

Ezra 7:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house of your God which is in Jerusalem.

Analysis

The expenditure guidance—'That thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house of your God which is in Jerusalem'—specifies proper use of funds. The word 'speedily' suggests urgency in establishing proper worship. The detailed list (bullocks, rams, lambs, grain and drink offerings) corresponds to Mosaic sacrificial requirements, showing Artaxerxes understood Torah prescriptions. Whether from Jewish advisors or his own study, his knowledge demonstrates divine influence on a pagan mind.

Historical Context

The sacrifices specified correspond to various Mosaic offerings: burnt offerings (Leviticus

1. , grain offerings (Leviticus
2. , and drink offerings (Numbers 15).

The complete list shows comprehensive provision for prescribed worship. Artaxerxes' knowledge of these details suggests significant Jewish influence at court. The phrase 'altar of the house of your God' recognizes temple's unique

function as legitimate worship site. Persian funding enabled immediate resumption of full sacrificial calendar.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 – Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 – God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does pagan king's provision of sacrifice materials demonstrate God's ability to incline hearts toward supporting proper worship?
2. What does Artaxerxes' knowledge of sacrificial requirements teach about God's influence extending to unexpected places?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	בְּכֹסֶף	א	תְּקַנֵּן	א	דַּנְתָּה	רְנָא	אֲסֶפֶת	רְנָא	דַּנְתָּה	הַקְּבָּל	כָּל
That	H6903	with this		speedily		thou mayest buy		money		with this	
H3606		H1836		H629		H7066		H3702		H1836	

תּוֹר יָם	דָּקְרִין	אַמְרִין	וּמְנֻקְתָּה וּן	וְנַסְפִּיה וּן
bullocks	rams	lambs	with their meat offerings	and their drink offerings
H8450	H1798	H563	H4504	H5261

וְתַקְרֵב	בְּ	אָלֹהֶכָּם	דִּין	בְּיִתְּרָה	דִּין	מִדְבָּר	עַל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	וְתַעֲשֵׂה	וְתַקְרֵב
and offer	them	upon	the altar	H1768	of the house				of your God	H1768

בֵּרֶשֶׁת:

which is in Jerusalem

H3390

Additional Cross-References

John 2:14 (Parallel theme): And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

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