

Ezra 6:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits;

Analysis

The quotation preserves Cyrus's specific authorization: 'let the house be builded... the place where they offered sacrifices.' This validates that temple rebuilding had imperial authorization from the beginning. The specifications for 'height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits' provided formal parameters. Cyrus's decree distinguished legitimate worship (temple) from rebellion (fortifications), addressing Persian security concerns while enabling Jewish religious life.

Historical Context

Sixty cubits equals approximately 90 feet—substantial structure though smaller than Solomon's temple. The measurements provided official parameters preventing unauthorized expansion that could serve military purposes. Ancient rulers commonly supported religious institutions while monitoring potential rebellion. Cyrus's specific mention of sacrifice location (altar) shows detailed knowledge of Jewish worship, possibly reflecting Daniel's influence at court.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does governmental provision of specific parameters for worship demonstrate both religious liberty and legitimate state interest in order?
2. What does Cyrus's distinction between temple (authorized) and fortifications (unauthorized) teach about different spheres of authority?

Interlinear Text

שָׁעַם	שָׁם	מֶלֶךְ	כֹּה־וָשׁ	כֹּה־וָשׁ	מֶלֶךְ	כֹּה־וָשׁ	בְּשָׁנָה
a decree	made	the king	of Cyrus	of Cyrus	the king	In the first	year
H2942	H7761	H4430	H3567	H3567	H4430	H2298	H8140
דִּי	אֶתֶר	יִתְבֵּן	אֶתֶר	בֵּית־אֶתֶר	בֵּית־אֶתֶר	אֶלֶה־אֶתֶר	בֵּית־אֶתֶר
H1768	the place	be builded	Let the house	Let the house	at Jerusalem	of God	Let the house
	H870	H1124	H1005	H1005	H3390	H426	H1005
מְסֻבֵּל־יִן	וְאֵשׁ־וְהִי	דָּבַח־יִן	דָּבַח־יִן	דָּבַח־יִן	דָּבַח־יִן	דָּבַח־יִן	דָּבַח־יִן
thereof be strongly laid	and let the foundations	sacrifices	where they offered	where they offered	where they offered	where they offered	where they offered
H5446	H787	H1685	H1684	H1684	H1684	H1684	H1684
שְׁתֵּי־אֶמֶת־יִן	פְּתֵי־הַ	שְׁתֵּי־אֶמֶת־יִן	אֶמֶת־יִן	רֹמֶה	רֹמֶה	רֹמֶה	רֹמֶה
thereof threescore cubits	and the breadth	thereof threescore cubits	thereof threescore cubits	the height	the height	the height	the height
H8361	H6613	H8361	H521	H7314	H7314	H7314	H7314

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 21:16 (Parallel theme): And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

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