

4Q117 – 4Q Ezra?

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Translation:

Fragment 1 – Ezra 4:2-6 (1 Esdras 5:66-70)

- 1) [²Like you, we seek your] go[d and to him we have been sacrificing since the days of Esarhaddon, king of Assyria, who brought us up]
- 2) [here. ³And] Z [rubbabel and Joshua and the rest of the heads of the patriarchal clans of Israel said] to them [“It is not yours, but ours, to build]
- 3) [a house for our god.] For w[e alone will build to YHWH the god of Israel just as King Cyrus the king of (4) Persia (3)commanded us.]
- 4) [But the landed] aristocracy dis[couraged the people of Judah making them afraid to build. ⁵ So they hired]
- 5) [for themselves officials to] frustrate their plans [all the days of Cyrus king of Persia until the reign of Darius king of Persia]
- 6) [⁶ And during the reign of Xerxes, at the begin]ing of his reig[n]

Fragment 2 – Ezra 4:9-11 (No 1st Esdras parallel)

- 1) [the scribe and the rest of the]ir [collea]gues – the ju]ges [the envoys, the Persian officials, the people of Erech, the Babylonians,]
- 2) [and the people of Susa, that is, the E]lamites and the ¹⁰rest of the natio[ns whom the great and famous Osnappar exiled and caused to settle]
- 3) [in the city of Samaria] and the rest of Beyond the River. And now [¹¹this is a copy of the letter which they sent to him:]
- 4) [To Artaxerxes the K]i[ng] Your Servants, men of Beyond [the River, and now ¹².....]

Fragment 3 – Ezra 5:17-6:5 (1st Esdras 6:20-25)

- 1) ^{5:17}.....
- 2) [Cyrus the king issued a decree to build] this [h]ouse of God in Jeru[salem. Now let the king send us his pleasure in the matter.]
- 3) [^{6:1} Then, Darius the king issued a de]ree and he searched in the arc[hives in Babylon where the records were deposited ²but] (4) a document (3)[was found]
- 4) [in Ecbatana, the capital of Media] the province and thus was writ[ten within it a memorandum: ^{6:3}In the first year of Cyrus]
- 5) [the king, King Cyrus decr]eed: (Concerning) the house of the god in Jerusalem, let [the] house [be built, a site where sacrifices may be sacrificed]
- 6) [and its foundations laid. Its heigh]t, sixty cub[i]ts, its width, sixty cubits, ^{6:4} [three] layers of [rolled stone]

7) [and one layer of wood. Expense]s will be paid from the royal palace. ^{6:5} And moreover,] gold [and silver] vessels of the hou[se of the god]
8) [which Nebuchadnezzar brought out] from the temple which is in Jerusalem and which were carried to Baby[lon, they shall be restored and brought]
9) [to the temple which is in Jerusalem to its place] and you shall deposit (them) in the house of the god. (vacat). And now [