

Ezra 6:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

With three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the king's house:

Analysis

The construction specifications—'three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber'—describe earthquake-resistant building technique. The requirement that 'expenses be given out of the king's house' commits imperial treasury to fund construction. This transforms temple rebuilding from struggling Jewish effort to state-sponsored project. God's sovereignty turns potential opposition into material support, demonstrating that He provides resources for commanded work.

Historical Context

The construction technique (alternating stone and timber) was common in ancient Near East for earthquake resistance—timber absorbed movement, preventing stone collapse. Persian funding eliminated financial obstacles. Archaeological evidence shows Persian Empire regularly funded religious institutions throughout their territory as stabilizing policy. The king's house treasury had vast resources from tribute, enabling generous religious support.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision of resources through imperial treasury demonstrate that He controls not just permission but means for His work?
2. What does the shift from Jewish struggle to Persian funding teach about recognizing God's hand in changed circumstances?

Interlinear Text

וְנִדְבָהּ דִּי אֲבָנֵי גָלִיל תְּלָתָא וְנִדְבָהּ דִּי אֲעֵי תִּידְבָּל

and a row H1768 stones of great With three and a row H1768 timber of new

H5073 H69 H1560 H8532 H5073 H636 H2323

וְנִפְקוּתֵי אֶ	מִן	בֵּית	מֶלֶךְ אֶ	תִּתֵּיבָה:
and let the expenses	out of	house	the king's	be given
H5313	H4481	H1005	H4430	H3052

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 6:36 (Parallel theme): And he built the inner court with three rows of hewed stone, and a row of cedar beams.

Psalms 68:29 (Kingdom): Because of thy temple at Jerusalem shall kings bring presents unto thee.