

Ezra 6:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place.

Analysis

Darius's command—'Let the work of this house of God alone'—orders non-interference. The phrase 'let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place' grants autonomy for Jewish religious leadership to direct the project. This represents remarkable liberty—imperial power protecting minority religion's self-governance. God's sovereignty secures religious freedom through pagan rulers, demonstrating that civil authority can protect rather than threaten faithful worship.

Historical Context

Persian policy generally allowed subject peoples religious autonomy as long as they maintained political loyalty and paid tribute. Darius's order went beyond tolerance to active protection—'let alone' meant preventing others from interfering. This created space for Jewish community to rebuild according to Torah rather than imperial religious preferences. Early church similarly benefited from periods when Roman authorities protected religious practice despite refusing to worship Caesar.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does governmental protection of religious self-governance demonstrate God's common grace through natural law and civic order?
2. What does Darius's 'hands-off' approach teach about appropriate limits of state involvement in religious communities?

Interlinear Text

יְהוּדִי אֶל	פַּחַת	דָּן	אֱלֹהֵי	בֵּית	לְעִבְדֵי	תִּשְׁבֶּה קִוִּי
of the Jews	let the governor	of this	of God	house	Let the work	alone
H3062	H6347	H1791	H426	H1005	H5673	H7662
אֶתֶּרָהּ:	עַל	יִבְנוּ	דָּן	אֱלֹהֵי	בֵּית	יְהוּדִי אֶל
his place	in	build	of this	of God	house	of the Jews
H870	H5922	H1124	H1791	H426	H1005	H3062
וְלִשְׁבֵּי	אֶתֶּרָהּ:	עַל	יִבְנוּ	דָּן	אֱלֹהֵי	בֵּית
and the elders	his place	in	build	of this	of God	house
H7868	H870	H5922	H1124	H1791	H426	H1005

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org