

# Ezra 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.

## Analysis

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The purpose for provision—"that they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons"—reveals Darius's motivation. He sought divine blessing through support of proper worship. Whether this reflects genuine belief or pragmatic insurance, God uses it for His purposes. The text doesn't require pagan rulers' pure motives—God accomplishes His will even through mixed motivations and self-interest.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern belief held that gods blessed kingdoms that honored them and cursed those who neglected their worship. Darius's concern for securing divine blessing through Jewish prayers was common royal theology. Similar concepts appear in Persian inscriptions invoking various deities' favor. Pragmatic or not, this belief provided incentive for religious tolerance and material support that benefited God's people.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does God use even imperfect or self-interested human motivations to accomplish His redemptive purposes?
2. What does Darius's concern about divine blessing teach about general revelation and human awareness of divine power?

## Interlinear Text

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לְאֵלֹהִים	לְהַנּוֹן	מִבְּקָרְבָּן	נִיחּוּן	לְאָלֹהִים
H1768	That they may offer	H7127	sacrifices of sweet savours	unto the God
H1934			H5208	H426
וּבְתָהָרִים	מֶלֶךְ אָ	לְפָנֵי	וּמְצָלָה	שְׁמַיִם אֶ
of heaven	and pray	for the life	of the king	and of his sons
H8065	H6739	H2417	H4430	H1123

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 29:7** (Prayer): And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.

**Ezra 7:23** (Kingdom): Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven: for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?