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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).