**KING CYRUS**

|  |
| --- |
| **Isaiah 45:1-3King James Version (KJV)**45 Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;2I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:3And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.[**King James Version**](https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/King-James-Version-KJV-Bible/) **(KJV)**  |

**Verses 1-4**

1. His Origin……Cyrus was a Mede, of Medo-Persia
2. His Background… descended (as some say) from Astyages king of Media
3. Attacked…. However, as he lay low… he soon made himself very noticeable, especially when Croesus king of Lydia made a descent upon his country, which he not only repulsed, but revenged, prosecuting the advantages he had gained against Croesus with such vigour that in a little time he took Sardis and made himself master of the rich kingdom of Lydia and the many provinces that then belonged to it and enabled him to pursue his victories in many countries.
4. Then it was nearly ten years afterwards that, in conjunction with his uncle Darius and with the forces of Persia, he made this famous attack upon Babylon, which we have the history of Dan. 5/6.
5. But the question here is Why Babylon????
6. Babylon had now grown exorbitantly rich and strong. It was forty-five miles in compass (some say more): the walls were thirty-two feet thick and 100 cubits high. Some say, They were so thick that six chariots might drive abreast upon them; others say, They were fifty cubits thick and 200 high.
7. **His Greatest Ambition**…..Cyrus seems to have had a great ambition to make himself master of this place.
8. He was about to see and learn…What great things God would do for him,
9. Another question here is why would God choose such an individual!!!?????

The answer is found in …..

# Acts 10:34…Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

But there is yet a greater answer……

1. Answer….. that he might put it into his power to release his people.
2. In order to accomplish this he shall be a mighty conqueror and a wealthy monarch and nations shall become tributaries to him and help him both with men and money.

Why did not God choose someone who really knew Him????

Answer …..

1. Because the wealth and power of this world God has seldom seen fit to entrust his own people with much of, so many are the snares and temptations that attend them;

God calls Cyrus his Anointed……

# Thus saith the Lord to his anointed…..Why??? Cyrus knew not God!!

. Cyrus knew not God as the God of Israel. Having been trained up in the worship of idols, the true God was to him an unknown God.

1. Yet, Cyrus is here called God’s *anointed*, because he was both designed and qualified for this great service by the counsel of God, and was to be herein a type of the **Messiah.**

# whose right hand I have holden…

# God decides to hold his right hand, not only to strengthen and sustain him, but to direct his motions, notions and intentions,

# to subdue nations before him;

1. Babylon is too strong a place for a young hero to begin with; and therefore, that he may be able to deal with that, great additions shall be made to his strength by other conquests. (1.) many kings and kingdoms shall yield to him.
2. God will *subdue nations before him*; when he is in the full career of his successes he shall make nothing of a nation’s being born to him at once: **yet it is not he that subdues them; it is God that subdues them for him; the battle is his, and therefore his is the victor.**

# and I will loose the loins of kings

1. (2.) Potent kings shall fall before him: *I will loose the loins of kings*, either the girdle of their loins (divesting them of their power and dignity) or the strength of their loins Great cities shall surrender themselves into his hands, without giving him or themselves any trouble.

# to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

1. God will incline the keepers of the city to *open before him the two-leaved gates*, not treacherously nor timorously, but from a full conviction that it is to no purpose to contend with him; and therefore the gates shall not be shut to keep him out as an enemy, but thrown open to admit him as a friend.

# I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight:

 (4.) The longest and most dangerous marches shall be made easy and ready to him: *I will go before thee*, to clear the way, and to conduct thee in it, and then the *crooked places*, shall be made *straight*; or, as some read it, the hilly places shall be levelled and made even. Those will find a ready road that have God going before them. (5.)

# and cut in sunder the bars of iron:

 No opposition shall stand before him. He that gives him his commission *will break in pieces the gates of brass* that are shut against him, *and cut asunder the bars of iron* wherewith they are fastened

# And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret place

2 *I will give thee the treasures of darkness*, treasures of gold and silver, that have been long kept close under lock and key and had not seen the light of many years, or had been buried under ground by the inhabitants, in their fright, upon the taking of the city. The riches of many nations had been brought to Babylon, and Cyrus seized all together. *The hidden riches of secret places*, which belonged either to the crown or to private persons, shall all be a prey to Cyrus

. Thus God, designing him to do a piece of service to his church, paid him richly for it beforehand; and Cyrus very honestly owned God’s goodness to him, and, in consideration of that, released the captives. [Ezra 1:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezra.1.2); *God has given me all the kingdoms of the earth* and thereby has obliged *me to build him a house at Jerusalem*.

# Cyrus last lesson….that he may know who the God of Israel is!!!!!

1. It was that the God of Israel might be glorified**: “*That thou mayest know* by all this *that I the Lord am the God of Israel*;** for I have *called thee by thy name* long before thou wast born

2. It was that the Israel of God might be released, [Isa. 45:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isa.45.4). Cyrus knew not God as the God of Israel. Having been trained up in the worship of idols, the true God was to him an unknown God. But, though he knew not God, God not only knew him when he came into being, but foreknew him, and bespoke him for his shepherd. He called him by his name, *Cyrus*, nay, which was yet great honour, he surnamed him and called him his *anointed*. And why did God do all this for Cyrus? Not for his own sake, be it known to him; whether he was a man of virtue or no is questioned.

Historians represent him as haughty, cruel, and bloodthirsty. is therefore the wisdom of those to whom God has given wealth and power to use them for his glory, by showing kindness to his people. Cyrus is preferred that Israel may be released. **He shall have a kingdom,** only that **God’s people may have their liberty; for their kingdom is not of this world, it is yet to come. In all this Cyrus was a type of Christ, who was made victorious over principalities and powers, and entrusted with unsearchable riches, for the use and benefit of God’s servants, his elect. *When he ascended on high he led captivity captive*, took those captives that had taken others captives, and *opened the prison to those that were bound*.**

Somebody here today is about to be led of God….

1. He will anoint you
2. He will hold you by His hand
3. He will cause you to subdue the kingdoms of Satan
4. Satan himself will loose his loins unto you
5. Gates will open before you
6. He will go before you and make the crooked paths straight
7. He will bless you with treasures of darkness that you may know Him as your God!!