

# Ezra 6:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

## Analysis

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The summary statement identifies multiple causation: 'the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah.' Human builders worked, prophets encouraged, and God blessed—multiple simultaneous causes at different levels. The phrase 'they builded and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel' establishes ultimate divine causation. The continuation 'and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia' shows God working through political authority.

## Historical Context

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This verse synthesizes the entire restoration narrative showing God's sovereignty operating through:

1. prophetic word
2. human labor
3. divine command,
4. governmental decrees.

Artaxerxes' mention (who reigned 465-424 BC) looks forward to his support of Ezra's later mission (Ezra 7), demonstrating biblical theology's comprehensive view of interconnected events across decades. The temple's completion in 516 BC fulfilled prophecy (Jeremiah 25:11-12, 29:10) exactly seventy years after destruction (586 BC).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Scripture's attribution of success to multiple simultaneous causes avoid reductionism—neither only human effort nor only divine sovereignty?
2. What does the inclusion of three Persian kings demonstrate about God's long-term faithfulness across generations and regimes?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשִׁבִי	יְהוּדִיָּא	וּבְנוּ	וּמִצְלָחַן		
And the elders	of the Jews	And they builded	and they prospered		
H7868	H3062	H1124	H6744		
בְּנִבְיֹאת	חַגִּי	נְבִי־אֵה	זִכְרְיָה	בֶּרֶךְ	עַד וְאִדּוֹ
through the prophesying	of Haggai	the prophet	and Zechariah	the son	of Iddo
H5017	H2292	H5029	H2148	H1247	H5714
וּבְנוּ	וְשָׁלְמוּ לוֹ	מִן	ט עֲמֻ	אֱלֹהֵי	
And they builded	and finished	it according	to the commandment	of the God	
H1124	H3635	H4481	H2941	H426	
יִשְׂרָאֵל	וּמִטְעָם	כּ וּרְשׁ	יִדְרִי וְשׁ		
of Israel	and according to the commandment	of Cyrus	and Darius		
H3479	H2942	H3567	H1868		
וְאַרְתַּחְשֶׁשׁ שְׁתָּא	מֶלֶךְ	פָּרְסִיָּה			
and Artaxerxes	king	of Persia			
H783	H4430	H6540			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezra 7:1** (Kingdom): Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,

**Ezra 5:13** (Kingdom): But in the first year of Cyrus the king of Babylon the same king Cyrus made a decree to build this house of God.