

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

בָּזְבּוּנִי	שְׁתַּר	גְּנַבְּכָה	וְ	אֵלָיו		
Then	Tatnai	governor	on this side	the river	וְ	Shetharboznaï
H116	H8674	H6347	H5675	H5103	H0	H8370
and their companions	according		had sent	to that which	Darius	the king
H3675	H6903	H1768	H7972	H1868		H4430
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,