

Ezra 7:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.

Analysis

The enforcement authority—'And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment'—provides punitive power. The pairing 'law of thy God, and the law of the king' equates Torah and imperial law, giving biblical commands legal force. The severe penalties (death, banishment, confiscation, imprisonment) enabled effective enforcement. God's law required not just teaching but community-wide obedience with consequences for violation.

Historical Context

The penalties listed correspond to ancient legal norms: capital punishment for serious crimes, banishment for threats to community, property confiscation for financial crimes, imprisonment for lesser offenses. That Torah violations carried civil penalties demonstrates theocratic governance where religious and civil law coincide. This authority was extraordinary—Artaxerxes gave Ezra power to enforce biblical law with state authority. Such comprehensive authorization demonstrated divine providence in establishing godly community governance.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does civil enforcement of divine law demonstrate that God's commands govern public life, not just private spirituality?
2. What does the range of penalties teach about proportionate justice addressing various levels of covenant violation?

Interlinear Text

וְכָל	דִּי	לֹא	לִהְיוֹת	מִתְּעַבֵּד	וְדָתָא	דִּי	אֱלֹהֵיךָ
And whosoever	H1768	will not	be	executed	and the law	H1768	of thy God
H3606		H3809	H1934	H5648	H1882		H426
וְדָתָא	דִּי	מֶלֶךְ	אֶסְפִּי	דִּינָה	לִהְיוֹת	מִתְּעַבֵּד	
and the law	H1768	of the king	speedily	let judgment	be	executed	
H1882		H4430	H629	H1780	H1934	H5648	
מֵה	הֵן	לְמוֹת	הֵן	לְשִׁרְשׁוֹ	הֵן	לְעֵנֶשׁ	
upon him	or	it be unto death	or	to banishment	or	to confiscation	
H4481	H2006	H4193	H2006	H8332	H2006	H6065	
נֶכֶס	וְלִאֲסוּרִין:						
of goods	or to imprisonment						
H5232	H613						

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 6:11 (Word): Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this.

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