

Isaiah 48:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All ye, assemble yourselves, and hear; which among them hath declared these things? The LORD hath loved him: he will do his pleasure on Babylon, and his arm shall be on the Chaldeans.

Analysis

The rhetorical 'Which among them hath declared these things?' challenges all false gods to prophesy like Yahweh. The identification of Cyrus as 'The LORD hath loved him' shocks by applying covenant language to a pagan king. This demonstrates God's sovereign freedom to choose instruments and shows that His purposes transcend ethnic Israel, preparing for Gentile inclusion in the church.

Historical Context

Cyrus issued the decree allowing Jewish return (Ezra 1:1-4) and was called 'anointed' (45:1), terms usually reserved for Davidic kings. This prophetic specificity, naming him 150 years beforehand, is unparalleled in ancient literature.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's 'love' for pagan Cyrus demonstrate sovereign freedom beyond ethnic boundaries?
2. What does Cyrus's role teach about how God uses unbelieving leaders to accomplish His purposes today?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | הַקְרָבָא | כָּלֶם | אַשְׁתָּמָעִ | בְּמִמְּנִי |
| All ye assemble | H3605 | yourselves and hear | H4310 | H0 |
| H6908 | | H8085 | | |
| which among them hath declared | H5046 | אֵלֶּה אֲתָת | יְהִי הֵן | אֶחָד וָ |
| | | H853 | H428 | H3068 |
| | | | these things The LORD | hath loved |
| | | | | H157 |
| him he will do | H6213 | חִפְצָוֹן | בְּבָבָל | כָּשָׁדִים: |
| his pleasure | H2656 | | | |
| on Babylon | H894 | | | |
| and his arm | H2220 | | | |
| shall be on the Chaldeans | H3778 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 43:9 (Parallel theme): Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth.

Isaiah 41:22 (Parallel theme): Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come.