

When God Stepped In!

Ezra 6:1-15



I. The Greatness of God's Provision

1 King Darius then issued an order, and they searched in the archives stored in the treasury at Babylon. 2 A scroll was found in the citadel of Ecbatana in the province of Media, and this was written on it: Memorandum: - Ezra 6:1-2

I. The Greatness of God's Provision

3 In the first year of King Cyrus, the king issued a decree concerning the temple of God in Jerusalem:

Let the temple be rebuilt as a place to present sacrifices, and let its foundations be laid. It is to be sixty cubits high and sixty cubits wide, 4 with three courses of large stones and one of timbers. The costs are to be paid by the royal treasury. 5 Also, the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, are to be returned to their places in the temple in Jerusalem; they are to be deposited in the house of God - Ezra 6:3-5.

I. The Greatness of God's Provision

6 Now then, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and you other officials of that province, stay away from there. 7 Do not interfere with the work on this temple of God. Let the governor of the Jews and the Jewish elders rebuild this house of God on its site - Ezra 6:6-7.

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8 Moreover, I hereby decree what you are to do for these elders of the Jews in the construction of this house of God:


Their expenses are to be fully paid out of the royal treasury, from the revenues of Trans-Euphrates, so that the work will not stop. 9 Whatever is needed—young bulls, rams, male lambs for burnt offerings to the God of heaven, and wheat, salt, wine and olive oil, as requested by the priests in Jerusalem—must be given them daily without fail, 10 so that they may offer sacrifices pleasing to the God of heaven and pray for the well-being of the king and his sons - Ezra 6:8-10.

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11 Furthermore, I decree that if anyone defies this edict, a beam is to be pulled from their house and they are to be impaled on it. And for this crime their house is to be made a pile of rubble. 12 May God, who has caused his Name to dwell there, overthrow any king or people who lifts a hand to change this decree or to destroy this temple in Jerusalem.

I Darius have decreed it. Let it be carried out with diligence.- Ezra 6:11-12.

II. The Greatness of God's Providence



In the LORD's hand the king's heart is a stream of water that he channels toward all who please him
– Proverbs 23:1

2. The Greatness of God's Providence

22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him – Acts 2:22-24.

The background features a textured, layered appearance with colors ranging from light tan and beige at the top to deep teal and dark green at the bottom. A dark brown, silhouetted hill rises from the middle ground, topped with three black crosses of varying heights. The text is overlaid on this background.

Darkness fell
His friends scattered
HOPE SEEMED LOST

But heaven just started
counting to three

Bob Goff

2. The Greatness of God's Providence

So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah, a descendant of Iddo. They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia – Ezra 6:14.

The same act is being described as having been done by God and by man. It's what theologians and philosophers call the language of **concurrency**, or, the language of **confluence**. **God does it: man does it.**

2. The Greatness of God's Providence

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose
– Philippians 2:12-13.



GOD IS IN CONTROL