

**Isaiah 45** Thus says the Lord to Cyrus His anointed,  
Whom I have taken by the right hand,  
To subdue nations before him  
And to loose the loins of kings;  
To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:  
<sup>2</sup>“I will go before you and make the rough places smooth;  
I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.  
<sup>3</sup>“I will give you the treasures of darkness  
And hidden wealth of secret places,  
So that you may know that it is I,  
The Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.  
<sup>4</sup>“For the sake of Jacob My servant,  
And Israel My chosen *one*,  
I have also called you by your name;  
I have given you a title of honor  
Though you have not known Me.  
<sup>5</sup>“I am the Lord, and there is no other;  
Besides Me there is no God.  
I will gird you, though you have not known Me;  
<sup>6</sup>That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun  
That there is no one besides Me.  
I am the Lord, and there is no other,  
<sup>7</sup>The One forming light and creating darkness,  
Causing well-being and creating calamity;  
I am the Lord who does all these.  
<sup>8</sup>“Drip down, O heavens, from above,  
And let the clouds pour down righteousness;  
Let the earth open up and salvation bear fruit,  
And righteousness spring up with it.  
I, the Lord, have created it.

<sup>9</sup> “Woe to *the one* who quarrels with his Maker—

An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth!

Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’

Or the thing you are making say, ‘He has no hands’?

<sup>10</sup> “Woe to him who says to a father, ‘What are you begetting?’

Or to a woman, ‘To what are you giving birth?’”

<sup>11</sup> Thus says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker:

“Ask Me about the things to come concerning My sons,

And you shall commit to Me the work of My hands.

<sup>12</sup> “It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it.

I stretched out the heavens with My hands

And I ordained all their host.

<sup>13</sup> “I have aroused him in righteousness

And I will make all his ways smooth;

He will build My city and will let My exiles go free,

Without any payment or reward,” says the Lord of hosts.

**Jeremiah 25** The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon),  
<sup>2</sup> which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying,  
<sup>3</sup> “From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, these twenty-three years the word of the Lord has come to me, and I have spoken to you again and again, but you have not listened.  
<sup>4</sup> And the Lord has sent to you all His servants the prophets again and again, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear,  
<sup>5</sup> saying, ‘Turn now everyone from his evil way and from the evil of your deeds, and dwell on the land which the Lord has given to you and your forefathers forever and ever;  
<sup>6</sup> and do not go after other gods to serve them and to worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands, and I will do you no harm.’  
<sup>7</sup> Yet you have not listened to Me,” declares the Lord, “in order that you might provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands to your own harm.  
<sup>8</sup> “Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘Because you have not obeyed My words,  
<sup>9</sup> behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,’ declares the Lord, ‘and *I will send* to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants and against all these nations round about; and I will utterly destroy them and make them a horror and a hissing, and an everlasting desolation.  
<sup>10</sup> Moreover, I will take from them the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.  
<sup>11</sup> This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

<sup>12</sup> 'Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,' declares the Lord, 'for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation.

<sup>13</sup> I will bring upon that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, all that is written in this book which Jeremiah has prophesied against all the nations.

<sup>14</sup> (For many nations and great kings will make slaves of them, even them; and I will recompense them according to their deeds and according to the work of their hands.)”

**2 Chronicles 36** Then the people of the land took Joahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in place of his father in Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Joahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> Then the king of Egypt deposed him at Jerusalem, and imposed on the land a fine of one hundred talents of silver and one talent of gold.

<sup>4</sup> The king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. But Neco took Joahaz his brother and brought him to Egypt.

<sup>5</sup> Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem; and he did evil in the sight of the Lord his God.

<sup>6</sup> Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him and bound him with bronze *chains* to take him to Babylon.

<sup>7</sup> Nebuchadnezzar also brought *some* of the articles of the house of the Lord to Babylon and put them in his temple at Babylon.

<sup>8</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. And Jehoiachin his son became king in his place.

<sup>9</sup> Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem, and he did evil in the sight of the Lord.

<sup>10</sup> At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon with the valuable articles of the house of the Lord, and he made his kinsman Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>11</sup> Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.

<sup>12</sup> He did evil in the sight of the Lord his God; he did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet who spoke for the Lord.

<sup>13</sup> He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar who had made him swear *allegiance* by God. But he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord God of Israel.

<sup>14</sup> Furthermore, all the officials of the priests and the people were very unfaithful *following* all the abominations of the nations; and they defiled the house of the Lord which He had sanctified in Jerusalem.

<sup>15</sup> The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent *word* to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place;


<sup>16</sup> but they *continually* mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, until there was no remedy.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or infirm; He gave *them* all into his hand.

<sup>18</sup> All the articles of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his officers, he brought *them* all to Babylon.

<sup>19</sup> Then they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its fortified buildings with fire and destroyed all its valuable articles.

<sup>20</sup> Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,

<sup>21</sup> to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath  until seventy years were complete.

<sup>22</sup> Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia—in order to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah—the Lord stirred up the spirit of

Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying,

<sup>23</sup> “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the Lord his God be with him, and let him go up!’”





**Ezra 1** Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying:

<sup>2</sup> “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

<sup>3</sup> Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> Every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.’”

<sup>5</sup> Then the heads of fathers’ *households* of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites arose, even everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up and rebuild the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem.

<sup>6</sup> All those about them encouraged them with articles of silver, with gold, with goods, with cattle and with valuables, aside from all that was given as a freewill offering.

<sup>7</sup> Also King Cyrus brought out the articles of the house of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and put in the house of his gods;

<sup>8</sup> and Cyrus, king of Persia, had them brought out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and he counted them out to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

<sup>9</sup> Now this *was* their number: 30 gold dishes, 1,000 silver dishes, 29 duplicates;

<sup>10</sup> 30 gold bowls, 410 silver bowls of a second *kind and* 1,000 other articles.

<sup>11</sup> All the articles of gold and silver *numbered* 5,400. Sheshbazzar brought them all up with the exiles who went up from Babylon to Jerusalem.



**Ezra 3** Now when the seventh month came, and the sons of Israel *were* in the cities, the people gathered together as one man to Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brothers arose and built the altar of the God of Israel to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the law of Moses, the man of God.

<sup>3</sup> So they set up the altar on its foundation, for they were terrified because of the peoples of the lands; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, burnt offerings morning and evening.

<sup>4</sup> They celebrated the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and *offered* the fixed number of burnt offerings daily, according to the ordinance, as each day required;

<sup>5</sup> and afterward *there was* a continual burnt offering, also for the new moons and for all the fixed festivals of the Lord that were consecrated, and from everyone who offered a freewill offering to the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, but the foundation of the temple of the Lord had not been laid.

<sup>7</sup> Then they gave money to the masons and carpenters, and food, drink and oil to the Sidonians and to the Tyrians, to bring cedar wood from Lebanon to the sea at Joppa, according to the permission they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

<sup>8</sup> Now in the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all who came from the captivity to Jerusalem, began *the work* and appointed the Levites from twenty years and older to oversee the work of the house of the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> Then Jeshua *with* his sons and brothers stood united *with* Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah *and* the sons of Henadad *with* their sons and brothers the Levites, to oversee the workmen in the temple of God.

<sup>10</sup> Now when the builders had laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord according to the directions of King David of Israel.

<sup>11</sup> They sang, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, *saying*, "For He is good, for His lovingkindness is upon Israel forever." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

<sup>12</sup> Yet many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' *households*, the old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, while many shouted aloud for joy,

<sup>13</sup> so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the shout of joy from the sound of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard far away.