

# Ezra 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem:

## Analysis

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Additional provision—'And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem'—combines imperial gifts with voluntary offerings. The phrase 'all the silver and gold that thou canst find' suggests comprehensive collection. The distinction between imperial provision and freewill offerings shows multi-source funding. Both governmental and personal generosity contributed to temple worship.

## Historical Context

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The authorization to collect 'all the silver and gold' throughout Babylon province gave Ezra broad fundraising authority. Jewish communities in Babylon had prospered economically (evidenced by business documents from Murashu archives). Their willingness to support Jerusalem temple showed maintained covenant identity despite geographical distance. This diaspora support pattern continues throughout Jewish history, with dispersed communities supporting the homeland.

## Related Passages

## 1 John 4:8 — God is love

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

## **Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds**

## **Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment**

## Study Questions

1. How does combination of governmental funding and voluntary offerings demonstrate diverse means God uses to resource His work?
2. What does diaspora Jewish support for Jerusalem temple teach about maintaining covenant identity across geographical separation?

## Interlinear Text

בָּכְלָה	תְּהִשְׁכַּח	בָּכְלָה	מְדִינָת
And all	the silver	and gold	H1768
H3606	H3702	H1722	that thou canst find

בְּבָבָל	עַם	מְתַנְדֵּב יְהוָה	עַמּוֹ אֶת	וְכָבֵד יְהוָה
of Babylon	with	offering willingly	of the people	and of the priests
H895	H5974	H5069	H5972	H3549

## Additional Cross-References

**1 Chronicles 29:6** (Parallel theme): Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly.

**1 Chronicles 29:9** (Parallel theme): Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

**Ezra 1:6** (Parallel theme): And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered.

**Ezra 1:4** (Sacrifice): And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.

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