

Isaiah 45:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

God explicitly claims to have raised up Cyrus 'in righteousness' and promises to 'direct all his ways.' Cyrus will build God's city and release God's captives - not for price or reward. The Hebrew 'mechir' (price) emphasizes that Israel's release is not a business transaction but divine grace operating through Cyrus.

Historical Context

Cyrus's decree (Ezra 1:1-4) fulfilled this precisely: he commanded Jerusalem's rebuilding and freed Jewish captives. His motivations appeared political, but God directed his ways for redemptive purposes.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God direct the ways of rulers to accomplish His purposes?
2. What does it mean that your redemption was not purchased by human price but by divine grace?

Interlinear Text

אִישׁ	רָ	דָּבָרָ	יְ	וְ	כָּלְ	בְּאַ	זָקָ	הַ	עִירָתָ	הַ	וּ	אָנֹכִ
H595	I have raised him up	H5782	H6664	H3605	all his ways	H1870	H3474	and I will direct	H3808	H7971	H3808	H4242
בְּמִחֵּר	לְ	אַ	וְ	שָׁלֵ	חַ	וְ	גָּלוּתָ	יְ	עִירִ	יְבִ	הַ	קְוָא
H1931	he shall build	H1129	H5892	H1546	and he shall let go	H7971	H3808	not for price	H4242	H1870	H3474	H3808
אַבָּאוֹתָן	יְהִ	הַ	אָמָ	רָ	בְּשָׁ	חַדְ	וְלְ	אַ	בְּשָׁ	חַדְ	וְלְ	אַ
H6635	of hosts	H3068	H559	H7810	saith	the LORD	nor reward	H3808	the LORD	saith	nor reward	H3808

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 41:2 (Righteousness): Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? he gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow.

Isaiah 41:25 (Resurrection): 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 morter, and as the potter treadeth clay.

Isaiah 13:17 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it.

Isaiah 49:25 (References Lord): But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.