

Isaiah 45:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:

Analysis

God promises to go before Cyrus personally, making 'crooked places straight' and breaking bronze gates and iron bars. The Hebrew 'hadar' (go before) indicates divine leadership in battle. This specific reference to bronze gates and iron bars matches Babylon's actual fortifications, demonstrating prophetic precision.

Historical Context

Herodotus describes Babylon's famous gates, including the Ishtar Gate with its bronze reinforcements. The city's gates were its pride and supposedly impregnable defense - yet God promised to shatter them.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God go before you to straighten crooked paths and break down barriers?
2. What seemingly impregnable obstacles has God broken for you?

Interlinear Text

אֲנִי H589	לִפְנֵי יְיָ before H6440	אֵלַי הָ H1980	וְהַדּוֹר יִם the crooked places H1921	אֲשֶׁר רָ straight H3474	יָדְלַת וְתֵ the gates H1817	נְחוֹשֶׁה of brass H5154
אֲשַׁבֵּר I will break in pieces H7665	וּבָרִים י the bars H1280	בְּרֶזֶל ל of iron H1270	אֶגְדָּע: and cut in sunder H1438			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 40:4 (Parallel theme): Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

Isaiah 42:16 (Parallel theme): And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

Luke 3:5 (Parallel theme): Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

Psalms 107:16 (Parallel theme): For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.

Jeremiah 51:30 (Parallel theme): The mighty men of Babylon have forborn to fight, they have remained in their holds: their might hath failed; they became as women: they have burned her dwellingplaces; her bars are broken.