

2 Chronicles 36:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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,

Analysis

Chronicles' ending strikes hope: '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.' This demonstrates God's sovereign control over pagan kings to accomplish His promises. Jeremiah prophesied 70 years exile (Jeremiah 25:11-12); Cyrus's decree (539 BCE) fulfilled this precisely. The phrase 'stirred up the spirit' shows God's sovereign work in human hearts, even unregenerate rulers. This points to God's sovereignty over all earthly powers to accomplish redemptive purposes, ultimately fulfilled in Christ who brings the true return from exile.

Historical Context

Cyrus's decree allowing Jewish return (538 BCE) demonstrated Persian policy of tolerance and restoration of local cults. Yet the Chronicler interprets this politically motivated decree as divine providence fulfilling prophetic word, showing God works through natural means while maintaining sovereign purposes.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign control over Cyrus encourage trust in His ability to use any circumstance or person for His purposes?
2. Where do you need to trust that God can 'stir up spirits' - change hearts - to accomplish His will in seemingly impossible situations?

Interlinear Text

year	Now in the first	את ת	וְשָׁנָה ת	מלך	סִפְרָה	פָּנָס	לְכָל וְת
H8141	H259	H3566	H4428	H6539			H3615
דְּבָר	יְהֹוָה	ה	יְהֹוָה	בְּפִי		יְרָמִי	הָעֵד
that the word	of the LORD		spoken by the mouth		of Jeremiah		stirred up
H1697	H3068		H6310		H3414		H5782

פָּרָס מֶלֶךְ כּוֹרַש רְוַחַת אֶת יְהֹוָה
of Persia king of Cyrus the spirit of the LORD H853

יגם מלכות וְ בָּכָל קָוָל יְצַבָּר
H1571 H3605 H6963 that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 25:12 (Kingdom): And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

Jeremiah 29:10 (Word): For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

2 Chronicles 36:21 (Word): To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

Daniel 10:1 (Kingdom): In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

Ezra 1:5 (Spirit): Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.