A Biographical Study of Cyrus

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Cyrus

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

I. Cyrus and Isaiah: The foretelling
   A. Cyrus was the founder of the Persian Empire.
   B. In an amazing prophecy given some 200 years before Cyrus’ birth, Isaiah the prophet wrote:
      1. That he would be called Cyrus (Isa. 44:28)
      2. That he would conquer many lands (Isa. 45:1)
      3. That he would open the gates of Babylon and take the city (Isa. 45:1)
      4. That he would issue a decree allowing the Jews to return and rebuild both Jerusalem and the temple (Isa. 45:1)

II. Cyrus, Daniel, and Ezra: The fulfilling
   A. Cyrus and the book of Daniel—Daniel, who lived during Cyrus’ (also called Darius) reign, described for us that fateful night when Cyrus took the city of Babylon (Dan. 5:1-31; 6:28; 10:1).
   B. Cyrus and the book of Ezra—Ezra provided for us the very words found in Cyrus’ decree (Ezra 1:1-4).
      1. The author of 2 Chronicles also gave us the same decree (2 Chron. 36:22-23).
      2. Cyrus allowed the returning remnant to carry back those sacred vessels Nebuchadnezzar had previously taken from the temple of Solomon in Jerusalem (Ezra 1:7-11; 5:13-15).
      3. He also commanded the people of Sidon and Tyre to help the Jews in rebuilding the second temple (Ezra 3:7).
      4. Finally, he appointed a political leader named Zerubbabel (also known as Sheshbazzar) to guide the returning remnant (Ezra 2:2; 3:8; 4:2; 5:2, 14).

STATISTICS

First mention: 2 Chronicles 36:22
Final mention: Daniel 10:1
Meaning of his name: “Sun, throne”
Frequency of his name: Referred to 22 times
Biblical books mentioning him: Four books (2 Chronicles, Ezra, Isaiah, Daniel)
Occupation: King of Persia (2 Chron. 36:22)
Important fact about his life: He issued the return decree allowing Jews to go back and rebuild Jerusalem (2 Chron. 36:22-23).