wokona ngo-Israyeli wonke njengokomumo wezizwe zakwa-Israyeli.

¹⁸ Bamisa abapristi ngamaqembu abo namaLevi ngezigaba zawo ukuba baphathe inkonzo kaNkulunkulu eseJerusalema njengokulotshiweyo encwadini kaMose.

¹⁹ Abathunjwa bagcina iphasika ngolweshumi nane lwenyanga yokuqala.

²⁰ Ngokuba abapristi namaLevi babezihlambululile kanyekanye; bonke babehlambulukile; bahlabela bonke abathunjwa iphasika, nabafofawo abapristi, bazihlabela nabo uqobo lwabo.

²¹ Abantwana bakwa-Israyeli ababebuyile ekuthunjweni, nabo bonke ababezahlukanisele kubo nokungcola kwabezizwe balelo zwe ukuba bafune uJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli badla;

²² bagubha umkhosi wesinkwa esingenamvubelo izinsuku eziyisikhombisa ngokuthokoza, ngokuba uJehova wayebathokozisile, waguqulela inhliziyi yenkosi yase-Asiriya kubo ukuba kuqiniswe izandla zabo emsebenzini wendlu kaNkulunkulu, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli.

ISAPHLUKO 7

Emva kwalokho esabusa u-Aritahishashita, inkosi yasePheresiya, u-Ezra kaSeraya ka-Azariya kaHilikiya,

² kaShalumi kaSadoki ka-Ahithubi

³ ka-Amariya ka-Azariya kaMerayoti

⁴ kaZeraya ka-Uzi kaBuki

⁵ ka-Abishuwa kaFinehasi ka-Eleyazare ka-Aroni umpristi omkhulu,

⁶ u-Ezra lo wakhuphuka eBabele; wayengumbhali echwepheshile emthethweni kaMose awunikiweyo nguJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli; inkosi yamnika konke akucelayo ngokwesandla sikaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe esasiphezu kwakhe.

⁷ Kwakhuphuka nabanye abantwana bakwa-Israyeli, nabapristi, namaLevi, nabahlabeleli, nabalindisango, namaNethini, baya eJerusalema ngomnyaka wesikhombisa ka-Aritahishashita inkosi.

⁸ Wafika eJerusalema ngenyanga yesihlanu ngomnyaka wesikhombisa wenkosi.

⁹ Ngokuba ngolokuqala lwenyanga yokuqala waqala ukukhuphuka eBabele; ngolokuqala lwenyanga yesihlanu wafika eJerusalema ngokwesandla esihle sikaNkulunkulu wakhe esasiphezu kwakhe,

¹⁰ ngokuba u-Ezra wayebhekise inhliziyi yakhe ukufuna umthetho kaJehova, nokwenza nokufundisa izimiso nezahlulelo kwa-Israyeli.

¹¹ Lokhu kuyimpinda yencwadi inkosi u-Aritahishashita eyamnika yona u-Ezra umpri nombhali, umbhali wamazwi emiyalo kaJehova nawezimiso zakhe ku-Israyeli, yokuthi:

¹² “U-Aritahishashita, inkosi yamakhosi ku-Ezra, umpri nombhali womthetho kaNkulunkulu wezulu; ukuthula, nokuthi nokuthi.

¹³ “Ngikhipha isimemezelo sokuthi bonke abantu bakwa-Israyeli, nabapristi babo, namaLevi embusweni wami, abafuna ukuya eJerusalema, bangahamba nawe,

¹⁴ njengokuba uthunyiwe yinkosi nabeluleki bayo abayisikhombisa ukubuza ngelakwaJuda neJerusalema njengokomthetho kaNkulunkulu wakho osesandleni sakho,

¹⁵ nokuyisa isiliva negolide inkosi nabeluleki bayo abalinikele ngesihle kuNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ondlu yakhe iseJerusalema,

¹⁶ kanye nalo lonke isiliva negolide oyakukufumana ezweni lonke laseBabele, neminikelo yesihle yabantu neyabapristi, benikelela ngesihle indlu kaNkulunkulu wabo eseJerusalema.

¹⁷ Ngelokho uyakuthenga ngesineke sonke ngale mali izinkunzi, nezinqama, namawundlu kanye neminikelo yakho yempuphu neminikelo yakho yokuphuzwa, unikele ngakho e-altare lendlu kaNkulunkulu wenu eseJerusalema.

¹⁸ “Okuhle kuwe nakubafowenu ukuba nikwenze ngesiliva negolide eliseleyo, kwenzeni ngokwentando kaNkulunkulu wenu.

¹⁹ Izitsha onikwe zona ukuba zibe ngezenkonzo yendlu kaNkulunkulu wakho, zibuyisele phambi kukaNkulunkulu waseJerusalema.

²⁰ Okunye okudingekayo endlini kaNkulunkulu wakho, ofanele ukukunika, kukhiphe endlini yengcebo yenkosi.

²¹ “Kimina, yebo, mina Aritahishashita inkosi, kukhishwa isimemezelo kubo bonke abaphathizikhwama abangaphesheya koMfula ukuthi konke u-Ezra umpri nombhali womthetho kaNkulunkulu wezulu ayakukubiza kini, makwenziwe ngesineke sonke,

²² kuze kube ngamatalenta ayikhulu esiliva, namakhora ayikhulu kakolweni, namabhati ayikhulu ewayini, namabhati ayikhulu amafutha, nosawoti ongabaliwe.

²³ Konke okusesimemezelweni sikaNkulunkulu wezulu makwenzelwe ngesineke indlu kaNkulunkulu wezulu, ngokuba kungase kube khona intukuthelo phezu kombuso wenkosi namadodana ayo na?

²⁴ Futhi siyanazisa ukuthi akakho ongunya lokuthelisa abapristi namaLevi, nabahlabeleli, nabalindisango, namaNethini, nezinceku zale ndlu kaNkulunkulu intela, nenkokhiso, nemali yendlela.

²⁵ “Wena-ke, Ezra, ngokuhlakanipha kukaNkulunkulu wakho okusesandleni sakho, misa abahluleli nabaholi abayakwahlulela bonke abantu abangaphesheya koMfula, bonke abazi

imithetho kaNkulunkulu wakho; nongayaziyo nimfundise.

²⁶ Bonke abangayikwenza umthetho kaNkulunkulu wakho nomthetho wenkosi mabahlulelwe ngaso sonke isineke, noma kube ngokokufa noma okokuxoshwa, noma impahla yabo ibe yisizi, noma kube ngukuboshwa.”

²⁷ Makabongwe uJehova uNkulunkulu wawobaba obeke enhliziyweni yenkosi ukuhlobisa indlu kaJehova eseJerusalema,

²⁸ wehlisela phezu kwami umusa phambi kwenkosi, nabeluleki bayo, naphambi kwezikhulu zonke zenkosi ezingamaqhawe. Mina ngaqiniswa ngokwesandla seNkosi uNkulunkulu wami esasiphezu kwami, ngabutha ku-Israyeli abayizinhloko ukuba bakhuphuke nami.

ISAHLUKO 8

Nazi izinhloko zawoyise, nazi izizukulwane zabakhuphuka nami eBabele ekubuseni kuka-Aritahishashita inkosi:

² Kumadodana kaFinehasi: nguGereshomu; kumadodana ka-Itamari: nguDaniyeli; kumadodana kaDavide: nguHathushi.

³ Kumadodana kaShekaniya, kumadodana kaPharoshi: nguZakariya; kanye naye kwabhalwa ngezizukulwane abesilisa abayikhulu namashumi ayisihlanu.

⁴ Kumadodana kaPhahati Mowabi: ngu-Eliyohenayi indodana kaZeraya; kanye naye ngabesilisa abangamakhulu amabili.

⁵ Kumadodana kaShekaniya: yindodana kaJahaziyeli; kanye nayo ngabesilisa abangamakhulu amathathu.

⁶ Kumadodana ka-Adini: ngu-Ebedi indodana kaJonathani; kanye naye ngabesilisa abangamashumi ayisihlanu.

⁷ Kumadodana ka-Elamu: nguJeshaya indodana ka-Athaliya; kanye naye ngabesilisa abangamashumi ayisikhombisa.

⁸ Kumadodana kaShefathiya: nguZebadiya indodana kaMikayeli; kanye naye ngabesilisa abangamashumi ayisishiyagalombili.

⁹ Kumadodana kaJowabe: ngu-Obadiya indodana kaJehiyeli; kanye naye ngabesilisa abangamakhulu amabili neshumi nesishiyagalombili.

¹⁰ Kumadodana kaShelomiti: yindodana kaJosifiya; kanye nayo ngabesilisa abayikhulu namashumi ayisithupha.

¹¹ Kumadodana kaBebayi: nguZakariya indodana kaBebayi; kanye naye ngabesilisa abangamashumi amabili nesishiyagalombili.

¹² Kumadodana ka-Azigadi: nguJohanani indodana kaHakathani; kanye naye ngabesilisa abayikhulu neshumi.

¹³ Kumadodana ka-Adonikamu, awokugcina: nanka amagama awo: ngo-Elifeleti, noJehiyeli, noShemaya, nabesilisa abangamashumi ayisithupha kanye nabo.

¹⁴ Kumadodana kaBigivayi: ngo-Uthayi noZabudi; kanye nabo ngabesilisa abanamashumi ayisikhombisa.

¹⁵ Ngababutha emfuleni oya e-Ahava; samisa khona izinsuku ezintathu; ngabheka abantu nabapristi, angifumananga khona noyedwa wamadodana kaLevi.

¹⁶ Ngase ngithuma ngibiza o-Eliyezeri, no-Ariyeli, noShemaya, no-Elinathani, noJaribi, no-Elinathani, noNathani, noZakariya, noMeshulamu abayizinhloko, kanye noJoyaribi no-Elinathani abafundisayo.

- ¹⁷ Ngabathuma ku-Ido, inhloko yasendaweni yaseKhasifiya, ngabeka emlonyeni wabo amazwi abayakuwakhuluma ku-Ido nakubafowabo amaNethini endaweni yaseKhasifiya ukuba basilethele izinceku zendlu kaNkulunkulu wethu.
- ¹⁸ Ngesandla esihle sikaNkulunkulu wethu esasiphezu kwethu basilethela umuntu onengqondo wamadodana kaMaheli indodana kaLevi ka-Israyeli, kanye noSherebiya namadodana akhe nabafowabo, beyishumi nesishiyagalombili,
- ¹⁹ noHashabiya enoJeshaya wamadodana kaMerari, nabafowabo namadodana abo, bengamashumi amabili,
- ²⁰ nakuwo amaNethini uDavide nezikhulu ababewanikele enkonzweni yamaLevi amaNethini angamakhulu amabili namashumi amabili, abizwa onke ngamagama.
- ²¹ Ngase ngimemezela khona ukuzila ukudla ngasemfuleni i-Ahava ukuba sizithobe phambi kukaNkulunkulu, sizifunele kuye indlela emhlophe, thina nabantwana bethu, nemfuyo yethu yonke.
- ²² Ngokuba nganginamahloni ukucela enkosini impi nabamahhashi ukuba basisize ezitheni zasendleleni, ngokuba sasikhulumile enkosini, sathi: "Isandla sikaNkulunkulu wethu siphezu kwabo bonke abamfunayo ukuba kube kuhle, kepha amandla akhe nentukuthelo yakhe kuphezu kwabo bonke abamshiyayo."
- ²³ Sase sizila-ke, sanxusa uNkulunkulu wethu ngalokho, wasizwa.
- ²⁴ Ngase ngahlukanisa ezikhulwini zabapristi abayishumi nambili: oSherebiya, noHashabiya, nabafowabo abayishumi kanye nabo,
- ²⁵ ngabalinganisela isiliva negolide nezitsha, umnikelo wendlu kaNkulunkulu wethu, okwakunikelwe ngawo yinkosi nabeluleki bayo, nezikhulu zayo, naye wonke u-Israyeli owayelapho;
- ²⁶ ngalinganisela ezandleni zabo amatalenta angamakhulu ayisithupha namashumi ayisihlanu esiliva, namatalenta ayikhulu ayizitsha zesiliva, namatalenta ayikhulu egolide,
- ²⁷ nezindebe ezingamashumi amabili zegolide ezingamadarike ayinkulungwane, nezitsha ezimbili zethusi elikhazimulayo nelihle, eliyigugu njengegolide.
- ²⁸ Ngathi kubo: "Ningcwele kuJehova, nezitsha zingcwele; isiliva negolide kungumnikelo wesihle kuJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyihlo.
- ²⁹ Lindani, nikugcine, nize nikulinganise ngaphambi kwezikhulu zabapristi nezamaLevi nezikhulu zawoyise bakwa-Israyeli eJerusalema emakamelweni endlu kaJehova."
- ³⁰ Base bamukela abapristi namaLevi okulinganisiweyo, isiliva negolide nezitsha, ukuba bakuyise eJerusalema endlini kaNkulunkulu wethu.
- ³¹ Sase sisuka emfuleni i-Ahava ngolweshumi nambili lwenyanga yokuqala ukuba siye eJerusalema; isandla sikaNkulunkulu wethu sasiphezu kwethu, wasophula esandleni sesitha nakumqamekeli endleleni.
- ³² Safika eJerusalema, sahlala khona izinsuku ezintathu.
- ³³ Ngosuku lwesine kwalinganiswa isiliva negolide nezitsha endlini kaNkulunkulu wethu, kwanikezwa esandleni sikaMeremoti, indodana ka-Uriya, umpristi; u-Eleyazare indodana kaFinehasi wayenaye; uJozabadi indodana kaJeshuwa noNohadiya, indodana kaBinuwi, amaLevi, babe nabo,
- ³⁴ konke-ke kwenziwa ngomumo nangesisindo; sonke isisindo salotshwa ngaleso sikhathi.
- ³⁵ Abathunjwa abaphuma ekuthunjweni banikela ngeminikelo yokushiswa kuNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli eyizinkunzi eziyishumi nambili ngaye wonke u-Israyeli, nezinqama ezingamashumi ayisihiyagalolunye nesithupha, namawundlu angamashumi ayisikhombisa nesikhombisa, nezimpongo eziyishumi nambili zibe ngumnikelo wokona; konke

kwakungumnikelo wokushiswa kuJehova.

³⁶ Banika imithetho yenkosi kothulasizwe benkosi nakubabusi phesheya koMfula; basekela abantu nendlu kaNkulunkulu.

ISAHLUKO 9

Kwathi sekuphelile lokho, izikhulu zasondela kimi, zathi: “Abantu bakwa-Israyeli nabapristi namaLevi abazahlukanisanga nabantu bezizwe nezinengiso zabo, ezamaKhanani, namaHetu, namaPherizi, namaJebusi, nama-Amoni, nabakwaMowabi, nabaseGibithe, nama-Amori.

² Ngokuba bazithathele amadodakazi abo, bona namadodana abo, kuze kuthi inzalo engcwele isixubene nabantu bezizwe; izandla zezikhulu nababusi yizona ebeziphambili kuleso siphambeko.”

³ Lapho ngizwa leyo ndaba, ngaklebhula ingubo yami nejazi lami, ngahluthula izinwele zekhanda lami nesilevu sami, ngahlala phansi ngimangele.

⁴ Kwase kubuthana kimi bonke abathuthumela ngamazwi kaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ngenxa yesiphambeko sabathunjwa; ngahlala ngimangele kwaze kwaba sesikhathini somnikelo wakusihlwa.

⁵ Ngesikhathi somnikelo wakusihlwa ngavuka ekuzileni kwami, ingubo yami nejazi lami kuklebhukile, ngaguqa ngamadolo, ngelulela izandla zami kuJehova uNkulunkulu wami,

⁶ ngathi: “Nkulunkulu wami, nginamahloni, ngiyakhophoza ukuba ngiphakamisele ubuso bami kuwe Nkulunkulu wami, ngokuba izono zethu zandile ngaphezu kwamakhanda ethu, namacala ethu akhulile kuze kube sezulwini.

⁷ Kusukela ezinsukwini zawobaba kuze kube namuhla sinecala elikhulu; ngenxa yezono zethu sanikelwa thina namakhosi ethu nabapristi bethu ezandleni zamakhosi abezizwe enkembeni, nasekuthunjweni, nasekuphangweni, nasemahlonini obuso njenganamuhla.

⁸ “Kepha manje senzewe isikhashana umusa ovela kuJehova uNkulunkulu wethu ukusishiyela insali yabasindileyo nokusinika isikhonkwane endaweni yakhe engcwele ukuba uNkulunkulu wethu akhanyise amehlo ethu, asinike ikhefu elincane ebugqileni bethu.

⁹ Ngokuba siyizigqila; nokho uNkulunkulu wethu akasishiyanga ebugqileni bethu, kepha usenzele isihawu emehlweni amakhosi asePheresiya ukuba asinike ikhefu, simise indlu kaNkulunkulu wethu, sivuse incithakalo yayo, asinike ugange kwaJuda naseJerusalema.

¹⁰ “Manje siyakuthini, Nkulunkulu wethu, emva kwalokhu na? Ngokuba sishiyile imiyalo yakho

¹¹ oyale ngayo ngezandla zezinceku zakho abaprofethi ngokuthi: ‘Izwe eniya kulo ukulidla liyizwe elingcolileyo ngenxa yokungcola kwabantu bezizwe ngezinengiso zabo eziligwalisile ngokonakalisa kwabo, kusukela ekuqaleni kuze kufike ekugcineni.

¹² Ngalokho ninganiki amadodana abo amadodakazi enu, futhi ningathatheli amadodana enu amadodakazi abo, ningafuni ukuthula kwabo nenhlalakahle yabo kuze kube phakade, ukuze nibe namandla, nidle okuhle kwezwe, nilishiye libe yifa labantwana benu kuze kube phakade.’

¹³ “Ngasemva kwakho konke okufike phezu kwethu ngenxa yezenzo zethu ezimbi, nangecala lethu elikhulu, nangokuba wena Nkulunkulu wethu awusijezisanga ngokufanele izono zethu, wasinika isigaba sabasindileyo njengalesi,

¹⁴ singabuye saphule yini imiyalo yakho, sendiselane nalabo bantu abazenza lezi zinengiso na? Nga ungasithukuthileli uze usiqede, kuze kungabikho nsali nosindayo na?

¹⁵ Jehova Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, ulungile, ngokuba sishiyiwe siyinsali nje njenganamuhla; bheka, siphambi kwakho necala lethu, nokho akakho ongema phambi kwakho ngenxa yalokho.”

ISAHLUKO 10

U-Ezra esakhuleka, evuma izono ngokukhala, eziwise phansi phambi kwendlu kaNkulunkulu, kwabuthana kuye kuvela ku-Israyeli ibandla elikhulu kakhulu labesilisa nabesifazane nabantwana, ngokuba abantu bakhala ngokukhala okukhulu.

² UShekaniya, indodana kaJehiyeli, enye yamadodana ka-Elamu, wathatha wathi ku-Ezra: “Siphambukile kuNkulunkulu wethu, sithathe abesifazane babezizwe kubantu bezwe. Nokho lisekhona ithemba ku-Israyeli ngale nto.

³ Ngalokho masenze isivumelwano noNkulunkulu wethu ukuba silahle bonke abesifazane nabazelwe yibo ngesiluleko senkosi nesabathuthumela ngomyalo kaNkulunkulu wethu; akwenziwe ngomthetho.

⁴ Vuka, ngokuba iphezu kwakho le ndaba; thina sinawe; yiba nesibindi, ukwenze.”

⁵ Wayesevuka u-Ezra, wafungisa izikhulu zabapristi, namaLevi, naye wonke u-Israyeli ukuba benze ngokwaleli zwi. Bafunga-ke.

⁶ Wayesevuka u-Ezra phambi kwendlu kaNkulunkulu, wangena ekamelweni likaJehohanani indodana ka-Eliyashibi, kepha esefike khona akadlanga sinkwa, kaphuzanga manzi, ngokuba walila ngenxa yesiphambeko sabathunjwa.

⁷ Bathumela izwi kwaJuda naseJerusalema kubo bonke abathunjwa ukuba babuthane eJerusalema

⁸ ngokuthi bonke abangafiki ngezinsuku ezintathu ngokwesiluleko sezikhulu namalunga kuyakudliwa yonke impahla yabo, bona bahlukaniswe nebandla labathunjwa.

⁹ Bonke abantu bakwaJuda nabakwaBenjamini babuthana eJerusalema ngezinsuku ezintathu; kwakuyinyanga yesishiyagalolunye, ngolwamashumi amabili lwenyanga; bonke abantu bahlala esigcawini ngaphambi kwendlu kaNkulunkulu bethuthumela ngale ndaba nangemvula enkulu.

¹⁰ U-Ezra, umpri, wasukuma, wathi kubo: “Niphambukile nithathe abesifazane babezizwe ukwandisa icala lakwa-Israyeli.

¹¹ Ngalokho vumani izono kuJehova uNkulunkulu wawoyihlo, nenze intando yakhe, nizahlukanise nabantu bezwe nabesifazane babezizwe.”

¹² Lase liphendula lonke ibandla, lathi ngezwi elikhulu: “Njengokusho kwakho kithina nga sikwenza.

¹³ Kepha abantu baningi, futhi kuyisikhathi semvula enkulu, asinakuma phandle, futhi lo msebenzi awusiwo walusuku lunye nowezimbili, ngokuba siphambukile kakhulu ngale ndaba.

¹⁴ Izinduna zethu mazime phambi kwebandla lonke; bonke abasemizini yethu abathathe abesifazane babezizwe mabeze ngesikhathi esinqunyiweyo, benamalunga emizi ngemizi nabahluleli bayo, ize ibuye kithi intukuthelo evuthayo kaNkulunkulu wethu kule ndaba.”

¹⁵ UJonathani, indodana ka-Asaheli, noJahazeya indodana kaThikiva kuphela bamelana nalokho; oMeshulamu noShabethayi umLevi babasiza.

¹⁶ Kepha abathunjwa benze njalo. Kwakhethwa u-Ezra, umpri, namadoda ayizinhloko zawoyise njengezindlu zawoyise, bonke ngamagama; bahlala ngosuku lokuqala lwenyanga yeshumi ukuyiphenya le ndaba.

¹⁷ Baqeda namadoda ayethathe abesifazane babezizwe ngosuku lokuqala lwenyanga

yokuqala.

- 18** Abafunyaniswa phakathi kwamadodana abapristi ukuthi bathathe abesifazane babezizwe nampa: kumadodana kaJeshuwa indodana kaJosadaki nakubafowabo: ngoMahaseya, no-Eliyezeri, noJaribi, noGedaliya.
- 19** Banika izandla zabo zokuthi bayakulahla abafazi babo; lokhu benecala, banikela ngenqama yomhlambi ngecala labo.
- 20** Kumadodana ka-Imeri: ngoHanani noZebadiya.
- 21** Kumadodana kaHarimi: ngoMahaseya, no-Eliya, noShemaya, noJehiyeli, no-Uziya.
- 22** Kumadodana kaPhashuri: ngo-Eliyohenayi, noMahaseya, no-Ishmayeli, noNethaneli, noJozabadi, no-Eleyasa.
- 23** KumaLevi: ngoJozabadi, noShimeyi, noKhelaya onguKelitha, noPhethahiya, noJuda, no-Eliyezeri.
- 24** Kubahlabeleli: ngu-Eliyashibi; kubalindisango: ngoShalumi, noTeleme, no-Uri.
- 25** Ku-Israyeli: Kumadodana kaPharoshi: ngoRamiya, no-Iziya, noMalikhiya, noMijamini, no-Eleyazare, noMalikhiya, noBenaya.
- 26** Kumadodana ka-Elamu: ngoMathaniya, noZakariya, noJehiyeli, no-Abidi, noJeremoti, no-Eliya.
- 27** Kumadodana kaZathu: ngo-Eliyohenayi, no-Eliyashibi, noMathaniya, noJeremoti, noZabadi, no-Aziza.
- 28** Kumadodana kaBebayi: ngoJehohanani, noHananiya, noZabayi, no-Atilayi.
- 29** Kumadodana kaBani: ngoMeshulamu, noMaluki, no-Adaya, noJashubi, noSheyali, noJeremoti.
- 30** Kumadodana kaPhahati Mowabi: ngo-Adina, noKhelali, noBenaya, noMahaseya, noMathaniya, noBesaleli, noBinuwi, noManase.
- 31** Amadodana kaHarimi: o-Eliyezeri, noJishiya, noMalikhiya, noShemaya, noShimeyoni,
- 32** noBenjamini, noMaluki, noShemariya.
- 33** Kumadodana kaHashumi: ngoMathenayi, noMathatha, noZabadi, no-Elifeleti, noJeremayi, noManase, noShimeyi.
- 34** Kumadodana kaBani: ngoMahadayi, no-Amramu, no-Uweli,
- 35** noBenaya, noBedeya, noKeluhi,
- 36** noVaniya, noMeremoti, no-Eliyashibi,
- 37** noMathaniya, noMathenayi, noJahasu,
- 38** noBani, noBinuwi, noShimeyi,
- 39** noShelemiya, noNathani, no-Adaya,
- 40** noMakenadebayi, noShashayi, noSharayi,
- 41** no-Azareli, noShelemiya, noShemariya,
- 42** noShalumi, no-Amariya, noJosefa.
- 43** Kumadodana kaNebo: ngoJehiyeli, noMatithiya, noZabadi, noSebina, no-Ido, noJoweli, noBenaya.
- 44** Bonke labo babethathe abesifazane babezizwe; kwakukhona phakathi kwabo abesifazane ababezele abantwana.