

Ezra 1:1-6 (Jeremiah 1:10) "The Truth About Foreknowledge"

Why would King Cyrus of the Medo-Persians empire boldly issue a proclamation, not only allowing the exiled Jews to rebuild the Temple on Mt Moriah, but also trusting and believing in the God of Israel? This was in 538 B.C.

#1. Jeremiah proclaimed that the ~~the~~ captivity would be of short duration (70 yrs. Jeremiah 25:12).

#2. King Cyrus was shown the scroll of Isaiah ~~the~~ written in 700 B.C., 120 yrs before his birth. (Isaiah 44:24-28. God called Cyrus by name 120 yrs before he was born, as the instrument that would issue the the decree of Ezra 1, for the Jews to return and rebuild Jerusalem its walls, and to lay the foundation of and commence work of rebuilding the Temple. v.28 God foretold that Cyrus despite being a heathen king, would by God's foreknowledge become a shepherd to the Jews.

In Isaiah 45:1 King Cyrus is again called by name 120 yrs before his birth, and here is called an appointed chosen vessel of Yahweh.

v's ~~the~~ 1-2 talk about King Cyrus's proclaimed mission. ~~verses~~ verses 3 & 4 tell us that God planned to reveal himself to Cyrus for Israel's sake.

v. 4 through 12 is God's personal letter of revelation, sealed ~~the~~ 2 written by Isaiah, to Cyrus not yet born. This prophecy, ~~enough~~ ^{was} enough to scare any pagan into the kingdom. Could you imagine what it must be like to open the Bible and find your name in there. In verse 13 God tells Cyrus what he is to do, & why he was chosen, beforehand, & that Cyrus would do this to obey God not for reward. Cyrus gave the decree in 538 B.C. This decree was later confirmed by Darius I in 522 B.C. & again by Artaxerxes I in 465 B.C.

Close - Romans 8:29 & 30 now take on new meaning. You and I like Cyrus, ~~we~~ were fore-ordained for a divine purpose. Search the scriptures like Cyrus searched Isaiah's scroll, & you will find your ~~the~~ proclaimed purpose ~~for~~ for being born.