

# Isaiah 45:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

## Analysis

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God calls Cyrus 'his anointed' (mashiach - the same word for Messiah). This is extraordinary: a pagan Persian king receives the title usually reserved for Israel's kings and priests. God holds his 'right hand' (position of power and favor) to subdue nations and loose kings' armor. The Hebrew 'pathach' (open) promises that gates and doors will not be shut before him.

## Historical Context

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Cyrus conquered Babylon in 539 BC by diverting the Euphrates River and entering through unguarded river gates - doors were literally opened. Ancient historians Herodotus and Xenophon confirm this remarkable fulfillment.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's use of the term 'anointed' for a pagan king expand your understanding of His sovereignty?
2. What does it mean that God holds the right hand even of those who don't know Him?

## Interlinear Text

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כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	לְמָשִׁיחוֹ	לְכָ וּרָשׁ	אֲשֶׁר	הֵחֵז קִרְתִּי
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	to his anointed	to Cyrus	H834	I have holden
	H559	H3068	H4899	H3566		H2388
בְּיָמֵינוּ	לְכַד	לְפָנָיו	גּוֹיִם	וּמִתְּנֵי י	מֶלֶךְ יִם	
whose right hand	to subdue	before	nations	the loins	of kings	
H3225	H7286	H6440	H1471	H4975	H4428	
לְפָתֵהּ	לְפָתֵהּ	לְפָנָיו	דִּלְתֵּי יִם			
him and I will loose	him and I will loose	before	him the two leaved gates			
H6605	H6605	H6440	H1817			
וּשְׁעֵי יִם	לֹא	יִסְגְּרוּ:				
and the gates	H3808	shall not be shut				
H8179		H5462				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 42:6** (References Lord): I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

**Isaiah 44:28** (Parallel theme): 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.

**Psalms 73:23** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

**Isaiah 41:13** (References Lord): For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

**Isaiah 45:5** (References Lord): I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

**Jeremiah 51:11** (Kingdom): Make bright the arrows; gather the shields: the LORD hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device is against Babylon, to destroy it; because it is the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance of his temple.

**Jeremiah 50:35** (References Lord): A sword is upon the Chaldeans, saith the LORD, and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise men.

**Ezra 1:1** (Kingdom): Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, 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,

**Isaiah 13:3** (Parallel theme): I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness.

**Job 12:21** (Parallel theme): He poureth contempt upon princes, and weakeneth the strength of the mighty.