

Ezra 6:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed.

Analysis

The concluding curse—"the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem"—invokes divine judgment on future violators. Darius acknowledges Jerusalem's unique status as place where God's name dwells. This confession from a pagan king demonstrates that God's reputation extends beyond Israel. The self-imprecation shows Darius understood the seriousness of opposing God's purposes.

Historical Context

The phrase 'caused his name to dwell there' echoes Deuteronomy's theology of divine presence in chosen place (Deuteronomy 12:11). That a Persian king used this specific language suggests Jewish theological influence. The curse's invocation of divine judgment shows Darius took seriously the spiritual dimension of his decree. Whether genuine faith or diplomatic respect, his language honored Israel's God and protected temple restoration.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does a pagan king's confession of God's unique dwelling place demonstrate truth's power to compel acknowledgment?
2. What does Darius's self-imprecation teach about the seriousness of covenants and the fear of divine judgment?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	יִמְגַּר	תַּמָּה	שְׁמִי ה'	שָׁכַן	דִּי אֱלֹהִים	א
all	destroy	there	that hath caused his name	to dwell	And the God	
H3606	H4049	H8536	H8036	H7932	H1768	H426
לְהַשְׁבִּיחַ	יְדֵיהֶם	יְשׁוּלֵהוּ	דִּין	וְעַם	מְלָכִים	
to alter	to their hand	that shall put		and people	kings	
H8133	H3028	H7972	H1768	H5972	H4430	
אֲנִי ה'	בִּירוּשָׁלַם	דִּי יְדֵהוּ	אֱלֹהִים	בֵּית	לְחַבֵּל	ה'
I	which is at Jerusalem	this	And the God	house	and to destroy	
H576	H3390	H1791	H426	H1005	H2255	
יִתְעַבֵּד:	אֶסְפֵּר רָנָא	טַעַם	שִׁמְתָּהּ	דָּרִי וְשִׁ		
let it be done	with speed	a decree	have made	Darius		
H5648	H629	H2942	H7761	H1868		

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 9:3 (Creation): And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

Deuteronomy 12:5 (References God): But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:

Exodus 20:24 (Parallel theme): An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee.

Deuteronomy 12:11 (References God): Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

Isaiah 60:12 (Kingdom): For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.

Acts 9:5 (Parallel theme): And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Psalms 5:10 (References God): Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (Parallel theme): Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Deuteronomy 16:2 (References God): Thou shalt therefore sacrifice the passover unto the LORD thy God, of the flock and the herd, in the place which the LORD shall choose to place his name there.

2 Chronicles 7:16 (Parallel theme): For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.