

THE CONFIRMATION OF THE DECREE EZRA 6:1-12

Text:

Introduction:

As we look at last week the opposition continued and part of that consisted in an inquiry as to who had authorized the rebuilding of the Temple. A letter was sent to Darius seeking the information:

Notice: The Confirmation of the Decree

1. THE DISCOVERY OF THE CONFIRMATION (VSS. 1-5)

Ezra 6:1-5

¹ 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. 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: 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; 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: 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.

A. The Details of the Discovery

- The Purpose of the Building – The place where they offered sacrifices (vs. 3)
- The Plans of the Building – (vss. 3-4)
- The Provisions of the Building – (vss. 4-5)

2. THE DIRECTIVE AFTER THE CONFIRMATION (VS. 7)

Ezra 6:7

⁷Let 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.

3. THE DECREES AFTER THE CONFIRMATION (VSS. 8-12)

Ezra 3:8-12

⁸Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the

house of the LORD. ⁹ Then stood Jeshua *with* his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together, to set forward the workmen in the house of God: the sons of Henadad, *with* their sons and their brethren the Levites. ¹⁰ And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. ¹¹ And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because *he is* good, for his mercy *endureth* for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. ¹² But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, *who were* ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:

Darius issued two decrees concerning the building of the Temple which were inspired by the decree of Cyrus which was found after the searching for it.

A. The Decree About Helping

The decree was at least three fold.

- Support – vs. 8

Ezra 6:8

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.

Darius would underwrite the Temple building with money from the kings income from that region.

- Sacrifice – vs. 9-10

Ezra 6:9-10

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: 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.

- Supplication – vs. 10

Ezra 6:10

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 wanted prayer for he and his sons. He was a different kind of king than most rulers in any age.

B. The Decree About Hindering

At least three judgments are decreed here for those who hinder the building of the Temple.

- Death – vs. 11

Ezra 6:11

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.

Darius meant business.

- Disgrace – vs. 11

Ezra 6:11

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.

- Destruction – vs. 12

Ezra 6:12

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.

Darius decrees destruction on anyone, kings included, who hinder the Temple building or try to destroy it later.

This part of the decree was sort of a curse pronounced on the enemies of God's people.

Close:

We learn from this that God first can use anyone to do His work and He has used heathen rulers at times to promote His work.

Secondly we learn that despite opposition, God can do what is needed and provide all that is necessary to see His work accomplished.