

Ezra 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to his place, and place them in the house of God.

Analysis

The command to return 'the vessels... which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem' completes the restoration cycle. These vessels symbolized covenant continuity—their seizure represented defeat, their return vindication. The order that they 'be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem' demonstrates divine faithfulness across generations. What seemed permanently lost God sovereignly preserved and restored in His timing.

Historical Context

The vessels' journey: taken by Nebuchadnezzar (586 BC), placed in Babylonian temples (profaned by Belshazzar, Daniel 5:2-4), preserved through regime change, returned by Cyrus (538 BC), and now officially reaffirmed by Darius (520 BC). This forty-six-year odyssey demonstrates God's sovereignty over sacred objects and His determination that worship be properly constituted. Some vessels dated to Solomon's original temple (nearly 400 years old).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

Ezra 5:14 (Temple): And the vessels also of gold and silver of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem, and brought them into the temple of Babylon, those did Cyrus the king take out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered unto one, whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor;

Jeremiah 27:16 (References Babylon): Also I spake to the priests and to all this people, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Hearken not to the words of your prophets that prophesy unto you, saying, Behold, the vessels of the LORD'S house shall now shortly be brought again from Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you.

Jeremiah 52:19 (Parallel theme): And the basins, and the firepans, and the bowls, and the caldrons, and the candlesticks, and the spoons, and the cups; that which was of gold in gold, and that which was of silver in silver, took the captain of the guard away.

2 Kings 24:13 (Temple): And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said.

2 Chronicles 36:10 (References Jerusalem): And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.