

James Rafferty Q2 L13 2025 Thursday *June 26* Cyrus, the Anointed

Daniel - it's time to be thrown overboard from our lukewarm journey away from God.

Jill - Nineveh reminds us God's mercy is available for the worst of us.

Shelley - we need heart experience and not just a head knowledge.

John - 2nd coming a surprise

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Cyrus, the Anointed

When Cyrus sacked the city of Babylon, the years of captivity for God's people were over, and the Persians permitted them to return to the promised land and rebuild the temple. Under Cyrus, the Persian Empire became the largest in history, with what historian Tom Holland calls "the largest agglomeration of territories that the world had ever seen."—Tom Holland, *Dominion Basic Books*, Kindle Edition, p. 25.

As was the custom among the Persians, Cyrus was even called "the Great King" or "King of kings."

Cyrus foreshadows what will happen when Christ returns for His church: He is the King who comes from the east (*compare with Matt. 24:27*), waging war against Babylon, and liberating

His people to escape Babylon finally and return to the land of promise. (See Rev. 19:11–16.) This is why God refers to Cyrus as “His anointed” (Isa. 45:1, NKJV); not only did this famous Persian liberate God’s people, his campaign against Babylon is also a type of Christ’s second coming.

Rev 16:12

12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

25 I have raised up one from the north, and he shall come: from the rising of the sun shall he call upon my name: and he shall come upon princes as upon mortar, and as the potter treadeth clay. Isaiah 41:25

64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Matt 26:64

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: Rev 6:16

Read 2 Chronicles 36:22, 23. In what ways does the story of Cyrus parallel that of Nebuchadnezzar? In what ways does it differ? What is the significance of the decree? After all,

how did it impact the whole first coming of Jesus centuries later?

22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord *spoken* by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying,

23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah. Who *is there* among you of all his people? The Lord his God *be* with him, and let him go up.

Jeremiah 27:6

6 And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.

Dan 1:1, 2

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.

2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of

his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

1. GOD CALLED BOTH KINGS TO DO A WORK FOR HIM.
2. NEB DESTROYED GODS TEMPLE. CYRUS HELPED REBUILD IT.

THE EARTHLY POWERS IN REV. 13 ACTUALLY HELP PREPARE GODS PEOPLE FOR HEAVEN - THEY ARE THE EARTHLY POWERS THAT FINALLY FORCE GODS FAITHFUL PEOPLE TO CUT OFF ALL TIES TO THE WORLD. ROM 8:28 - ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD.

WE CAN TAKE ALL THAT TIME WE HAVE WASTED IN THE WORLD AND FOCUS WITNESSING FOR GOD.

The original order of Old Testament books has been changed in our day to end with Malachi, but originally, this is where the Old Testament ended—with this declaration from Cyrus. The next episode in the canon of Scripture would be Matthew, which begins with the birth of Christ, the antitypical Cyrus. Cyrus would orchestrate the rebuilding of the earthly temple; Jesus would inaugurate His ministry in the heavenly sanctuary—leading up to His return and our liberation.

Cyrus, of course, was not a *perfect* representation of Christ; no type lines up perfectly with antitype, and we must be careful not to read too much into every tiny detail. Nevertheless, he broadly functions as a type of “Savior.”

How fascinating that God would use a pagan king in such a marked manner to do His will. That is, even despite how things appear to us on the outside, how can we learn the truth that, long term, the Lord is going to bring about end-time events as prophesied?