

The Cyrus Calling (Isaiah 45)

I. CYRUS: A PROPHETIC PICTURE FOR TODAY

- A. King Cyrus (600–530 BC) ruled Persia (Iran) from 560–530 BC. He was the wealthiest and most powerful leader on earth. Isaiah prophesied about him by name about 100 years before his birth, saying that he would be God’s “anointed” to restore Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

²⁴I am the LORD, who makes all things, who stretches out the heavens...²⁸Who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built,’ and to the temple [house of prayer], ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”^{45:1}Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus...³I will give you...the hidden riches of secret places ...that you may know that I...who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. (Isa. 44:24-45:3)

- B. The children of Israel were in captivity in Babylon for 70 years (606–536 BC). Cyrus released the Jewish captives to return to Israel to establish Jerusalem and to rebuild the temple. Isaiah and Jesus both prophetically named the temple the “house of prayer” (Isa. 56:7; Mt. 21:13).

⁷For My house [temple] shall be called a house of prayer for all nations. (Isa. 56:7)

¹³He said, “It is written, ‘My house [temple] shall be called a house of prayer...’” (Mt. 21:13)

- C. Cyrus announced to the world that God called him to release the Jewish captives to go back to Israel to rebuild their temple and to help them by financing it (2 Chr. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:2-11; 6:4).

²²In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia...the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus...that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom...saying,²³“Thus says Cyrus king of Persia ‘...the LORD...has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem.” (2 Chr. 36:22-23)

³In the first year of King Cyrus...issued a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem: “Let the house be rebuilt...⁴Let the expenses be paid from the king's treasury.” (Ezra 6:3-4)

- D. Cyrus started out as a regional leader under the authority of the Medes. In 550 BC, he overthrew the Medes and unified them with Persia, becoming the founder of a new Persian empire, which he ruled for 12 years. In 538 BC, he defeated Babylon to become the premier leader in the world. Daniel and the Jewish captives in Babylon must have been encouraged during these 12 years in seeing a man named Cyrus come to world prominence just as Isaiah prophesied. He prophesied that Cyrus would defeat Babylon and then restore Jerusalem and rebuild the temple (Isa. 44:28).

- E. Cyrus is a picture of some today who are called to the marketplace, government, military, media, etc. As God’s anointed, he received supernatural wisdom and favor to make wealth, to influence the nations, to bring deliverance to people in captivity, and to make God’s name known to them.

- F. Those with a “Cyrus calling” have prophetic insight of the times and what the people are to do.

³²The children of Issachar had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do... (1 Chr. 12:32)

II. WHAT GOD PROMISED TO DO IN PREPARING CYRUS

¹Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—to subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut: ²“I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron. ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the LORD, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. ⁴For Jacob My servant’s sake, and Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name... ⁵I will gird you, though you have not known Me, ⁶that they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me... (Isa. 45:1-6)

- A. **His anointed (v. 1):** The Lord shocked Israel by calling a Gentile His anointed. The Hebrew word *mashiah* is translated as the “anointed” or the “messiah.” This was a title reserved for Israel’s prophets, priests, and kings. God called Cyrus “My shepherd” (44:28) and “anointed.” In other words, Cyrus was chosen and empowered as a vessel to fulfill a significant aspect of God’s purpose. The Spirit would help him in a dynamic way. Cyrus was supernaturally helped with miracles in finances and favor in the political arena to bring deliverance to God’s people.
- B. **Whose right hand I have held (v. 1):** This speaks of intimacy with God. The Lord took Cyrus by the hand and walked him through danger to accomplish what would have been impossible.
- C. **To subdue nations (v. 1):** God gave him the authority and favor to conquer his adversaries and to affect nations. The nations Cyrus defeated included the Medes, the Babylonians, the Lydians, the Caftans, the Caunians, the Lycians, the Bactrians, the Sacae, the Parthians, the Hyrcanians, the Chorasmians, the Sogdians, the Arians, the Zarangians, the Arachosians, and the Gandarians.
- D. **To loose the armor of kings (v. 1):** He disarmed his adversaries to render them incapable of resisting. To loosen the armor was to take off the belt that held his weapons and robe in place.
- E. **To open before him the double doors (v. 1):** These are supernatural doors of opportunity that will not cease. The double doors of blessing and the gates were never shut.
- F. **I will go before you and make the crooked places straight (v. 2):** God smoothed out difficulties. The Lord goes ahead of the process to prepare the way and remove even the strongest defenses.
- G. **I will break the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron (v. 2):** This removed even the strongest hindrances. The gates of a city were fortified by putting iron bars across them.
- H. **I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places (v. 3):** This is to receive unexpected finances and wisdom that were hidden in dark places for greater security.
- I. **I will gird you...that they [nations] may know from the rising of the sun to its setting (v. 5-6):** This is to be strengthened by God that many would know God (evangelism and transformation).

III. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- A. There are many levels of the “Cyrus calling.” Some people will affect nations, some regions, and others cities. Those with a Cyrus anointing may operate together in a geographic area.
- B. **The Joseph calling:** The calling of Cyrus as a Gentile has parallels to Joseph as a Jewish leader. Like Joseph, many are a divine idea away from great increase in finances, favor, and influence. The idea must be mixed with a lot of “blood, sweat, and tears” and may be a “prison sentence.”
- C. **God’s choice:** Cyrus was not chosen due to his abilities (Rom. 9:16). It is not human strength, but the grace of God. Cyrus was “anointed” not because of his great qualities, but God’s choice.
¹⁶It is not of him who wills [decides], nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.
¹⁷For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.” (Rom. 9:16-17)
- D. **God’s purpose:** Notice the progression in God’s reasons for calling Cyrus: that he might know God (v. 3), that Israel might know God (v. 4), and that the nations might know God (v. 6).
³That you may know that I, the LORD, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel.
⁴For Jacob My servant’s sake, and Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name...
⁶That they [the nations] may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other... (Isa. 45:3-6)
1. In what sense did Israel know God through Cyrus’ calling? God’s promise to Cyrus helped the despairing Israelites see how the promises of their restoration would be fulfilled (Isa. 45:1-8).
 2. In what sense did the nations come to know God through Cyrus’ calling? Cyrus openly acknowledged the God of Israel as the source of his success (2 Chr. 36:23; Ezra 1:2-3). This comes to its fullness in the incarnation of Jesus and then the return of Jesus. How? In the human sense, it was because of Cyrus that Israel survived the Babylonian captivity as a nation. The survival of the nation was essential to Jesus’ first coming. Someday, related to Cyrus’ work, every knee will bow to God because of Jesus (Phil. 2:10-11).
 3. The bigger issue is who the Lord is, not who Cyrus is or who His anointed servants are.
- E. Harry S. Truman compared himself to Cyrus. During a visit to the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Eddie Jacobson introduced him by saying, “This is the man who helped to create the state of Israel.” Truman replied: “What do you mean ‘helped create’? I am Cyrus!”
- F. **Becoming a modern-day Cyrus:** Cyruses understand and commit themselves to seek to know and obey what the Spirit is saying to the Church and nations in this hour and also for their personal assignment. Along with other purposes, like Cyrus, they commit to “build Jerusalem” (serve God’s purpose for Israel) and to build the temple (the prayer movement in their region).

IV. NECESSARY COMPONENTS FOR THE CYRUS CALLING

- A. The **prophets** (supernatural revelation), **priests** (continual intercession), and **kings** (marketplace calling) must **come together** to release God's purpose with supernatural favor and power. The prophets fuel the intercessors, who release favor on the Cyruses, who bring wisdom, leadership, and economics to the prophets and intercessors. There is a great paradigm shift occurring in this hour. God wants these ministry callings to operate together in a dynamic relationship.
- B. Daniel was a prophetic intercessor who stood behind Cyrus. Daniel received prophetic revelation and prayed it through in a way that was essential in releasing Cyrus. Prophets reveal what the intercessors must decree and the Cyruses walk it out. Cyrus cannot function without prayer covering. An equally dynamic anointing of prayer is needed to release the end-time Cyruses.
- C. There will be a transfer of wealth in the context of the end-time shaking of nations (Hag. 2:6-8). ***"I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; ⁷and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations [Jesus], and I will fill this temple [house of prayer] with glory...⁸The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine," says the LORD of hosts. (Hag. 2:6-8)***
- D. ***Prophetic encouragement:*** Cyrus surely heard of prophecies about him that Isaiah gave over 100 years before he was born. Daniel surely told the Persian leaders that he worked closely with (Dan. 6) about Isaiah's and Jeremiah's prophecies of Cyrus, the fall of Babylon, and the return of the Jews to Jerusalem (Isa. 45; Jer. 29:10-14; Dan. 10:3). Prophetic insight into God's strategies in releasing His glory and shaking the nations is essential to the fulfillment of the Cyrus calling.
- E. ***Earnest intercession:*** Daniel cried to God with intercession and fasting for the promises related to Cyrus' victory over Babylon and the return of the Jews to Jerusalem (Dan. 9:2-19). ***²In the first year of his reign [Cyrus' and Darius' reign] I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified...through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem [Jer. 29:10-14]. ³Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting... (Dan. 9:2-3)***
- F. ***Marketplace breakthrough:*** All Cyruses must receive prophetic direction, take the risk, embrace the labor, engage in the warfare, and then use the resources and influence for God's purposes. Those anointed in the marketplace must take great risks as they receive great finances, strategic wisdom, and impartation for kingdom purposes. They are targeted by Satan for focused attack.
- G. David established 4,000 full-time paid musicians and singers. It would cost about **\$200 million** a year to provide \$3,000 a month to 5,000 full-time people (plus buildings costs). David gave over **\$200 billion** (according to today's prices) to God's house from his personal finances. **One talent equals about 75 lbs (1200 ounces). At \$1,500 an ounce, a talent of gold would be worth over \$1,800,000. Thus, 100,000 talents of gold and silver would be worth over \$200 billion dollars.**
- ¹⁴I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the LORD 100,000 talents of gold [\$180 billion] and 1,000,000 talents of silver [\$40 billion at \$35/oz]... (1 Chr. 22:14)***