

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

אֲנֹכִי H595	הֵעִירָתִי הוּא H5782	בְּצִדְקָה H6664	וְכָל H3605	דְּרָכָיו H1870	אֲנִי וְאֶשׁ H3474
	I have raised him up	in righteousness		all his ways	and I will direct
הוא H1931	יִבְנֶה ה' H1129	עִירִי H5892	וְגִלּוֹתַי H1546	יֵשֶׁלֶּה H7971	לֹא H3808
	he shall build	my city	my captives	and he shall let go	not for price
א H3808	וְלֹא H7810	אֵמַר H559	יְהוָה H3068	צְבָאוֹת: H6635	
	nor reward	saith	the LORD	of hosts	

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 mortar, 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.