

Ezra 6:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail:

Analysis

Darius's provision command is comprehensive: 'that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil.' This supplies all necessities for sacrificial system as prescribed in Torah. The purpose clause 'that they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven' shows Darius understood worship requirements. Whether from genuine piety or political prudence, his support enabled comprehensive covenant worship.

Historical Context

The listed items correspond to Mosaic sacrificial requirements: animals for various offerings (Leviticus 1-7), wheat for grain offerings (Leviticus 2), salt for all offerings (Leviticus 2:13), wine for drink offerings (Numbers 15:5-10), and oil for anointing and lamps (Exodus 27:20). Darius's knowledge of these specifics suggests Jewish advisors informed his decree. Persian funding of religious institutions throughout the empire was standard policy promoting stability.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 – God is love

Study Questions

1. How does provision of worship materials demonstrate that God supplies what He commands, removing excuses for disobedience?
2. What does a pagan king's funding of Jewish worship teach about God's ability to turn hearts and open treasures for His purposes?

Interlinear Text

וְהַ	מְשֻׁךְ	וְבָנִים	תּוֹרִים	וְדָקָרִים	וְאַמְרִים
And that which	they have need of	both young	bullocks	and rams	and lambs
H4101	H2818	H1123	H8450	H1798	H563
לְעַלְוִי	לְאֵלָה	שְׁמִינִי	חֶבֶט	מַלְחָה	חַמֵּר
for the burnt offerings	of the God	of heaven	wheat	salt	wine
H5928	H426	H8065	H2591	H4416	H2562
וְמַשְׁחֵחַ	כְּמַעַם	כְּהַבְנִי	דֵּי	בִּירוּשָׁלָם	וְמַשְׁחֵחַ
and oil	according to the appointment	of the priests	H1768	which are at Jerusalem	H3390
H4887	H3983	H3549			
לְהַ	לְהַ	בַּיּוֹם	דֵּי	לְאַ	שְׁלֹא:
let it be	given	by day	H1768	without	fail
H1934	H3052	H3118		H3809	H7960

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 1:10 (Sacrifice): And if his offering be of the flocks, namely, of the sheep, or of the goats, for a burnt sacrifice; he shall bring it a male without blemish.

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