

Ezra 6

King James Version (KJV)

6 Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon. (The king's decree could not be changed by anyone. They researched the claim that Tatnai had made in his letter. Books and records were considered valuable by these people because they were stored with the treasures)

2 And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written: (They found the scroll containing the decree of King Cyrus) (Achmetha – is the same as Achbatana – the capital of the Medes. Many coins have been found with Achbatana inscribed on them)

3 In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits; (Darius is setting things right – per Cyrus' decree. This was divine intervention by God. God wanted the temple built and it was built, regardless of how the Kenites tried to derail it)

(Although the new temple was much bigger, it could not compare to the original in magnificence because they did not have the resources to use gold silver and gems)

4 With three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the king's house: (The king was making up the difference in cost from his own treasures)

5 And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to his place, and place them in the house of God. (Darius returned all the vessels that belonged to the temple)

(These were the vessels that Belshazzar <king of Babylon> used to toast the "gods of heaven and of gold and silver" at his drunken party. God killed him for it and ended Babylon that same day)

⁶ Now therefore, Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shetharboznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, which are beyond the river, be ye far from thence: (Leave the Jews alone. They are building per the king's decree)

⁷ Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place. (Let the rebuilding of the temple continue without interference)

⁸ Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered. (A new decree from Darius - Give them funding, if they need it, to finish the temple without further delay)

(God uses whoever He chooses to make His plan happen; kings, men, women, Israelites, heathen people – all are children of God. Cyrus and Darius were heathen kings of Medial-Persia and were not followers of Yahoveh)

⁹ And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail: (Now that the Israelites are starting to obey God, again, blessings are returning to them. God used the Persian king Darius to help them complete the temple. He even gave them some animals and other foods for the offerings to Yahoveh)

¹⁰ That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons. (Darius' decree ensured that the Israelites would be able to worship Yahoveh as He has asked them to. This is divine intervention. Israel set up a day of prayer for the king in return for his help)

¹¹ 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. (This was a common penalty for refusing to obey the king's decree. They would impale victims on large timbers)

(There was a table found called the Behistun Rock, where Darius the king made a similar decree) Appendix 57 of the Companion Bible

¹² And the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed. (Let God destroy all those who try to stop the building of the temple)

¹³ Then Tatnai, governor on this side the river, Shetharboznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so they did speedily.

¹⁴ And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. (They built the temple and prospered for it by God's blessings)

(Artaxerxes was a title of honor for kings of Medial-Persia; like Pharaoh was in Egypt; it was not a name)

¹⁵ And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king. (Adar was the 12th month of the year. It took a total of 15 years to rebuild the temple)

¹⁶ And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy.

¹⁷ And offered at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. (These offerings were a way for the people to have a meal with Yahoveh. Having a meal with guests was a way of honoring them in those days. Having a meal with God was their way of accepting God and honoring and worshipping Him)

(Jesus fulfilled all blood offerings for all time. Today we worship God by offering our love for Him and our obedience to His commandments)

¹⁸ And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which is at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses. Numbers-3:6-10

(From here to the end, the scrolls return from the Chaldee <Aramaic language of Babylon> to the Hebrew language)

¹⁹ And the children of the captivity kept the passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month. (They are returning to obeying God's feasts and ordinances)

²⁰ For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them were pure, and killed the passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. (They made the sacrifices to God, for the people, on Passover Day)

²¹ And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat, (The Passover was a meal with Yahoveh – like communion is for us today)

²² And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for the LORD had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel. (They set things right with God)

NOTE: (The king of Persia ruled over the entire region, including Assyria. In another verse, he is called the king of Babylon, because he also ruled over that region)