

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

וּבְשָׁנָה	אִתּוֹ	כִּי	מֶלֶךְ	סָ	לְכָל
year	Now in the first	of Cyrus	king	of Persia	might be accomplished
H8141	H259	H3566	H4428	H6539	H3615

דִּבֶּר	יְהוָה	בְּפִי	יִרְמְיָהוּ	הָעֵר
that the word	of the LORD	spoken by the mouth	of Jeremiah	stirred up
H1697	H3068	H6310	H3414	H5782

יְהוָה	אֶת	רוּחַ	כִּי	מֶלֶךְ	סָ
of the LORD	H853	the spirit	of Cyrus	king	of Persia
H3068		H7307	H3566	H4428	H6539

וַעֲבַר	קוֹל	בְּכָל	מַלְכוּתוֹ	וְגַם
that he made a proclamation	H6963	H3605	throughout all his kingdom	H1571
H5674			H4438	

בְּמִכְתָּב	לֵאמֹר:
and put it also in writing	saying
H4385	H559

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.