

Cyrus

The Reign of King Cyrus I of Persia

(How God gives us another piece of evidence for the truth of His Word)

Isa 44:24-28 NIV

24 "This is what the LORD says--
your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb:
I am the LORD,
who has made all things,
who alone stretched out the heavens,
who spread out the earth by myself,
25 who foils the signs of false prophets
and makes fools of diviners,
who overthrows the learning of the wise
and turns it into nonsense,
26 who carries out the words of his servants
and fulfills the predictions of his messengers,
who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be inhabited,'
of the towns of Judah, 'They shall be built,'
and of their ruins, 'I will restore them,'
27 who says to the watery deep, 'Be dry,
and I will dry up your streams,'
28 who says of **Cyrus**, 'He is my shepherd
and will accomplish all that I please;
he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt,"
and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid." '

Isa 45:1-7 NIV

"This is what the LORD says to his anointed,
to **Cyrus**, whose right hand I take hold of
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their armor,
to open doors before him
so that gates will not be shut:
2 I will go before you
and will level the mountains;
I will break down gates of bronze
and cut through bars of iron.
3 I will give you the treasures of darkness,
riches stored in secret places,
so that you may know that I am the LORD,
the God of Israel, who summons you by name.
4 For the sake of Jacob my servant,
of Israel my chosen,
I summon you by name
and bestow on you a title of honor,
though you do not acknowledge me.
5 I am the LORD, and there is no other;
apart from me there is no God.
I will strengthen you,
though you have not acknowledged me,
6 so that from the rising of the sun
to the place of its setting
men may know there is none besides me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

Fact #1 Isaiah prophesied from 739-686 BC. He was martyred in 686 BC.

Fact #2 Assyria overthrew Israel (the Northern 10 Tribes) in 722 BC.

Fact #3 In 586 BC Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar overthrew Judah (Judah and Benjamin) and destroyed the Temple of God built by Solomon. The remnant, including Daniel, was carried away in exile in Babylon.

Fact #4 Cyrus I reigned in Persia from 559-530 BC.

Fact #5 Cyrus overthrew Babylon in 539 BC.

Fact #6 In 538 BC Cyrus decreed that the Jews could return to Israel and rebuild their temple in Jerusalem.

Fact #7 The first Jews were deported to Babylon in 605 BC; the first Jews returned to Jerusalem in 536 BC. God rested the land for 70 years! (See Lev 26:27-46)

Jer 25:10-12 NIV

10 I will banish from them the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, the sound of millstones and the light of the lamp. 11 This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon **seventy years**. 12 "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate forever.

2 Chron 36:15-23 NIV

15 The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. 16 But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. 17 He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and spared neither young man nor young woman, old man or aged. God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar. 18 He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the LORD's temple and the treasures of the king and his officials. 19 They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.

20 He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. 21 **The land enjoyed its sabbath rests**; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the **seventy years** were completed in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah.

22 In the first year of **Cyrus** king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:

23 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

"The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and **he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of his people among you-may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.**"

