

Ezra 7:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the king's treasure house.

Analysis

And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the king's treasure house. This verse represents blank-check authorization. The Aramaic shear (שָׁאָר, 'remainder/what is needed') covers unforeseen expenses. **Needful for the house of thy God** establishes broad category—anything legitimately required for temple function qualifies for royal funding.

The phrase **which thou shalt have occasion to bestow** grants Ezra authority to determine needs and authorize expenditures. The verb nephaq (נְפַחַ, 'to go out/expend') indicates actual disbursement, not merely requesting permission. Ezra could draw directly from imperial treasury for legitimate temple needs.

The designation **king's treasure house** (beit ginzaya di malka, בֵּית גִּנְזָא דַי מֶלֶךְא) refers to provincial treasury, not distant Persian capital. This made access practical. Theologically, this demonstrates God's ability to open national treasuries for His purposes. When God commissions work, He provides resources—often through unexpected channels.

Historical Context

Persian administrative records show the empire maintained provincial treasuries throughout satrapies. The 'Beyond the River' province (Abar-Nahara in Aramaic)

had administrative centers at Damascus and possibly other cities. Ezra could access these funds for legitimate temple expenses without traveling to Susa or Persepolis.

This unprecedented financial authorization shows Artaxerxes' high regard for Ezra and commitment to supporting Jewish religious practice. It also reflects Persian policy of gaining subject peoples' loyalty through religious tolerance and support. The stability this created benefited imperial interests.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision through imperial treasury encourage faith when facing resource limitations in ministry?
2. What accountability structures should accompany discretionary authority over financial resources in Christian contexts?
3. How should believers respond when God provides abundantly beyond minimum needs for His work?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁאַר	מִשְׁחֹות	בְּבֵית	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	בְּבֵית
And whatsoever more	shall be needful	for the house	of thy God	H1768
H7606	H2819	H1005	H426	
יְפָלֵל	לְהַנְתִּין	מִן	בְּבֵית	
which thou shalt have occasion	bestow	bestow	it out of	for the house
H5308	H5415	H5415	H4481	H1005
מַלְכָא:	אֶתְּנִי			
treasure	the king's			
H1596	H4430			

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 6:4 (Kingdom): With three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the king's house:

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