

# Ezra 7:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,

## Analysis

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Artaxerxes' decree to treasurers—"I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily"—commands provincial officials to supply Ezra's needs. The emphatic 'I, even I' asserts personal royal authority. The command for speedy compliance prevented bureaucratic delays. God's sovereignty operates through governmental structures to facilitate His purposes.

## Historical Context

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Treasurers 'beyond the river' (west of Euphrates) controlled provincial funds throughout Syria, Phoenicia, and Palestine. The decree gave Ezra authority to requisition resources from these officials, overriding potential local resistance. The requirement for 'speedily' execution prevented officials from stonewalling through procedural delays. This administrative thoroughness demonstrates Persian bureaucratic efficiency and God's providence in securing practical support.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

### Study Questions

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1. How does God's sovereignty extend to administrative details like treasury access and bureaucratic compliance?
2. What does the command for speedy execution teach about God's purposes not being subject to human delays or obstruction?

### Interlinear Text

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|                      |                   |                      |            |         |            |                |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------|---------|------------|----------------|
| וּמִנִּי             | אֲנִי ה'          | אַרְתַּחְשַׁשׁ סֵתָא | מֶלֶכָא    | שׁ יִם  | טַעַם      | כָּל           |
| And I                | even I            | Artaxerxes           | the king   | do make | a decree   | to all         |
| H4481                | H576              | H783                 | H4430      | H7761   | H2942      | H3606          |
| גִּזְבְּרֵי א        | דִּי י            | בְּעֵבֶר             | נְהַר ה'   | דִּי י  | כָּל       | יִשְׁאַלְנָכֹן |
| the treasurers       | H1768             | which are beyond     | the river  | H1768   | to all     | shall require  |
| H1490                |                   | H5675                | H5103      |         | H3606      | H7593          |
| עֲזָרָא              | כֹּהֵן ה'         | סֹפֵר                | דִּתָּא    | דִּי    | אֱלֹהֵי ה' | שְׁמֵי א       |
| that whatsoever Ezra | the priest        | the scribe           | of the law | H1768   | of the God | of heaven      |
| H5831                | H3549             | H5613                | H1882      |         | H426       | H8065          |
| אֶסְפִּי רַבָּא      | יִתְעַבֵּד:       |                      |            |         |            |                |
| speedily             | of you it be done |                      |            |         |            |                |
| H629                 | H5648             |                      |            |         |            |                |

### Additional Cross-References

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**Ezra 7:6** (Kingdom): This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.

**Ezra 4:16** (Kingdom): We certify the king that, if this city be builded again, and the walls thereof set up, by this means thou shalt have no portion on this side the river.

**Ezra 4:20** (Kingdom): There have been mighty kings also over Jerusalem, which have ruled over all countries beyond the river; and toll, tribute, and custom, was paid unto them.

**Ezra 6:6** (Parallel theme): Now therefore, Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shethar-boznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, which are beyond the river, be ye far from thence:

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