

# 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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וּמְאַלֵּחַ יְהוָה And the elders	וּמְאַלֵּחַ יְהוָה of the Jews	וְבָנָיו And they builded	וְבָנָיו and they prospered	
H7868	H3062	H1124	H6744	
בְּנְבֹאָצָת through the prophesying	בְּנְבֹאָצָת of Haggai	נָבְיָה the prophet	נָבְיָה and Zechariah	בָּר the son
H5017	H2292	H5029	H2148	H1247
עַד and	זִכְרֵי and Zechariah	חֶגְגָּה the prophet	בָּר the son	עַד of Iddo
				H5714
וְבָנָיו And they builded	וְבָנָיו and finished	מִן it according	מִן to the commandment	אֶל of the God
H1124	H3635	H4481	H2941	H426
וְמִלְּעָם and according to the commandment	וְמִלְּעָם of Cyrus	וְרָשָׁע of Darius		
H3479	H2942	H3567	H1868	
וְרָשָׁע of Cyrus	וְרָשָׁע and Darius			
פְּרָסָן and Artaxerxes	מֶלֶךְ king	מֶלֶךְ 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.