

~ECBATANA (198) (Ec-bat'a-na)

- The capital city of ancient Media, from about **700 B.C.E.** Persian King Cyrus II took it from Median King Astyages, after which the Medes and Persians joined forces under Cyrus. **Ecbatana** is Scripturally identified as a place that was in the jurisdictional district of Media in the days of Persian King Darius I. or Hystaspis.
- It was then that Darius the king put an order through, and they made an investigation in the house of the records of the treasures deposited there in Babylon. (**Ezra 6:1**)
- And at **Ecbatana**, in the fortified place that was in the jurisdictional district of Media, there was found a scroll, and the memorandum to this effect was written within it: (**Ezra 6:2**)
- **Ecbatana** is the **English** rendering of this city's name at;
- And at **Ecbatana**, in the fortified place that was in the jurisdictional district of Media, there was found a scroll, and the memorandum to this effect was written within it: (**Ezra 6:2**)
- This form of the name corresponds to the reading of the **Latin Vulgate** and is also found in the Greek text of the Apocryphal writings that came to be included in the **Septuagint**.
- The **Masoretic** text and the **Syriac Peshitta**, however, give the name as Achmetha. Early Greek writers seem to have applied the name **Ecbatana** to several places. However, there is general agreement among scholars today that the **Ecbatana** captured by Cyrus, and thus that mentioned at;
- And at **Ecbatana**, in the fortified place that was in the jurisdictional district of Media, there was found a scroll, and the memorandum to this effect was written within it. (**Ezra 6:2**)
- Is the modern city of Hamadan, an important commercial center of Iran situated at the foot of Mount Alwand approximately 290 kilometers (180 miles) West-southwest of Tehran. Just as ancient **Ecbatana** was a significant city along the chief route leading from

Mesopotamia to points farther East, so modern Hamadan is traversed by various roads, such as that running from Baghdad to Tehran.

- **When certain Persian-appointed officials questioned the legality of the Jews temple-rebuilding work in Zerubbabel's day, these opposers sent a letter to King Darius I of Persia requesting confirmation of Cyrus decree authorizing the reconstruction.**
- **And Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the grandson of Iddo the prophet prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and in Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel who was over them. (Ezra 5:1)**
- **It was then that Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jehozadak got up and started to rebuild the house of God, which was in Jerusalem, and with them there were God's prophets giving them aid. (Ezra 5:2)**
- **At that time Tattenai the governor beyond the River and Shethar-bozenai and their colleagues came to them, and this is what they were saying to them. Who put an order through to you to build this house and to finish this beam structure? (Ezra 5:3)**
- **Then they said to them this. What are the names of the able-bodied men that are building this building? (Ezra 5:4)**
- **And the eye of their God proved to be upon the older men of the Jews, and they did not stop them until the report could go to Darius and then an official document concerning this could be sent back. (Ezra 5:5)**
- **Here is a copy of the letter that Tattenai the governor beyond the River and Shethar-bozenai and his colleagues, the lesser governor's that were beyond the River, sent to Darius the king. (Ezra 5:6)**
- **They sent the word to him, and the writing in it was in this manner. To Darius the king. All peace! (Ezra 5:7)**
- **Let it become known to the king that we went to the jurisdictional district of Judah to the house of the great God, and it is being built with stones rolled into place, and timbers are being laid in the walls, and that work is being eagerly done and is making progress in their hands. (Ezra 5:8)**

- **Then we asked these older men. This is what we said to them, Who put an order through to you to build this house and to finish this beam structure? (Ezra 5:9)**
- **And we also asked them their names, so as to let you know, that we might write the names of the able-bodied men that are at their head. (Ezra 5:10)**
- **And this is the word that they gave back to us, saying; We are the servants of the God of the heavens and the earth, and we are rebuilding the house that had been built many years before this, which a great king of Israel built and finished. (Ezra 5:11)**
- **However, because our fathers irritated the God of the heavens, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the Chaldean, and he demolished this house and took the people into exile at Babylon. (Ezra 5:12)**
- **Nevertheless, in the first year of Cyrus the king of Babylon, Cyrus the king put an order through to rebuild this house of God. (Ezra 5:13)**
- **And also the gold and silver vessels of the house of God that Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple, which was in Jerusalem, and brought to the temple of Babylon, these Cyrus the king took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were given to Sheshbazzar, the name of the one whom he made governor. (Ezra 5:14)**
- **And he said to him; Take these vessels. Go, deposit them in the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt upon its place. (Ezra 5:15)**
- **When that Sheshbazzar came he laid the foundations of the house of God, which is in Jerusalem, and from then until now it is being rebuilt but it has not been completed. (Ezra 5:16)**
- **And now if to the king it seems good, let there be an investigation in the king's house of treasures that is there in Babylon, whether it is so that from Cyrus the king an order was put through to rebuild that house of God in Jerusalem, and the decision of the king concerning this let him send to us. (Ezra 5:17)**

- Darius had an investigation made, and Cyrus decree was found in **Ecbatana**, thus establishing the legality of the temple-rebuilding work. In fact, Darius put through an order so that the Jews work might go on without hindrance, and their opposers were even ordered to provide them with needed materials, which they did promptly.
- The temple was finally completed by the third day of the lunar month Adar, that is, in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king, or near the spring of **515 B.C.E.**
- Now Tattenai the governor beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai and their colleagues, the lesser governor's that are beyond the River, keep your distance from there. (**Ezra 6:6**)
- Let the work on that house of God alone. The governor of the Jews and the older men of the Jews will rebuild that house of God upon its place. (**Ezra 6:7**)
- And by me an order has been put through as to what you will do with these older men of the Jews, for rebuilding that house of God, and from the royal treasury of the tax beyond the River the expense will promptly be given to these able-bodied men without cessation. (**Ezra 6:8**)
- And what is needed, young bulls as well as rams and lambs for the burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine and oil, just as the priests that are in Jerusalem say; Let there be given them continually day by day without fail. (**Ezra 6:9**)
- That they may continually be presenting soothing offerings to the God of the heavens and praying for the life of the king and his sons. (**Ezra 6:10**)
- And by me an order has been put through that, as for anybody that violates this decree, a timber will be pulled out of his house and he will be impaled upon it, and his house will be turned into a public privy on this account. (**Ezra 6:11**)
- And may the God who has caused his name to reside there overthrow any king and people that thrusts his hand out to commit a violation and destroy that house of God, which is in Jerusalem. I, Darius, do put through an order. Let it be done promptly. (**Ezra 6:12**)

- **Then Tattenai the governor beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai and their colleagues, just as Darius the king had sent word, so they did promptly. (Ezra 6:13)**
- **And the older men of the Jews were building and making progress under the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the grandson of Iddo, and they built and finished it due to the order of the God of Israel and due to the order of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes the king of Persia. (Ezra 6:14)**
- **And they completed this house by the third day of the lunar month Adar, that is, in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king. (Ezra 6:15)**