

# Isaiah 44:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

## Analysis

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The chapter climaxes with the astonishing prophecy: 'That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure.' A Persian pagan king is called God's shepherd! God declares Cyrus will say to Jerusalem 'Thou shalt be built' and to the temple 'Thy foundation shall be laid.' This specific prediction, 150 years before Cyrus's birth, demonstrates divine foreknowledge.

## Historical Context

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Cyrus conquered Babylon in 539 BC and issued a decree allowing Jewish return and temple rebuilding (Ezra 1:1-4). Isaiah's naming of Cyrus before his birth remains one of the most remarkable specific prophecies in Scripture.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's use of a pagan king as His 'shepherd' expand your understanding of His sovereignty?

2. What does this prophecy, given 150 years in advance, teach about God's knowledge of the future?

## Interlinear Text

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וְלֵאמֹר	לְךָ וְנָשׂ	רָעִי	וְכָל	חֶפְצִי	וְשָׁלֵם
That saith	of Cyrus	He is my shepherd	H3605	all my pleasure	and shall perform
H559	H3566	H7462		H2656	H7999
וְלֵאמֹר	לִירוּשָׁלַם	תִּבְנֶה	וְהִיכָל		
That saith	to Jerusalem	Thou shalt be built	and to the temple		
H559	H3389	H1129	H1964		
תִּסָּד:					
Thy foundation shall be laid					
H3245					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 45:1** (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

**Isaiah 45:13** (Parallel theme): I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts.

**Daniel 10:1** (Parallel theme): 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.

**Isaiah 46:11** (Parallel theme): Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

**Isaiah 63:11** (Parallel theme): Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him?

**Isaiah 45:3** (Parallel theme): And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.

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