

Ezra 7:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.

Analysis

The departure date—'upon the first day of the first month'—aligned with Israel's religious calendar (Nisan, the month of Passover and Exodus). This timing associated Ezra's journey with redemption theology. The arrival date—'the first day of the fifth month'—exactly four months later demonstrates both planning and providence. The statement 'according to the good hand of his God upon him' appears twice (vv. 6, 9), emphasizing divine favor as the true source of success.

Historical Context

Beginning travel on Nisan 1 (April) avoided winter rains and spring flooding. It also held symbolic significance—the month of Exodus and Passover, types of redemption. Ezra's journey thus recapitulated Israel's fundamental redemptive experience. The phrase 'good hand of his God' emphasizes not mere success but divine blessing and favor. This language appears throughout Ezra-Nehemiah, creating theological framework emphasizing providence over chance.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does timing the journey to match Exodus patterns demonstrate biblical theology shaping practical decisions?
2. What does repeated emphasis on God's 'good hand' teach about attributing success to divine grace rather than human merit?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	וּבָאָה ד	לַח דָּשׁ	הַרְאֵשׁ וִן	ה וֵא	יָסַד	הַמַּעֲלָה
H3588	For upon the first	month	day of the first	H1931	began	he to go up
	H259	H2320	H7223		H3246	H4609
מִבָּבֶל	וּבָאָה ד	לַח דָּשׁ	הַחֲמִישִׁי י	בָּא		אֶל
from Babylon	For upon the first	month	day of the fifth	came		H413
H894	H259	H2320	H2549	H935		
יְרֵשָׁלַם	כִּיד	אֵלֶה יו	הַטּוֹבָה ה	עָלָיו:		
he to Jerusalem	hand	of his God	according to the good	H5921		
H3389	H3027	H430	H2896			

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 7:6 (References God): 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.

Nehemiah 2:8 (Good): And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

Nehemiah 2:18 (Good): Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

