

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	יְמִגְדָּל	רַפְּמָה	שָׁמְהָה	שָׁמֵם	הַ	אֱלֹהָם	דִּין	שָׁכְנָה	אֱלֹהָה	וְ
And the God	H1768	to dwell	that hath caused his name	there	destroy	all				
H426		H7932	H8036	H8536	H4049	H3606				
לְפָשְׁבֵנִי	הַ	יְדֵיכֶם	וְ	לְשָׁלַח	חַדְשָׁה	הַ	יְדֵיכֶם	לְפָשְׁבֵנִי	הַ	לְ
kings	and people	H1768	that shall put	to their hand	to alter					
H4430	H5972		H7972	H3028	H8133					
אֶת	הַ	בֵּית	לְחַבֵּל	הַ	אֱלֹהָה	אֶת	הַ	בֵּית	לְחַבֵּל	הַ
and to destroy	house	And the God	this	H1768	which is at Jerusalem	I				
H2255	H1005	H426	H1791		H3390	H576				
וְתִּתְעַבֵּד:		אָסְפָה	רְבָא	שְׁמַת	דְּרַי	וְשָׁ				
Darius	have made	a decree	with speed	let it be done						
H1868	H7761	H2942	H629	H5648						

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.