

U-EZRA

UKhurosi Ubuyisela Izithunjwa

1 Kwathi ngomnyaka wokuqala kaKhurosi inkosi yasePhesiya, ukuze kugcwaliseke ilizwi likaJehova elakhulunywa nguJeremiya, uJehova wathinta inhliziyo kaKhurosi inkosi yasePhesiya ukuba yenze isimemezelo kuwo wonke umbuso wayo, ukuthi sibhalwe phansi kuthiwe:

²“Nanku okutshiwo yinkosi uKhurosi wasePhesiya:

“ ‘UJehova, uNkulunkulu wasezulwini, ungiphile yonke imibuso yasemhlabeni njalo ungikhethele ukuthi ngimakhele ithempeli eJerusalema koJuda. ³Loba ngubani wabantu bakhe phakathi kwenu – sengathi uNkulunkulu wakhe angaba laye – kahambe aye eJerusalema koJuda ayokwakha ithempeli likaJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, uNkulunkulu oseJerusalema. ⁴Akuthi abantu loba ngabakuyiphi indawo lapho okungabe kuseselensalela kabamuphe isiliva legolide, izimpahla lezifuyo, leminikelo yokuzizwela kusiwe ethempelini likaNkulunkulu eJerusalema. ’ ”

⁵Kwasekusithi abayizinhloko zemizi yakoJuda lakoBhenjamini, kanye labaphristi labaLevi – loba ngubani uNkulunkulu ayethinte inhliziyo yakhe – bazilungisela ukuhamba bayokwakha indlu kaJehova eJerusalema. ⁶Bonke omakhelwane babo babancedisa ukuzuza izinto zesiliva legolide, izimpahla lezifuyo, lezipho eziligugu phezu kwayo yonke iminikelo yokuzizwela. ⁷Phezu kwalokho iNkosi uKhurosi yakhupha zonke izinto ezazingezethempeli

likaJehova ezazithunjwe nguNebhukadinezari eJerusalema wayazibeka ethempelini likaNkulunkulu wakhe. ⁸UKhurosi inkosi yasePhesiya wathi kazilethwe nguMithiredathi umgcinisikhwama onguye owazibalayo ezibalela uSheshibhazari inkosana yakoJuda.

⁹Nanzi-ke lezozimpahla:

imiganu yegolide	30
imiganu yesiliva	1000
amapane esiliva	29
¹⁰ imiganu yegolide ezingubhe	30
eyesiliva efana layo	410
ezinye izimpahla	1000

¹¹Sekukonke, kwakuyi 5 400 zezinto zegolide lesiliva. USheshibhazari weza lazo zonke lezizinto lapho izithunjwa zafika eJerusalema zivela eBhabhiloni.

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2 Manje-ke yilaba abantu bendawo ababuyayo ekuthunjweni, ababethewe nguNebhukadinezari inkosi yaseBhabhiloni yabasa eBhabhiloni (babuyela eJerusalema lakoJuda, ngulowo emuzini wakibo, ²behamba loZerubhabheli, loJeshuwa, loNehemiya, loSerayiya, loRelayiya, loModekhayi, loBhilishani, loMisipha, loBhigivayi, loRehumi loBhahana):

Uluhlu lwamadoda ayelabantu bako-Israyeli:

³ abazukulu bakaPharoshi	2172
⁴ abakaShefathiya	372
⁵ abaka-Ara	775
⁶ abakaPhahathi-Mowabi (ngosendo lukaJeshuwa loJowabi)	2812
⁷ abaka-Elamu	1254
⁸ abakaZathu	945

⁹ abakaZakhayi	760	abazukulu bakaJeshuwa	
¹⁰ abakaBhani	642	loKhadimiyeli (ngenzalo	
¹¹ AbakaBhebhayi	623	kaHodaviya)	74
¹² abaka-Azigadi	1222		
¹³ abaka-Adonikhamu	666	⁴¹ Abahlabeleli:	
¹⁴ abakaBhigivayi	2056		
¹⁵ abaka-Adini	454	Abazukulu baka-Asafi	128
¹⁶ abaka-Athari (kusukela			
kuHezekhiya)	98	⁴² Abalindi bamasango ethempeli:	
¹⁷ abakaBhezayi	323		
¹⁸ abakaJora	112	abazukulu bakaShalumi, lo-Athari,	
¹⁹ abakaHashumi	223	loThalimoni, lo-Akhubi,	
²⁰ AbakaGibhari	95	loHathitha loShobhayi	139
²¹ amadoda aseBhethilehema	123	⁴³ Izisebenzi zethempelini:	
²² abakaNethofa	56		
²³ abaka-Anathothi	128	abazukulu bakaZiha, loHasupha	
²⁴ abaka-Azimavethi	42	loThabhayothi,	
²⁵ abakaKhiriya Jeyarimi		⁴⁴ loKherosi, loSiyaha, loPhadoni,	
loKhefina loBherothi	743	⁴⁵ loLebhana, loHagabha, lo-Akhubi,	
²⁶ abakaRama loGebha	621	⁴⁶ loHagabi, loShalimayi, loHanani,	
²⁷ abakaMikhimashi	122	⁴⁷ loGideli, loGahari, loReya,	
²⁸ abakaBhetheli lo-Ayi	223	⁴⁸ loRezini, loNekoda, loGazamu,	
²⁹ abakaNebho	52	⁴⁹ lo-Uza, loPhaseya, loBhesayi,	
³⁰ abakaMagibishi	156	⁵⁰ lo-Asina, loMeyunimi, loNefusimi,	
³¹ abomunye u-Elamu	1254	⁵¹ loBhakibuki, loHakufa, loHahuri,	
³² abakaHarimu	320	⁵² loBhaziluthi, loMehida, loHasha,	
³³ abakaLodi, loHadidi lo-Ono	725	⁵³ loBhakhosi, loSisera, loThema,	
³⁴ abakaJerikho	345	⁵⁴ loNeziya loHathifa.	
³⁵ abakaSena	3630		
		⁵⁵ Abazukulu bezinceku	
		zikaSolomoni:	
³⁶ Abaphristi:		abazukulu baka Sothayi,	
		loHasoferethi, loPheruda,	
abazukulu bakaJedaya (ngendlu		⁵⁶ loJala, loDakhoni, loGideli,	
kaJeshuwa	973	⁵⁷ loShefathiya, loHathili,	
³⁷ abaka-Imeri	1052	loPhokherethi-Hazebhayimi lo-	
³⁸ abakaPashihuri	1247	Ami	
³⁹ abakaHarimu	1017		
		⁵⁸ Izinceku zethempelini labazukulu	
⁴⁰ AbaLevi:		lezinceku zikaSolomoni	392
		⁵⁹ Laba abalandelayo ngabeza bevela	
		emizini yaseTheli Mela, eTheli	

Hasha, eKherubi, e-Adoni le-Imeri, kodwa behluleka ukuveza ukuthi abosendo lwakibo badabuka ko-Israyeli:

⁶⁰ abazukulu baka Delaya, loThobhiya loNekhoda 652

⁶¹ Ababephuma kubaphristi nampa:

Abazukulu baka

Habhaya, loHakhozi loBazilayi (indoda eyayithethe indodakazi kaBazilayi umGiliyadi laye ebizwa ngalelobizo).

⁶² Laba baphenya imibhalo yembali yezimuli zabo, kodwa bayiswela ngakho basuswa ebuphristini kwathiwa bangcolile.⁶³ Umbusi wabalaya ukuthi bangakudli loba yikuphi ukudla okungcwele kuze kubekhona umphephristi ophetheyo elenkatho ka-Urimi loThumimi.

⁶⁴ Ixuku lonke lalilinani elizi 42360, ⁶⁵ ngaphandle kwezinceku lezincekukazi zabo ezizi 7337; njalo babe labahlabeleli besilisa labesifazana abangama 200. ⁶⁶ Babelamabhiza angama 736, lezimbongolo ezingama 245, ⁶⁷ lamakamela angama 435 labobabhemi abazi 6 720.

⁶⁸ Bathi ukufika kwabo endlini yeNkosi eJerusalema abanye bezinhloko zezimuli benza umnikelo wokuzizwela waba ngowokwakha indlu kaNkulunkulu endaweni yayo. ⁶⁹ Banikela esikhwameni esikhulu ngokwamandla abo ukwenza umsebenzi lo banika amadrakhima ayizi 61 000 egolide lesiliva esifika izi 5 000 samamina lezambatho zobuphristi ezilikhulu.

⁷⁰ Abaphristi, labaLevi, labahlabeleli, labalindi bamasango kanye lezinceku zethempelini bahlala emadolobheni akibo, ndawonye labanye abantu, labo

bonke abako-Israyeli bahlala emadolobheni akibo.

Ukwakhiwa Kutsha kwe-Alithare

3 Kwathi sekufika inyanga

yesikhombisa, lapho abako-Israyeli sebehlezi emizini yakibo, abantu babuthana njengomuntu munye eJerusalema. ² Kwasekusithi uJeshuwa indodana kaJozadaki labaphristi ayesebenza labo kanye loZerubhabheli indodana kaShilithiyeli labakhula bakhe baqalisa ukwakha i-alithare likaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ukwenza umhlatshele womnikelo wokutshiswa kulo, mayelana lalokho okulotshiweyo eMthethweni kaMosi umuntu kaNkulunkulu. ³ Lokuba babesesaba abantu bendawo, balakha i-alithare esisekelweni salo benza imihlatshelo yokutshiswa kuJehova kulo, yomibili imihlatshelo yokusa lowokuhlwa. ⁴ Kwathi njalo belandela okulotshiweyo bawugubha uMkhosi weZihonqo besenza inani elifaneleyo leminikelo yokutshiswa elungiselwe lelo lalelo ilanga. ⁵ Ngemuva kwalokho baletha iminikelo yenjayelo eyokutshiswa, imihlatshelo yokuThwasa kweNyanga lemihlatshelelwe yayo yonke imikhosi kaJehova emisiweyo engcwele, kanye laleyo eyayilethwa njengeminikelo yokuzizwela eyalethwa kuJehova. ⁶ Ngelanga lokuqala lenyanga yesikhombisa baqalisa ukuletha iminikelo yokutshiswa kuJehova, lokuba isisekelo sethempeli likaJehova sasingakabekwa.

Ukwakhiwa Kutsha kweThempeli

⁷ Basebesipha ababazi bamatshe lababazi nje imali, bapha ukudla lokunathwayo lamafutha ebantwini baseThire leSidoni, ukuze balethe izigodo zemisidari ngendlela yolwandle

kusuka eLebhanoni kusiya eJopha njengoba kwakuvunyelwe nguKhurosi inkosi yasePhesiya.

⁸Ngenyanga yesibili ngomnyaka wesibili bebuyile endlini kaNkulunkulu eJerusalema, uZerubhabheli indodana kaShilithiyeli, loJeshuwa indodana kaJozadaki labo bonke abafowabo (abaphristi labaLevi labo bonke ababuyayo eJerusalema bevela ebugqilini) bawuqalisa umsebenzi, bakhetha abaLevi abaleminyaka engamatshumi amabili kusiya phezulu ukuthi baphathe umsebenzi wokwakha indlu kaJehova. ⁹UJeshuwa lamadodana akhe labafowabo loKhadimiyeli lamadodana akhe (abazukulu bakaHodaviya) lamadodana kaHenadadi kanye lamadodana abo labafowabo – bonke bengabaLevi – bahlangana ndawonye ukukhangela labo ababesebenza endlini kaNkulunkulu.

¹⁰Kwathi abakhi sebesibekile isisekelo sethempeli likaJehova abaphristi bagqoka izingubo zabo, baphatha amachacho, kanye labaLevi (amadodana ka-Asafi) bephethe izigubhu, bonke bema ezindaweni zabo ukudumisa uJehova njengokwamiswa nguDavida inkosi yako-Israyeli. ¹¹Badumisa bebonga, bahlabelela uJehova bathi:

“Ulungile;
uthando lwakhe ku-Israyeli lumi
laphakade.”

Bonke abantu bamemeza bedumisa uJehova ngokuba isisekelo sendlu kaJehova sasesibekiwe. ¹²Kodwa abanengi babaphristi abadala labaLevi kanye lezikhulu zezimuli ababelibonile ithempeli lakuqala, bakhala baphumisela bebona isisekelo saleli ithempeli sibekwa, ikanti abanye babo bamemeza ngokuthaba. ¹³Kakho owayengawehlukanisa umsindo

wokumemeza kokuthokoza lomsindo wokukhala ngokuba abantu benza umsindo omangalisayo. Njalo umsindo lowo wezwakala kude.

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kweThempeli*

4 Kwathi lapho izitha zakoJuda

lakoBhenjamini sezizwile ukuthi ababeyizithunjwa basebesakha ithempeli likaJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli ²beza kuZerubhabheli lakulabo ababeyizinhloko zezimuli bathi, “Yekelani silincedise ukwakha ngokuba lathi, njengani, siyamdinga uNkulunkulu wenu njalo kukade sisenza imihlatshelo kuye kusukela esikhathini sika-Esarihadoni inkosi yase-Asiriya, onguye owasiletha lapha.”

³Kodwa uZerubhabheli, loJeshuwa labo bonke ababeyizinhloko zezimuli zaku-Israyeli baphendula bathi, “Kalilani lakho ukwakhisana lathi ithempeli likaNkulunkulu wethu. Thina sodwa sizalakha, silakhela uJehova, uNkulunkulu wako-Israyeli, njengokulaywa kwethu nguKhurosi, inkosi yasePhesiya.”

⁴Kwasekusithi abantu balelolizwe baqalisa ukubanqanda abantu bakoJuda babenza besaba ukuqhubeka besakha.

⁵Bathenga abacebisi bokudunga umsebenzi bawunyampise ngaso sonke isikhathi sokubusa kukaKhurosi inkosi yasePhesiya kwazekwaba sekubuseni kukaDariyu inkosi yasePhesiya.

Ukulwisana Kwamuva Ngezinsuku Sika-Ekisekisi lo-Athakisekisi

⁶Ekuqaleni kokubusa kuka-Ekisekisi bethesa abantu bakoJuda labaseJerusalema icala.

⁷Njalo kwathi ngezinsuku zika-Athakisekisi inkosi yasePhesiya uBhishilamu, loMithiredathi loThabheli

labo bonke abangane babo baloba
incwadi isiya ku-Athakisekisi. Incwadi
leyo yayibhalwe ngolimi lwesi-Aramu
ngendlela yokuloba kwawo ama-Aramu
yaphinde yahunyutshwa.

⁸uRehuni umlawuli webutho
loShimishayi unobhala babhala incwadi
isiya ku-Athakisekisi inkosi besola
iJerusalema besithi:

⁹UREhuni umlawuli webutho
loShimishayi unobhala kanye
labo bonke abahlangene labo –
abehluleli lezinduna zabantu
abasuka eThripholi, ePhesiya,
e-Ereki leBhabhiloni lama-Elami
aseSusa, ¹⁰kanye labanye abantu
inkosi enkulu ehloniphekayo
u-Ashuribhaniphali
(u-Osinaphari) yabadingisa
yayabahlalisa edolobheni
laseSamariya lakwezinye
izindawo ngaphetsheya
kweYufrathe.

¹¹(Nanka amazwi encwadi leyo
abayibhalayo).

Kuyo iNkosi u-Athakisekisi,

Ivela ezincekwini zakho, abantu
abangaphetsheya kweYufrathe:

¹²Inkosi ifanele yazi ukuthi
amaJuda afikayo kithi lapha
evela kuwe aseye eJerusalema
njalo sebelakha kutsha idolobho
lelo elihlamukayo, elibi kakhulu.
Sebevusa imiduli bevuselela
lezisekelo.

¹³Phezu kwalokho inkosi
kufanele ukuba yazi ukuthi aluba
idolobho leli lingaze lakhiwe
lemiduli yalo imiswe njalo,
kakusayikubhadalwa imithelo
lenkongozelo yenkosi, lomthetho

wokungenisa izimpahla ezweni,
besekusithi-ke isikhwama
senkosi sisilele izimali.

¹⁴Pho njengoba thina silomlandu
ophuma esigodlweni njalo
kungafanelanga ukuthi sibone
inkosi idelelwa, sithumela
umbiko lo ukuyazisa inkosi,
¹⁵ukuze kuchwayisiswe
ezincwadini zezindaba
ezatshiywa yilabo
abakwandulelayo.

Kulezozincwadi uzakufumana
ukuthi idolobho leli lidolobho
lokuhlamuka, lilohlupho
emakhosini lakwezinye izigaba
zombuso, liyindawo
yokuhlamuka kulokhu kwanini.

Yilokho okwabangelwa
ukubhidlizwa kwalelidolobho.

¹⁶Inkosi siyazisela ukuthi aluba
idolobho leli lingakhiwa, imiswe
njalo imiduli yalo, uzakube
ungasasalanga lalutho
ngaphetsheya kweYufrathe.

¹⁷Inkosi yathumela impendulo le:

KuRehuni umlawuli wempi
loShimishayi unobhala labo
bonke abaphathisana labo
abahlala eSamariya lakwezinye
izindawo ngaphetsheya
kweYufrathe:

Ngiyalibingelela

¹⁸Incwadi elasithumela yona
isibaliwe yahunyutshwa phambi
kwami. ¹⁹Ngakhupha ilizwi
kwaphenywa, kwafunyanwa
ukuthi idolobho leli lilembali
ende eyokuvukela amakhosi,
liyindawo yokuhlamuka
lokuxhwala. ²⁰IJerusalema isike
yaba lamakhosi alamandla

ayebusa kulo lonke
elangaphetsheya kweYufathe,
kubhadalwa kuwo imithelo,
inkongozelo yenkosi lemithelo
yokungenisa izimpahla elizweni.

²¹Manje-ke khuphani umlayo
kulawomadoda ukuthi kabamise
umsebenzi, ukuze idolobho leli
lingakhiwa ngize ngitsho mina.

²²Nanzelelani ukuthi lingayilibali
indaba le. Kuyekelelwani indaba
le ikhula yona ilimaza izifiso
zenkosi?

²³Incwadi yeNkosi u-Athakisekisi
yonela ukubalelwa uRehuni
loShimishayi unobhala lalabo
ababephathisa bahle bahamba masinyane
kubaJuda eJerusalema bababamba
ngamandla ukumisa umsebenzi.

²⁴Kanjalo umsebenzi wendlu
kaNkulunkulu eJerusalema wema kwaze
kwaba ngumnyaka wesibili wokubusa
kukaDariyu inkosi yasePhesiya.

Incwadi kaThathenayi Isiya kuDariyu

5 Ngalesosikhathi uHagayi
umphrofethi loZekharia umphrofethi,
umzukulu ka-Ido babephrofetha
kubaJuda laseJerusalema ngebizo lika
Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli onguye
owayephezu kwabo. ²Kwasekusithi
uZerubhabheli indodana kaShilithiyeli
loJeshuwa indodana kaJozadaki baqalisa
ukwakha kutsha indlu kaNkulunkulu
eJerusalema. Abaphrofethi
bakaNkulunkulu babelabo bebancedisa.

³Ngalesosikhathi uThathenayi umbusi
wangaphetsheya kweYufathe
loShethari-Bhozenayi labaphathisi babo
baya kubo bababuza bathi, “Ngubani
olivumeleyo ukwakha kutsha ithempeli
leli lokuvuselela lesisakhiwo?” ⁴Babuza
njalo bathi, “Ngobani amabizo amadoda

ayakhayo indlu le na?” ⁵Kodwa ilihlo
likaNkulunkulu wabo lalibalindile
abadala babaJuda kabazange beme kuze
kuyofika umbiko kuDariyu kubuye njalo
impendulo yakhe ibhaliwe.

⁶Le yiyo incwadi eyathunyelwa
nguThathenayi umbusi wangaphetsheya
kweYufathe loShethari-Bhozenayi
labasekeli babo, izinduna zaphetsheya
kweYufathe yaya kuDariyu iNkosi.

⁷Umbiko abawuthumelayo wawubhalwe
kanje:

Kuyo iNkosi uDariyu:

Ukubingelela okuhle

⁸Inkosi kufanele yazi ukuthi saya
esiqintini sakoJuda, ethempelini
likaNkulunkulu omkhulu. Abantu
bayalaxha ngamatshe amakhulu,
kunqunyiswa imijabo emidulini.
Umsebenzi uqhutshwa ngokukhuthala,
njalo uyaphambili ngokuphangisa
ukhokhelwa yibo.

⁹Sabuza abadala bakhona sathi,
“Ngubani oliphe imvumo yokwakha
kutsha leli ithempeli lokuvuselela
isakhiwo lesi? ¹⁰Futhi sababuza amabizo
abo ukuze sibhale amabizo abakhokheli
babo sisenzela ukukwazisa.

¹¹Nansi impendulo abasipha yona:

“Siyizinceku zikaNkulunkulu wezulu
lomhlaba, yikho silakha kutsha ithempeli
elakhiwa kudala, elakhiwa yinkosi
enkulu yako-Israyeli yaliqeda. ¹²Kodwa
ngenxa yokuthi okhokho bethu
bamthukuthelisa uNkulunkulu
wasezulwini, wabanikela ezandleni
zikaNebhakadinezari umKhalidiya,
inkosi yaseBhabhiloni owalibhidlizayo
lelithempeli abantu wabaxotshela
eBhabhiloni.

¹³“Kodwa ngomnyaka wokuqala
kaKhurosi inkosi yaseBhabhiloni, iNkosi
uKhurosi wakhupha isimemezelo

sokuthi kwakhiwe indlu kaNkulunkulu.

¹⁴ Wabuye wasusa ethempelini laseBhabhiloni izimpahla zegolide lesiliva ezendlu kaNkulunkulu ezazithethwe nguNebhukadinezari ethempelini eJerusalema waziletha ethempelini eBhabhiloni.

“Kwathi iNkosi uKhurosi yazinika indoda eyayithiwa nguSheshibhazari, eyamketha ukuba ngumbusi, ¹⁵ wamtshela wathi, ‘Thatha izimpahla lezi uhambe lazo uyozibeka ethempelini eJerusalema. Njalo yakha kakutsha indlu kaNkulunkulu endaweni yayo.’ ¹⁶ Yikho uSheshibhazari weza wabeka izisekelo zendlu kaNkulunkulu eJerusalema. Kusukela ngalelolanga kuze kube manje ibilokhu isakhiwa kodwa kayikapheli.”

¹⁷ Ngakho-ke uma kuyikuthanda kwayo inkosi, kakudingisiswe ezincwadini zezindaba zamakhosi aseBhabhiloni kubonwe ingabe yikho na ukuthi iNkosi uKhurosi wayesenzile isimemezelo sokuthi yakhiwe indlu le kaNkulunkulu eJerusalema. Lapho-ke inkosi kayisithumele isinqumo sayo ngendaba le.”

Isimemezelo sikaDariyu

6 INkosi uDariyu wasekhupha umlayo, basebepheya ezincwadini ezaziqoqwe ndawonye endlini yenotho yesizwe eBhabhiloni. ² Kwafunyanwa khona umqulu womgoqwa enqabeni yase-Ekhibhathana elizweni laseMediya kulotshwe lokhu kuwo:

Umbhalo wesimiso:

³ Ngomnyaka wokuqala weNkosi uKhurosi, inkosi yakhupha isimemezelo mayelana lethempeli likaNkulunkulu eJerusalema:

Ithempeli kalakhiwe kutsha libe yindawo yokwenzela imihlatshelo, njalo izisekelo zalo kazibekwe. Kalibe yizingalo ezingamatshumi ayisithupha ukuphakama, ububanzi bube yizingalo ezingamatshumi ayisithupha, ⁴ kwakhiwe imizila emithathu yamatshe amakhulu lomzila owodwa wezigodo. Izindleko zonke zizabhadalwa yisikhwama sesikhosini. ⁵ Akuthi njalo izimpahla zegolide lesiliva uNebhukadinezari azithatha ethempelini eJerusalema waziletha eBhabhiloni zibuyiselwe ezindaweni zazo ethempelini eJerusalema; zimele zibekwe endlini kaNkulunkulu.

⁶ Ngakho-ke wena Thathenayi, mbusi wangaphetsheya kweYufathe, loShethari-Bhozenayi labaphathisi benu bakulowo ummango, sukani lapho. ⁷ Lingaphazamisi umsebenzi wethempeli lelo likaNkulunkulu. Yekelani umbusi wabaJuda labadala babaJuda bayakhe kutsha indlu kaNkulunkulu endaweni yayo.

⁸ Njalo sengimisa umlayo walokho okumele lina likwenzele abadala laba bamaJuda ekwakhiweni kwendlu kaNkulunkulu:

Izindleko zala amadoda zizabhadalwa ngokugcweleyo yisikhwama senkosi, kuthathwa emithelweni yangaphetsheya kweYufathe ukuze umsebenzi ungaze wema. ⁹ Loba yini efunekayo – amajongosi, izinqama, amazinyane amaduna aweminikelo yokutshiswa kuNkulunkulu wezulu, lengqoloyi, itshwayi, iwayini lamafutha okuyabe kucelwe ngabaphristi eJerusalema – ¹⁰ ukuze benze imihlatshelo ethokozisayo kuNkulunkulu wezulu njalo bathandazele impilakahle yenkosi lamadodana ayo.

¹¹ Phezu kwalokho ngibeka umthetho othi nxa ekhona ozaguqula lesisimiso, kakuhwatshwe uthungo endlini yakhe aphakanyiswe axhonxwe kulo. Akuthi ngenxa yalelicala indlu yakhe ibhidlizwe ibe liquba. ¹² Sengathi uNkulunkulu owenza ukuthi iBizo lakhe lihlale khona, angayichitha loba yiyiphi inkosi loba ngabantu abaphakamisa isandla sabo ukuguqula umlayo lo loba ukudiliza ithempeli leli eliseJerusalema.

Mina Dariyu ngiwumisile umthetho lo. Kawulandelwe ngokukhuthala.

Ukuqedwa Lokunikelwa kweThempeli

¹³ Kwathi-ke, ngenxa yomthetho iNkosi uDariyu eyase iwuthumele, uThathenayi umbusi wangaphetsheya kweYufra, loShethari – Bhozenayi labasekeli babo bakwenza lokho ngenkuthalo. ¹⁴ Yikho-ke abadala bamaJuda baqhubeka ngokwakha bephumelela betshunyayezwa nguHagayi umphrofethi loZekharia, umzukululu ka-Ido. Baqeda ukulakha ithempeli belandela umlayo kaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli kanye lezimiso zikaKhurosi, loDariyu lo-Athakisekisi, amakhosi asePhesiya.

¹⁵ Ithempeli laqedwa ngelanga lesithathu lenyanga u-Adari, ngomnyaka wesithupha wokubusa kweNkosi uDariyu.

¹⁶ Kwasekusithi abantu bako-Israyeli – abaphristi, labaLevi labo bonke ababethunjiwe – benza umkhosi

¹⁷ Ukunikela indlu kaNkulunkulu le bapha umnikelo wezinkunzi ezilikhulu, izinqama ezingamakhulu amabili, amazinyane amaduna angamakhulu amane njalo lezimpongo ezilitshumi lambili njengomnikelo wesono ka-Israyeli wonke. ¹⁸ Njalo bagcoba abaphristi ezigabeni zabo labaLevi ngamaxuku abo ukwenza umsebenzi kaNkulunkulu eJerusalema, njengokulotshiweyo eNcwadini kaMosi.

IPhasika

¹⁹ Ngelanga letshumi lane lenyanga yokuqala, izithunjwa zagubha umkhosi wePhasika.

²⁰ Abaphristi labaLevi babezihlambulule behlanzekile ngokomkhuba. AbaLevi balihlaba izinyane lePhasika elabo bonke ababethunjiwe, labafowabo abaphristi njalo bezihlabela labo ngokwabo.

²¹ Ngakho abako-Israyeli ababebuyile ebugqilini balidla, kanye labo bonke labo abasebezikhuphile emikhutsheni engcolileyo yabomakhelwana beZizwe ukuze badinge uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. ²² Bawugubha uMkhosi weSinkwa esingelaMvubelo okwezinsuku eziyisikhombisa bethokoza, ngokuba uJehova wayebagcwalise ngokuthokoza ngokuguqula ingqondo yenkosi yase-Asiriya ukuthi ibancedise emsebenzini wendlu kaNkulunkulu, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli.

U-Ezra Uza eJerusalema

7 Ngemva kwalezizinto, ngesikhathi sokubusa kuka-Athakisekisi inkosi yasePhesiya, u-Ezra indodana kaSeraya, indodana ka-Azariya, indodana kaHilikhiya, ² indodana kaShaluni, indodana kaZadoki indodana ka-Ahithubi, ³ indodana ka-Amariya, indodana kaAzariya, indodana kaMerayothi, ⁴ indodana kaZerahiya, indodana ka-Uzi, indodana kaBhukhi, ⁵ indodana ka-Abhishuwa, indodana kaFinehasi, indodana ka-Eliyezari, indodana ka-Aroni umphristi omkhulu – ⁶ uEzra lo weza evela eBhabhiloni. Wayeyisifundiswa esazi kakhulu ngoMthetho kaMosi, owawuphiwe nguJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli. UJehova wayemuphe konke ayekucelile, ngokuba isandla sikaJehova uNkulunkulu wakhe sasiphezu kwakhe.

⁷ Abanye aba-Israyeli, kulabaphristi, labaLevi, labahlabeleli, labalindimasango lezinceku zethempelini labo babuya eJerusalema ngomnyaka wesikhombisa ka-Athakisekisi.

⁸ U-Ezra wafika eJerusalema ngenyanga yesihlanu ngomnyaka wesikhombisa wenkosi.

⁹ Wayeqalise uhambo lwakhe esuka eBhabhiloni ngelanga lakuqala lenyanga yokuqala, wafika eJerusalema ngelanga lakuqala lenyanga yesihlanu, ngoba isandla somusa sikaNkulunkulu sasiphezu kwakhe. ¹⁰ Ngokuba u-Ezra wayezinikele ekufundeni lokugcina uMthetho kaJehova lokufundisa izimiso zawo ko-Israyeli.

Incwadi yeNkosi u-Athakisekisi Isiya ku-Ezra

¹¹ Nansi incwadi iNkosi u-Athakisekisi ayeyiphe u-Ezra umphristi lomfundisi, indoda eyayifundile ezindabeni zemithetho lezimiso zikaJehova ku-Israyeli:

¹² Athakisekisi, inkosi yamakhosi,

Ku-Ezra umphristi, umfundisi woMthetho kaNkulunkulu wasezulwini:

Ngiyabingelela.

¹³ Manje-ke ngimisa umthetho wokuthi ingqe ngubani waba-Israyeli osebusweni wami, kugoqela abaphristi labaLevi, ofisa ukuhamba lawe eJerusalema, kahambe. ¹⁴ Uthunywa yinkosi labacebisi bayo abayisikhombisa ukuba uyofunisisa ngoJuda langeJerusalema mayelana loMthetho kaNkulunkulu wakho, owuphetheyo.

¹⁵ Njalo ubothatha isiliva legolide elinikwe ngesihle yinkosi labacebisi bayo kuNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, ohlala eJerusalema, ¹⁶ kanye lesiliva legolide

lonke ongalizuza elizweni laseBhabhiloni kanye leminikelo yokuzizwela eyabantu labaphristi benikelela ithempeli likaNkulunkulu wabo eJerusalema. ¹⁷ Ngaleyomali umele uthenge izinkunzi, lezinqama, lamazinyane ezimvu amaduna, ndawonye leminikelo yabo yamabele leyokunathwayo, konke kutshiselwe e-alithareni lethempeli likaNkulunkulu wenu eJerusalema.

¹⁸ Wena labazalwane bakho abangamaJuda selingenza lokho okuyabe kufanele ngesiliva legolide eliseleyo, mayelana lentando kaNkulunkulu wenu. ¹⁹ Hambisani kuNkulunkulu weJerusalema zonke izimpahla eliziphathisiweyo ezokukhonza ethempelini likaNkulunkulu wenu. ²⁰ Akuthi loba yini efunekayo ethempelini likaNkulunkulu wenu elifuna ukuthi izuzakale, kayidingwe ngendleko ephuma esikhwameni senkosi.

²¹ Mina, iNkosi Athakisekisi ngilaya bonke abaphathi besikhwama abangaphetsheya kweYufrahe ukuthi baphe u-Ezra umphristi, umfundisi woMthetho kaNkulunkulu wasezulwini ngokuphangisa loba yini ayicelayo kini – ²² kuzekube ngamathalenta esiliva alikhulu, amakhori alikhulu engqoloyi, imigqomo elikhulu yewayini, imigqomo elikhulu yamafutha e-oliva, letshwayi elingelakulinganiswa. ²³ Ingqe yini emiswe nguNkulunkulu wasezulwini, kakwenziwe ngokukhuthala kusenzelwa ithempeli likaNkulunkulu wasezulwini. Kakusweleki ukuthi ulaka luze lwehliselwe phezu kwenkosi lamadodana ayo. ²⁴ Yazini njalo ukuthi kalilamvumo yokubiza imithelo loba inkongozelo yenkosi kumbe imbadalo yokungenisa izimpahla elizweni kubaphristi, labaLevi, labahlabeleli, labalindimasango, lezinceku

zethempelini loba kwezinye izisebenzi
zale indlu kaNkulunkulu.

²⁵Yikho wena Ezra, ngokuhlakanipha
olakho okukaNkulunkulu wakho,
beka abathonisi labehluleli
ukwahlulela kuhle bonke abantu
abangaphetsheya kweYufra –
bonke abayaziyo imithetho
kaNkulunkulu wenu. Kumele
ufundise labo abangayaziyo. ²⁶Lowo
ongawulaleliyo umthetho
kaNkulunkulu wenu lomthetho
wenkosi ngeqiniso umele ajeziswe
ngokufa, loba ngokuxotshwa, loba
ngokuhluthunelwa izimpahla loba
atokisiswe.

²⁷Udumo kalube kuJehova,
uNkulunkulu wabokhokho bethu,
okufakileyo enhliziyweni yenkosi
ukuletha inhlonipho endlini kaJehova
eJerusalema ngale indlela ²⁸njalo
etshengise umusa wayo kini phambi
kwenkosi labeluleki bayo lazo zonke
izinduna zayo ezilamandla. Ngenxa
yokuthi isandla sikaJehova uNkulunkulu
wami besiphezu kwami, ngaba lesibindi
ngaqoqa amadoda angabakhokheli
kwaba-Israyeli ukuthi bahambe lami.

Uluhlu Lwabanumzana Ababuya lo-Ezra

8 Laba yibo izinhloko zezimuli lalabo
ababhalisa kubo abeza lami sisuka
eBhabhiloni ngesikhathi sokubusa
kweNkosi u-Athakisekisi:

²abesizukulwane sikaFinehasi,
uGeshomu;
abesizukulwane sika-Ithamari,
uDanyeli;
abesizukulwane sikaDavida, uHathushi
³owesizukulwane sikaShekhaniya;

abesizukulwane sikaPharoshi,
uZekhariya, okwabhalisa

kanye laye amadoda ali 150;

⁴abesizukulwane sikaPhahathi –
Mowabi, u-Eliyhoyenayi indodana
kaZerahiya oweza lamadoda angama
200;

⁵abesizukulwane sikaZathu,
uShekhaniya indodana kaJahazyeli,
oweza lamadoda angama 300;

⁶abesizukulwane sika-Adini, u-Ebhedi
indodana kaJonathani, oweza
lamadoda angama 50;

⁷abesizukulwane sika-Elami, uJeshaya
indodana ka-Athaliya, oweza
lamadoda angama 70;

⁸abesizukulwane sikaShefathiya,
uZebhadiya indodana kaMikhayeli,
oweza lamadoda angama 80;

⁹abesizukulwane sikaJowabi,
u-Obhadiya indodana kaJehiyeli,
oweza lamadoda angama 218;

¹⁰abesizukulwane sikaBhani,
uShelemothi indodana kaJosifiya,
oweza lamadoda ali 160;

¹¹abesizukulwane sikaBhebhayi,
uZekhariya indodana kaBhebhayi,
oweza lamadoda angama 28;

¹²abesizukulwane sika-Azigadi,
uJohanani indodana kaHakathani,
oweza lamadoda ali 110;

¹³abesizukulwane sika-Adonikhani,
abokucina, amabizo abo
ayengo-Elifelethi, uJeweli
loShemaya, beza lamadoda angama
60;

¹⁴abesizukulwane sikaBhigivayi,
u-Uthayi loZakhuri, abeza lamadoda
angama 70.

Ukubuyela eJerusalema

¹⁵Ngababuthanisa eMgelweni wamanzi
agelezela ku-Ahava, samisa khona
okwezinsuku ezintathu. Ngathi
sengihlola phakathi kwabantu
labaphristi, kangifumananga mLevi
khona. ¹⁶Yikho ngasengibiza

u-Elinathani, loNathani, loZekhariya loMeshulami ababengabakhokheli, loJoyaribi lo-Elinathani ababengabantu abafundileyo,¹⁷ ngabathumela ku-Ido, lezihlobo zakhe, izinceku zethempelini eKhasifiya, ukwenzela ukuthi basilethele izikhonzi ezendlu kaNkulunkulu.

¹⁸Ngokuba isandla somusa sikaNkulunkulu sasiphezu kwethu, basilethela uSherebiya, indoda emadodeni, owesizukulwane sikaMahili indodana kaLevi, indodana ka-Israyeli, lamadodana kaSherebiya labafowabo, amadoda ali 18; ¹⁹loHashabiya, kanye loJeshiya owesizukulwane sikaMerari, kanye labafowabo labantwababo, amadoda angama 20. ²⁰Bona beza lezinceku zethempelini ezingama 220 – inani elalimiswe nguDavida lezinduna zakhe ukuncedisa abaLevi. Bonke babhalwa phansi amabizo abo.

²¹Khonapho, ekhunjini loMgelo we-Ahava, ngamemezela ukuzila ukudla, ukuze sizehlise phambi kukaNkulunkulu wethu simcele asiphe uhambo oluhle, thina labantwabethu, lezimpahla zethu zonke. ²²Ngaba lenhloni ukucela kuJehova amabutho labakhweli bamabhiza ukuthi basivikele ezitheni endleleni ngoba inkosi sasiyitshela sathi, “Isandla somusa sikaNkulunkulu wethu siphezu kwakhe lowo okhangele kuye, kodwa ulaka lwakhe olukhulu luyavutha kulabo abamfulathelayo.” ²³Ngakho sazila ukudla, samncenga uNkulunkulu wethu ngakho lokhu, wawuphendula umkhuleko wethu.

²⁴Ngasengisehlukanisa kwabanye abaphristi abalitshumi lambili abangabakhokheli, ndawonye loSherekhiya, loHashakhiya labalitshumi labafowabo, ²⁵ngabalinganisela umnikelo wesiliva legolide lezimpahla ezaziyisipho esasisuka enkosini, labacebisi bayo, lezikhulu zayo laba-Israyeli bonke ababekhona lapho,

siyisipho sendlu kaNkulunkulu.

²⁶Ngabalinganisela amathalenta angama 650 awesiliva, izimpahla zesiliva ezilobunzima obungamathalenta ali 100, amathalenta ali 100 awegolide, ²⁷imiganu yegolide engama 20 kuthiwa intengo yayo ingaba ngamadariki ayi 1000, lezitsha ezimbili ezethusi elilolongiweyo eliligugu njengegolide.

²⁸Ngathi kubo, “Lina kanye lezimpahla lezi lingcwelisiwe eNkosini. Isiliva legolide kungumnikelo wokuzizwela kuJehova, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho benu. ²⁹Kulindeneni ngonanzelelo lize liyokulinganisa emakamelweni endlu kaJehova eJerusalema phambi kwabakhokheli babaphristi labaLevi labayizinhloko zezimuli zaka-Israyeli.”

³⁰Kwathi-ke abaphristi labaLevi basemukela isiliva legolide lezimpahla ezingcwele ezazilinganisiwe ukuze zisiwe endlini kaNkulunkulu wethu eJerusalema.

³¹Ngosuku lwetshumi lambili lwenyanga yokuqala saphakama sasuka eMgelweni we-Ahava saqonda eJerusalema. Isandla sikaNkulunkulu wethu sasiphezu kwethu, wasivikela ezitheni lazigebungwini indlela yonke.

³²Ngakho safika eJerusalema, saphumula khona okwezinsuku ezintathu.

³³Ngosuku lwesine sangena endlini kaJehova salinganisa isiliva legolide lezimpahla zonke ezingcwelisiweyo sazibeka ezandleni zikaMeremothi indodana ka-Uriya umphristi. U-Eliyazari indodana kaFinehasi laye wayekhona, labaLevi oJozabhadi indodana kaJoshuwa loNowadiya indodana kaBhimuyi. ³⁴Konke kwakukhona ngenani lakho langesisindo, kwathi isisindo sonke salotshwa phansi ngasonaleso isikhathi.

³⁵Yikho izithunywa ezabuya ebugqilini zenza umhlatshelo wokutshiswa kuNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli: izinkunzi

ezilitshumi lambili ezika-Israyeli wonke, izinqama ezingamatshumi aficagalolunye lesithupha, amawundlu amaduna angamatshumi ayisikhombisa lesikhombisa kanye lomnikelo wesono oyizimpongo ezilitshumi lambili. Konke lokhu kwakungumnikelo wokutshiswa kuJehova.³⁶ Bathi njalo bethula imilayo kuJehova kuzikhulu zenkosi lakubabusi bangaphetsheya kweYufra, okwathi-ke bona bancedisa abantu kanye lasendlini kaNkulunkulu.

Umthandazo ka-Ezra Ngokuthathana Kwemihlobo

9 Sezenziwe zonke lezi izinto, abakhokheli beza kimi bathi, “Abantu bako-Israyeli, bonke labaphristi labaLevi kabazehlukanisanga ebantwini abangomakhelwana abalezenzo ezinengekayo, abanjengamaKhenani, amaHithi, amaPherizi, amaJebusi, ama-Amori, amaMowabi, amaGibhithe lama-Amori.² Bathatha amanye amadodakazi abo aba ngomkabo bathathela lamadodana abo, baxubanisa isizwe esingwele labantu abahlezi labo. Njalo abakhokheli lezikhulu yibo abakhokheleyo kulokhu kungathembeki.”

³Ngathi ngikuzwa lokho ngadabula isigqoko sami lejazi lami, ngadonsa izinwele ekhanda lami lezindevu zami ngahlala phansi ngididekile.

⁴Kwasekusithi wonke lowo owethuswa ngamazwi kaNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli waziqoqa phansi kwami ngenxa yalokhu ukona kwezithunjwa. Ngahlala khonapho ngididekile kwaze kwaba ngumhlatshelo wakusihlwa.

⁵Kwathi-ke ngomhlatshelo wakusihlwa, ngaphakama ekuzehliseni kwami, isigqoko sami lejazi lami kudabukile, ngaguqa, izandla zami zivuliwe kuJehova uNkulunkulu wami

⁶ngakhuleka ngathi:

“O Nkulunkulu wami, ngiyangekile kakhulu njalo ngilenhloni ukuphakamisela ubuso bami kuwe, Nkulunkulu wami, ngokuba izono zethu ziphakeme kulamakhanda ethu lecala lethu selifikile emazulwini.⁷ Kusukela ezinsukwini zabokhokho bethu kuze kube manje, icala lethu likhulu. Ngenxa yezono zethu, thina lamakhosi ethu labaphristi bethu sesilokhu sidliwa yinkemba sigqilazwa njalo, sidlovuzwa njalo siyangiswa ngamakhosi ezizwe, njengoba kunjalo lalamuhla.

⁸“Kodwa khatesi, okwesikhatshana nje, uJehova uNkulunkulu wethu ube lomusa ngokusitshiyela insalela lokusipha indawo eqinileyo endlini yakhe engwele, okuthi ngakho uNkulunkulu wethu uletha ukukhanya emehlweni ethu lokukhululeka kancinyane ekugqilazisweni kwethu.⁹ Lokuba siyizigqili, uNkulunkulu wethu kasidelanga ebugqilini bethu. Usitshengise umusa emehlweni amakhosi asePhesiya; usiphile impilo entsha ukuba sakhe kutsha indlu kaNkulunkulu wethu sivuselele amanxiwa ayo, njalo usesiphile umduli wokusivikela koJuda laseJerusalema.

¹⁰“Kodwa manje, hawu Nkulunkulu wethu, kuyini esingakutsho sekwenzakale lokhu? Ngokuba siyidelile imilayo¹¹ owayinika ngezinceku zakho abaphrofethi uze uthi: ‘Ilizwe eselingena kulo ukulithatha yilizwe elingcolisiweyo ngokuxhwala kwabantu balo. Ngemikhuba yabo enengekayo sebeligcwalise ngamanyala abo kusukela ngapha kwalo kuze kufike ekucineni ngale.¹² Ngakho-ke lingendiseli

amadodakazi enu kumadodana
abo kumbe amadodana enu
athathe amadodakazi abo.
Lingadingi isibopho
sobudlelwano labo loba nini,
ukuze liqine lidle izinto ezinhle
zelizwe elizalitshiyela
abantwabenu njengelifa
laphakade.

¹³“Osekwenzakele kithi
kungumvuzo wezenzo zethu
ezimbi lecala lethu elikhulu,
ikanti wena Nkulunkulu wethu
usijezise okunganeno kwezono
zethu wasipha abayinsalela
kanje. ¹⁴Sizaphinda njalo sephule
imilayo yakho sendiselane
labantu bezizwe abagila
imikhuba eyenyanyekayo
kangaka na? Ungaze wasizondela
kakhulu na usibhubhise
ungasitshiyeli lansalela loba
abasindileyo na? ¹⁵O Jehova,
Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, ulungile!
Namhla-nje sisele njengensalela.
Nanku silapha phambi kwakho
ngecala lethu, lokuba engekho
ongema ebukhoneni bakho
ngenxa yalo icala lethu.”

Abantu Bavuma Isono

10 Lapho u-Ezra wayekhuleka njalo
efakaza izono, ekhala ezilahla phansi
phambi kwendlu kaNkulunkulu, ixuku
elikhulu laba-Israyeli – amadoda
labafazi labantwana – babuthana kuye.
Labo bakhala kabuhlungu. ²Yikho
uShekhaniya indodana kaJeshiyeli,
omunye wesizukulwane sika-Elami,
wathi ku-Ezra, “Kasizange sithembeke
kuNkulunkulu wethu ngoba sathatha
abafazi kwabezizwe esakhelene labo.
Kodwa loba kunjalo ithemba lisekhona
ngo-Israyeli. ³Manje kasenzeni isibopho
phambi kukaNkulunkulu wethu

ukubalahla bonke labobafazi
labantwababo njengeseluleko senkosi
yami lalabo abayesabayo imilayo
kaNkulunkulu wethu. Kakwenziwe
ngendlela yoMthetho. ⁴Sukuma; indaba
le isezandleni zakho. Thina sizakusekela,
yikho yiba lesibindi ukwenze.”

⁵Ngakho u-Ezra waphakama wafungisa
bonke abakhokheli babaphristi labaLevi
lo-Israyeli wonke ukwenza lokho
okwakumisiwe. Basenza lesosifungo.

⁶U-Ezra wasesuka endlini kaNkulunkulu
waya endlini kaJehohanani indodana ka-
Eliyashibi. Elapho kadlanga lutho njalo
kazange anathe manzi, ngokuba
waqhubeka elilela ukungathembeki
kwezithunjwa.

⁷Kwasekukhutshwa isimemezelo kulo
lonke elakoJuda kanye leJerusalema
ukuthi zonke izithunjwa kaziqoqane
eJerusalema. ⁸Ingqe ngubani
ongafikanga phakathi kwezinsuku
ezintathu wayezathathelwa yonke
impahla alayo, kulandelwa isinqumo
sezinduna labadala, kuthi yena
ngokwakhe axotshwe emphakathini
walabo ababethunjiwe.

⁹Phakathi kwalezozinsuku ezintathu
wonke amadoda akoJuda
lakoBhenjamini ayesebuthe
eJerusalema. Kwathi ngelanga
lamatshumi amabili lenyanga
yesificamunwemunye bonke abantu
babelezi esigcawini phambi kwendlu
kaNkulunkulu, bekhathazekile
ngombuthano lowo njalo begxanxwa
lizulu elalisina. ¹⁰Kwathi u-Ezra
umphristi wasukuma wathi kubo,
“Kalithembekanga; lisuke lathatha
abafazi bezizweni, lengeza icala lika-
Israyeli. ¹¹Manje-ke fakazani izono zenu
kuJehova, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho
benu, lenze intando yakhe.
Zahlukaniseni kulababantu elakhelene
labo lasebafazini benu abezizwe.”

¹² Inkundla yonke yaphendula ngelizwi elikhulu yathi: “Uqondile! Kumele senze njengoba usitsho. ¹³ Kodwa kulabantu abanengi lapha futhi lesi yisikhathi sezulu; ngakho ngeke sime lapha phandle. Futhi indaba ingazake iphethwe ngosuku olulodwa kumbe ezimbili, ngokuba sonile kakhulu ngento le.

¹⁴ Akuthi izinduna zethu zisimele thina sonke. Akuthi wonkemuntu emizini yethu othethe umfazi wabezizwe eze ngesikhathi esimisiweyo, eze labadala kanye labehluleli balowomuzi, luze ludede kithi ulaka olwesabekayo lukaNkulunkulu wethu.” ¹⁵ Kwaba nguJonathani kuphela, indodana ka-Asaheli loJahizeya indodana kaThikiva, besekelwa nguMeshulami loShabethayi umLevi abakuphikisayo lokhu.

¹⁶ Ngakho izithunjwa zenza njengokwakumisiwe. U-Ezra umphristi wakhetha amadoda ayeyizinhloko zezimuli, oyedwa emulini, bonke baqanjwa ngamabizo. Ngosuku lokuqala lwenyanga yetshumi bahlala phansi bawahlolisisa lawomacala, ¹⁷ kwathi ngelanga lokuqala ngenyanga yokuqala baqeda ukuphatha indaba yamadoda ayethethe abafazi bezizweni.

Ababelecala Lokuthatha Abafazi Bezizwe

¹⁸ Phakathi kwezizukulwane zabaphristi, laba abalandelayo yibo ababethethe abafazi bezizwe:

Abesizukulwane sika-Jeshuwa indodana kaJozadaki labafowabo: uMasaya, u-Eliyezari, uJaribi loGedaliya. ¹⁹ (Bonke baphakamisa izandla zabo bafunga ukubalahla abafazi babo, kwathi ngenxa yecala labo ngulowo wakhupha inqama emhlambini ukuba ngumnikelo wesono.)

²⁰ Abesizukulwane sika-Imeri:

nguHanani loZebhadiya.

²¹ Abesizukulwane sikaHarimi: nguMaseya, lo-Elija, loShemaya, loJehiyeli lo-Uziya.

²² Abesizukulwane sikaPhashuri: ngu-Eliyonayi, loMaseya, lo-Ishumayeli, loNethaneli, loJozabhadi lo-Elasa.

²³ Phakathi kwabaLevi nampa:

uJozabhadi, loShimeyi, loKhelaya (kutshiwo uKhelitha) loPhethahiya, loJuda lo-Eliyezeri.

²⁴ Phakathi kwabahlabeleli nampa: u-Eliyashibi. Phakathi kwabalindimasango: nguShaluni, loThelemu lo-Uri.

²⁵ Phakathi kwabanye abako-Israyeli:

Abesizwe sikaPharoshi: nguRamiya, u-Iziya, uMalikhija, uMijamini, uEliyezari, uMalikhija loBhenaya.

²⁶ Abesizukulwane sika-Elami: nguMathaniya, uZekhariya, uJehiyeli, u-Abhidi, uJeremothi lo-Elija.

²⁷ Abesizukulwane sikaZathu: ngu-Eliyonayi, u-Eliyashibi, uMathaniya, uJeremothi, uZabadi lo-Aziza.

²⁸ Abesizukulwane sikaBhebhayi: nguJehohanani, uHananiya, uZabayi lo-Athilayi.

²⁹ Abesizukulwane sikaBhani: nguMeshulami, uMaluki, u-Adaya, uJashubi, uSheyali loJeremothi.

³⁰ Abesizukulwane sikaPhahathi-Mowabi: ngu-Adina, uKhelali, uBhenaya, uMaseya, uMathaniya, uBhezaleli, uBhinuyi loManase.

³¹ Abesizukulwane sikaHarimi: ngu-Eliyezari, u-Ishiya, uMalikiya,

- uShemaya, uShimeyoni,
³² uBhenjamini, uMaluki, loShemariya.
³³ Abesizukulwane sikaHashumi:
 nguMathenayi, uMathatha, uZabadi,
 u-Elifethi, uJeremayi, uManase
 loShimeyi.
³⁴ Abesizukulwane sikaBhani:
 nguMadayi, u-Amramu, u-Uweli,
³⁵ uBhenayi, uBhedeya, uKheluthi,
³⁶ uVaniya, uMeremothi, u-Eliyashibi,
³⁷ uMathaniya, uMathenayi loJasu.
³⁸ Abesizukulwane sikaBhinuwi:
³⁹ nguShimeyi, uShelemiya, uNathani,
 u-Adaya, ⁴⁰ uMakhinadebhayi,
 uShashayi, uSharayi, ⁴¹ u-Azareli,
 uShelemiya, uShemariya, ⁴² uShalumi,
 u-Amariya loJosefa.
⁴³ Abesizukulwane sikaNebho:
 nguJeyeli, uMathithiya, uZabadi,
 uZebhina, uJadayi, uJoyeli loBheniya.
⁴⁴ Bonke laba bathatha abafazi bezizwe,
 abanye babo bazala abantwana labafazi
 labo.