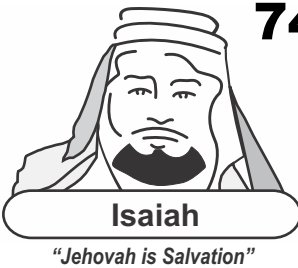


# PROPHECY CONCERNING CYRUS THE PERSIAN

God's prophecies concerning Cyrus (**Is.44:24—45:8**). Isaiah predicts Cyrus' decree to free the Jews many years before Cyrus was even born. Isaiah called Cyrus by name and gives details of his benevolence toward the Jews. This illustrates the truth of **Proverbs 21:1**, "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."



## 740-680 BC (60-Year Ministry)

"That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid." (**Is.44:28**)

"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;" (**Is.45:1**)

142-202 Years

(From the ministry of Isaiah till the decree of Cyrus)  
740-680BC till 538BC

740-680BC	606-536BC	539BC	538BC	535BC
<b>Ministry of Isaiah</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God predicted more than 150 years in advance a man named Cyrus who would release the Jewish exiles.</li> <li>• This predictive nature of God's Word sets it apart from the idols Isaiah was disproving.</li> </ul>	<b>70-Year Captivity of Judah (Je.25:11)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyrus is born (601BC).</li> <li>• Cyrus conquered the Medes who combined with Persia (549BC).</li> </ul>	<b>Fall of Babylon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyrus the Persian conquered the city of Babylon on the night of Belshazzar's feast (<b>Da.5</b>).</li> <li>• He diverted the Euphrates River and sent troops through the river channels under the walls</li> </ul>	<b>Cyrus' Decree that Permits the Jews to Rebuild the Temple</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyrus assisted the Jews, even paying the expense from the royal treasury (<b>Ez.1:4-11; 6:4-5</b>).</li> <li>• Cyrus's decree to release the Jewish people is recorded in <b>2 Chronicles 36:22-23</b>.</li> </ul>	<b>Temple Construction Begins</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They laid the foundation but did not complete the work (535BC).</li> <li>• Haggai encouraged the people to resume the work (520BC).</li> <li>• The Temple is completed (515BC).</li> </ul>

Daniel served until the third year (536BC) of Cyrus (**Da.10:1**). The Jewish historian Josephus recorded that someone informed Cyrus concerning the prophecy about him (*Antiquities of the Jews*, XI.1.2). Most believe Daniel was likely the high official who showed Cyrus the Scrolls (**Da.6:28**).