

## 28 The King of Persia as Deliverer

and thus a figurative promise that He will remove the barriers to the rebuilding of Jerusalem caused by the existence of the powerful Babylonian Empire.

The prediction about Cyrus is continued in the first five verses of chapter 45.

(1) Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom I have held by his right hand to subdue nations before him. I will loose the loins of kings, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut. (2) I will go before you and make the rough places smooth. I will shatter bronze doors and cut iron bars, (3) and I will give you treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, in order that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who is calling you by your name. (4) For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel, my chosen one, I have called you by your name. I have surnamed you, though you have not known me. (5) I am the LORD and there is no other; besides me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not known me.

In 44:28 God called Cyrus His shepherd; in 45:1 He calls him His anointed (messiah). The LORD declares in these verses that He will give great honor and riches to Cyrus, enabling him to conquer powerful cities and overthrow mighty kings. Thus Cyrus is named as the one set apart by God to perform the great accomplishment of delivering God's people. The strong emphasis on the fact that God has called Cyrus by his name (vv. 3-4) implies that the prediction was given long before the Persian king became known. Verse 4 asserts that it was "for the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen one," that Cyrus was called.

The words "though you have not known me," at the end of verse 4 and also of verse 5, imply that Cyrus did not realize that it was the God of Israel who enabled him to win his great victories.

Verse 13 of chapter 45 reads:

I have raised him up in righteousness and I will direct all his