

**Scripture to read: Ezra 1:1-11**

**God is almighty; He does not reign only over Israel but over, all the earth.**

Because of the sins that the people of Israel committed against the Lord, they were captured as slaves in the hands of Babylonian Kings for 70 years. In those days the temple in Jerusalem was in ruin. The people of Israel did not have the strength and courage even to speak about the rebuilding of the temple. In the first year of King Cyrus, the LORD stirred the heart of Cyrus, he proclaimed like this. The LORD, the God of heaven, has appointed me to build him a Temple at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Any of you who are his people may go to Jerusalem in Judah to rebuild this Temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, who lives in Jerusalem. And the others can contribute toward their expenses by giving them silver and gold, supplies for the journey, and livestock, as well as a voluntary offering for the Temple of God in Jerusalem. Then God stirred the hearts of the priests and Levites and the leaders of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple of the LORD. King Cyrus himself brought out the articles that King Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the LORD's Temple in Jerusalem that was placed in the temple of his own gods. He also told them "if you require more, it can be taken from the king treasury".

**Question:**

Who is this king Cyrus? Why should he help them in rebuilding the temple?

**Answer:**

It is written more than 30 times in the Bible about Cyrus the King. Though we don't have any information about how he came to know about the Lord. Before his birth itself it is written in the book of Isaiah (45:1-4) that he was called by his name and was told about the work that was ordained to him prophetically. The Lord can do whatever he wanted not only with a nation (Israel & Judah) but he can also accomplish his purpose through whoever pleases him. The best example for this is King Cyrus. When he sees that his children are unable to fulfill the promise that he gave, we should understand and know that he can choose others as his child and fulfill his work through them. Though

he gave his word before 150 years through his prophet Isaiah seemed to be delayed, yet he fulfilled it. Are you troubled and worried that you have no one in your life to fulfill the promise? God is able to rise and send a Cyrus in the place you are in. So praise him. He is about to do a mighty work.

The LORD of Heaven's Armies is a wonderful teacher, and he gives the farmer great wisdom. Isaiah 28:29

**Prayer:**

Lord! Send us your ministering spirit. Make us worthy vessels for the glory of your name and for the expansion of your kingdom. Amen