

Ezra 7:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not.

Analysis

The judicial authority—'And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river'—grants legal authority to establish courts. The phrase 'wisdom of thy God' refers to Torah as divine law code. Ezra could appoint judges applying biblical law to covenant community. This civil authority enabled comprehensive community governance according to Scripture, not just religious ritual.

Historical Context

Persian policy allowed subject peoples substantial autonomy in internal affairs, including legal systems based on traditional laws. Ezra's authority extended throughout 'beyond the river' province, not just Jerusalem. This gave biblical law official status for Jewish communities throughout the region. The appointed judges would apply Torah to civil disputes, criminal cases, and community governance. This established theocratic ideal within Persian imperial structure.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does authorization to appoint judges applying Torah demonstrate God securing space for comprehensive biblical governance?
2. What does judicial authority teach about Scripture addressing all life areas, not just private devotion or worship?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה	עֶזְרָא	אַחֲרֵי	חֵכְמָה	תְּ	אֵלֶיךָ	יְיָ	בְּיָדְךָ	נִי
And thou	Ezra	after the wisdom	of thy God			H1768	that is in thine hand	set
H607	H5831	H2452	H426				H3028	H4483
שְׂפָטֵי	וְיָדֵי	יְיָ	לְהוֹ	יָ	יָדְאֵנִי	לְכָל	עַמָּה	יְיָ
magistrates	and judges		which may judge			all	the people	
H8200	H1782	H1768	H1934		H1778	H3606	H5972	H1768
בְּעֵבֶר	נָהָר	לְכָל	תְּהוֹדִיעוּן	יְיָ	אֵלֶיךָ	יְיָ		
that are beyond	the river	all	and teach	the laws	of thy God			
H5675	H5103	H3606	H3046	H1882	H426			
לָא	תְּהוֹדִיעוּן	תְּהוֹדִיעוּן						
them not	and teach	and teach						
H3809	H3046	H3046						

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 16:18 (Judgment): Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment.

Ezra 7:10 (Judgment): For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

James 1:5 (References God): If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Psalms 19:7 (Word): The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Malachi 2:7 (Word): For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

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