

about it at Babylon, they were led to Ecbatana. The terms of this decree were as follows:

1. The temple was to be rebuilt so that sacrifices could be offered to the Lord. (6:3b).
2. The foundation of the temple was to be strong so that the temple would last a long time (6:3c).
3. The temple was to be built according to the dimensions and style of construction specified (6:3d,4a)
4. The expenses for the rebuilding of the temple were to be paid out of the King's treasury (6:4b)
5. The gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar had brought from the temple in Jerusalem to Babylon were to be taken back to Jerusalem and put in the temple (6:5).

Note: In verse 2 Ecbatana is called Achmetha which is a transliteration into English of the Aramaic name of the Median capital.

O. Letter from Darius I, King of Persia to Tatnai, the Governor and His Companions

In this letter Darius I told Tatnai and his companions to let the Jews rebuild the temple in Jerusalem and not to interfere with the work being done on it (6:6,7). He told them to pay the wages of the men employed to work on the temple out of the royal tribute they received from their province and to send the balance of the royal tribute to him (6:8). He told them to provide the animals (young oxen, rams, and lambs) the Jews needed for their burnt offerings and the wheat, salt, wine, and oil they needed for their meal offerings each day without intermission according to the specification of the priests so the priests could offer sacrifices that would be well-pleasing to God and pray that God's blessing might rest upon him and his dynasty (6:9,10). He told them that if anyone disobeyed his decree, that a beam should be taken from that person's house, and that person should be crucified on that beam, and that person's house should be destroyed (6:11). He then concluded his letter with the wish that God would destroy anyone who injured the temple (6:12).

P. Execution of the Decree Darius I sent by Letter to Tatnai and his companions

Tatnai and his associates diligently carried out everything Darius I commanded them to do in the letter he sent to them (6:13).