

Ezra 7:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

Analysis

The arrival 'in the fifth month' after departing 'on the first day of the first month' (v. 9) indicates a four-month journey. This timing demonstrates careful planning and divine protection. The journey from Babylon to Jerusalem covered approximately 900 miles through potentially hostile territory. That they arrived safely with enormous wealth testifies to God's faithfulness. The phrase 'according to the good hand of his God upon him' attributes success explicitly to divine providence.

Historical Context

The four-month journey (April-August 458 BC) traversed arid regions and required organized caravans for safety. Ezra's company included approximately 1,500 men plus families (Ezra 8:1-14), carrying gold and silver worth millions. Normal travel time was three to four months for such a large group. The summer arrival meant they endured heat but avoided winter rains. Archaeological evidence of Persian road systems and way-stations confirms trade route infrastructure.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the successful journey with great wealth demonstrate God's providence in both spiritual calling and practical protection?
2. What does the four-month duration teach about faithfulness in long, difficult processes rather than seeking immediate results?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּבֹא	יְרוּשָׁלַם	בַּחֹדֶשׁ	הַחֲמִישִׁי	הַיָּא	שָׁנָה
And he came	to Jerusalem	month	in the fifth	H1931	year
H935	H3389	H2320	H2549		H8141
הַשְּׁבִיעִי	יֵת	לְמֶלֶךְ:			
which was in the seventh	of the king				
H7637	H4428				

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