

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

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

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

כָּל	שָׁם	מִלְּפָא	שִׁים	אֶת	סְתָא	אֶת	מִפְ
And I	even I	Artaxerxes	the king	do make	a decree	to all	
H4481	H576	H783	H4430	H7761	H2942	H3606	
the treasurers	which are beyond	the river	to all	shall require			
H1490	H1768	H5675	H5103	H1768	H1768	H7593	
שְׁמִי	אֶל	דִּין	כָּל	אֶלְכָוּ	דִּין	שְׁאַלְכָוּ	
that whatsoever Ezra	the priest	the scribe	of the law	of the God	of the God	of heaven	
H5831	H3549	H5613	H1882	H426		H8065	
רְנָא	רְנָא	רְנָא	רְנָא	רְנָא	רְנָא	רְנָא	
speedily	of you it be done						
H629	H5648						

Additional Cross-References

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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