

Ezra 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this.

Analysis

The penalty decree—'whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon'—imposes severe punishment for violation. This brutal enforcement protected the restoration work from interference. The additional curse 'and let his house be made a dunghill for this' threatens ultimate shame. God's purposes are so important that He providentially arranges even severe penalties to protect His work.

Historical Context

Ancient imperial decrees commonly included severe penalties for violation—crucifixion, impalement, or hanging were standard capital punishments. The house becoming a dunghill added permanent disgrace to execution. Such harsh penalties demonstrated decree seriousness and deterred opposition. While Christians don't endorse cruel punishments, Scripture records that God used contemporary penal practices to protect His people and work.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's use of pagan penal systems to protect His work demonstrate sovereignty over even harsh historical realities?
2. What does the severe penalty protecting worship restoration teach about the seriousness of God's purposes?

Interlinear Text

וְיַעֲשֵׂה	תְּמִימָד	שִׁים	שְׁעָם	כָּל	אַתָּה	דְּבָרָה	וְיַעֲשֵׂה
Also	I have made	a decree	H1768	that whosoever	H606	H1768	shall alter
H4481	H7761	H2942		H3606			H8133
word	this	be pulled down	H5256	let timber	Also	and let his house	
H6600	H1836			H636	H4481	H1005	
and being set up	let him be hanged	for		and let his house	a dunghill	be made	
H2211	H4223	H5922		H1005	H5122	H5648	
לְתַחַת	עַל						
for	this						
H5922	H1836						

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 3:29 (Creation): Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nege, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

Daniel 2:5 (Creation): The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the

interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

Ezra 7:26 (Word): And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.

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