

Ezra 6:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Tatnai, governor on this side the river, Shethar-boznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so they did speedily.

Analysis

Tattenai's obedience—"Then Tattenai, governor on this side the river, Shethar-boznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so they did speedily"—demonstrates governmental efficiency. The word 'speedily' shows prompt compliance without resistance or delay. This transformed former inquirers into active supporters. God's sovereignty turns questioning officials into obedient facilitators. The progression from inquiry to validation to support demonstrates providential orchestration of events.

Historical Context

Tattenai's initial inquiry (Ezra 5:3-17) could have led to work stoppage, as earlier opposition had achieved. Instead, his honest reporting led to decree validation and his own orders to support the project. Ancient governors commonly obeyed royal decrees promptly to maintain imperial favor and avoid punishment. The rapid compliance ('speedily') prevented further delays and enabled quick work completion.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Tattenai's transformation from questioner to supporter demonstrate God's control over human hearts and governmental processes?
2. What does prompt obedience to imperial decrees teach about the importance of legitimate authority and ordered society?

Interlinear Text

אָ דִּין	תַּתַּנִּי י	פַּחַ ת	עָבַר	נְהַר ה	שֶׁתַּר	בּוֹזַנִי י
Then	Tatnai	governor	on this side	the river	H0	Shetharboznai
H116	H8674	H6347	H5675	H5103		H8370
וּכְנָתָהּ וְ	לְקִבִּי ל	דִּי	שָׁלַח	דָּרָה וְשֶׁ	מֶלֶךְ א	
and their companions	according	H1768	had sent	to that which Darius	the king	
H3675	H6903		H7972	H1868	H4430	
כֵּן מָא	אֶסְפֵּר רָנָא	עָבְדוּ:				
so	speedily	they did				
H3660	H629	H5648				

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 4:9 (Parallel theme): Then wrote Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions; the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Susanchites, the Dehavites, and the Elamites,