

## ***The Cyrus Calling (Isaiah 45)***

### **INTRODUCTION**

Cyrus is a most interesting person in the Old Testament, but even more than that, he's very strategic and significant for this hour of history as well. Let's give a quick overview of Cyrus.

Isaiah 44:24. "I am the Lord who makes all things, who stretches out the heavens" (Isa. 44:24). Look at verse 28: ". . . who says of Cyrus"—so He names him as a sort of complete surprise.

Who is Cyrus? He isn't even going to be born for another 100 years. Isaiah is prophesying. "I am the Lord . . . who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure'" (Isa. 44:24, 28). Specifically this is what Cyrus will say. Why? Because he will understand. This is his mandate. He will say to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," and to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid" (v. 28b).

"Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus . . . 'I will give you the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, who call you by your name"—100 years before he's born—"am the God of Israel"' (Isa. 45:1-3).

Now this is a very unusual passage. Again, it relates to us. It's the extreme example of what will happen in a lesser way all over the Body of Christ. However, I do believe that the greatest Cyruses of history are yet to appear on the stage of history. This passage is very unusual on a number of levels. Let's read this again.

Verse 28. "Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd.'" Cyrus wouldn't be born for another 100 years. He was a Persian, an Iranian king. He ruled over what is modern-day Iran.

Now think of the president of Iran. You're getting the context. A prophet in Jerusalem says, "You're God's shepherd." Whoa. That's intense. The mercy that I see in this passage is that Isaiah said it 100 years before the kid was born. He never had to live to see the outworking of this, but it was intense. An Iranian king is God's shepherd for Israel. It's like, "Right..." He's Persian, but think of it as Iranian if you really want to get it in the context of how strange it is today.

This man will do all of God's pleasure. He's a complete heathen, but God is going to so move on him that he'll do all of the will of God. Beloved, God is moving on people now. He is giving them great assignments. Some of them are not even born again yet, but the Lord has plans to reveal Himself to them. They'll do all of God's will for their life before it's over.

He will say to Jerusalem, "You shall be built." Here's the problem with that city: Jerusalem hadn't been destroyed yet. They're saying, "Jerusalem be built?"

It's like saying twenty years ago, "And when they rebuild the World Trade Center towers in New York City..."

"What do you mean, 'rebuild it'?"

That's what was being said here. "When they rebuild Jerusalem. This man will."

“Is something going to happen that we don’t understand?”

The Cyrus of old was introduced on the world stage in the greatest crisis in Israel’s history in the Old Testament. The Cyruses will appear again on the world stage in the greatest crisis in Israel’s history in these days. God is raising up Cyruses in the context of crisis in Israel—that’s what we’re talking about right now—but also in the context of world crisis.

Not only will he rebuild the city, which in Isaiah’s day hadn’t been torn down yet; it wasn’t torn down for another 150 years.

“Rebuild it? That’s interesting.”

“But you have another commission, Cyrus: you’re going to build the temple.”

“You mean the temple is going to be destroyed, too?”

“Yes, it will, but this Iranian, Persian king will finance it himself.”

This is a miracle in the extreme. Again, this is such an extreme example, but we gain inspiration from it at many levels of assignment and responsibility. Because it’s a revelation of what God’s heart is like. It’s in the Word as an example of the sort of thing God does because He has all power and the ability to do this. Again, I believe the greatest, most influential Cyruses are in the future. I believe this calling has multitudes of expressions throughout the Body of Christ worldwide.

“You’re going to lay the foundation of the destroyed temple. You’re going to pay for it.” This is a tall order, because it’s totally contrary to nature.

Now look at the next verse, Isaiah 45:1. There’s a chapter division. There shouldn’t be. He’s in the same flow of conversation. “Thus says the Lord” (Isa. 45:1). Now He brings it up a notch in a way that’s unthinkable. God says that this man has authority. This troubled Israel: “He is My anointed.”

“A gentile? Persian? Modern-day Iranian? Is God’s anointed? Isaiah, did you say *anointed*?” Because the word *anointed* is the same word as *Messiah*. “Isaiah, you’ve gone too far.”

Isaiah said, “I haven’t. He’s the anointed of the Lord.”

### “I WILL GIVE YOU THE HIDDEN RICHES OF SECRET PLACES”

Then he goes on in verse 3. Here’s what God says to Cyrus and here’s what God is going to say to some of you in a fresh way, I believe even tonight. “I will give you the hidden riches of secret places. I will give you riches of wealth in your finances. I will give you riches of wisdom in creative ideas. I will give you unexpected riches of alliances with kings and rulers of the nations at various levels of society.” (Isa. 45:3, paraphrased).

Don’t just think of the king of a nation; think of the kings in the arena of commerce, media, government, military, and education. The Lord says, “I have surprises. I have hidden riches. I have riches you know not of.”

You're not even born, but I've ordained that you would have them. You will never be confused about whether you earned them or not. Let there be no confusion."

As the man said, "God is going to do something that can't be blamed on man." He's going to do something so powerful that man can't get any credit for it whatsoever. It's the hidden riches. God has secret plans. Those riches will be financial surprises; surprises in the realm of creative wisdom; ideas you could never, ever have imagined; surprises in alliances with people you never would have been friends with. Solomon says it's really something: "How marvelous, how intriguing, how strange it is when a lizard gets into the king's palace" (Prov. 30:28, paraphrased). When the lizard, who is easy to catch, sneaks into the most noble palace, how can such a thing happen? Well, all kinds of people are going to get into kings' palaces. They have no way, they have no protocol. They have no résumé to get in. That's the idea behind this proverb of Solomon.

Look at Isaiah 45:3. God says to Isaiah, "Tell Cyrus this: 'You will know that I am when all of this is done. It will touch you; it will change you'" (Isa. 45:3, paraphrased).

**"MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS"**

That's a quick overview of who Cyrus is. Let's look at paragraph B. I'll just say this now, because it's important for this hour of history: Isaiah went on to define the temple which Cyrus was to build, about ten chapters later. Understand this: the house of God and the temple are synonymous. It's called from heaven a house of prayer. It's not just a building for religious institutions. In the economy of God, in the ideal of God, it's always mostly meant to be a house of prayer. In the Old Testament, they had night-and-day worship going on in the temple from the days of David onward. It was a house of prayer, but they had other dimensions that ended up overtaking the prayer dimension. Jesus came along in Matthew 21, and He was referring to Isaiah. He was basically saying, "Isaiah said it right." You know why Isaiah said it right? Because Jesus was a part of the Godhead who told Isaiah. It's almost like Jesus could say, "I first told Isaiah and He wrote it. I'm here in the flesh to tell you He was right. The temple is a house of prayer."

Paragraph C. Cyrus, this pagan, Persian king, who would naturally be adversarial to Israel, was so moved, and he understood the purposes of God so clearly, when they became crystal clear, that he made a worldwide proclamation (2 Chron. 36). He made a worldwide proclamation in the first year of his reign. The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus. He made a proclamation throughout all the kingdom saying this: "The Lord has commanded me to build him a house" (2 Chron. 36:23, paraphrased). He made it a worldwide proclamation that he was mandated by the God of Israel to build that house of prayer. He went on to finance it himself. He paid the money for it.

Paragraph E. Cyruses, now we're tuning into you; we're zoning into your application of this.

Cyrus is a picture of people today. I mean, he's an extreme example, just as David is an extreme example of the worshiper and marketplace ministry.

David was the king. He was the head of the army. He was in the military. David wasn't just a guitar player; he actually ran the government, as you know. He had a marketplace calling, but he also had that priestly calling. David was one of those unusual ones who put the thing together in a rare way. Very few put it together like David did. In terms of his time, David was much more involved in the government, in the military, than he was in the prayer room. He valued the prayer room, went to the prayer room, and paid for the prayer room. His

hands were occupied with running the government and military while his heart was preoccupied with God. He's the ideal picture of bringing the two worlds together.

### **JOSEPH WAS ONLY ONE DIVINE IDEA AWAY FROM FREEDOM**

Paragraph E. As God's anointed, Cyrus received supernatural wisdom. Here's what we're believing for: supernatural wisdom and creative ideas. Beloved, you're one divine idea away. Joseph was a poor Jewish boy in an Egyptian prison. Think of how greatly the odds were stacked against him. Not only was he in prison, he was a Jewish boy in prison with no family in the land at all. No one was on his side—no one. Can you imagine being Jewish and all but an orphan in a foreign land, in an Egyptian prison? Talk about despair! We look at our lives and think, "Man, it's tough." Beloved, look at Joseph. Did you understand that you came to a Joseph Company Conference? I hope that many of you get the wisdom of Joseph, but I hope you don't have the same journey to it. This young boy is in this prison. He's one divine idea away. He's one divine idea away from being the wealthiest man in all of Egypt. He has the dream one night: he has the dream about the future of the agriculture. It's set up by the Lord so perfectly; it's a dream that's believed and understood. He has the understanding. Because of this one dream, some years pass, and he becomes the wealthiest man in all of Egypt after Pharaoh.

He was one dream away—one divine idea away. I always like to say, "You're one divine idea, a little blood, sweat and tears, and maybe one or two prison sentences away." Then you'll be the richest man in the world if you're like Joseph.

### **YOU CAN'T MAKE PHARAOH LIKE YOU AND BELIEVE YOU ON YOUR OWN**

Cyrus and Joseph are pictures of what it looks like to receive supernatural, creative wisdom. And it's more than creative wisdom; it's favor. You can't make favor happen. You can't Pharaoh like you and believe you. Don't even try. It's given or it's not given. When it's given, you can't ever take credit for it. That's how it's set up. God has appointed seasons of favor and divine alliances with a number of you in the days ahead, some very soon, and others just down the road a little. He has this already decreed and ordained: divine alliances like He did with Cyrus, like He did with Joseph, like He did with Daniel.

### **DELIVERING THOSE WHO CAN'T DELIVER THEMSELVES**

Well, this will result in making wealth; and, not only that, but influencing nations. We don't only influence nations by wealth; wealth is important, but wealth isn't all there's to influencing a nation. It's influencing one of the spheres of society that God has called you to. It's bringing deliverance to captives and making the name of the Lord known to them.

That's a synopsis of the Cyrus calling. Let's go through it again: receiving supernatural wisdom; receiving favor; divine alliances, God-ordained alliances, which produce wealth and influence; bringing deliverance to people who are in need, who are captives in various ways. They're needy; they can't deliver themselves, and we show them the name of the Lord. It's not just good works, but making the name of the Lord known. His name is Jesus.

### **THOSE WHO HATE JESUS, HATE THE FATHER ALSO**

Here's the reason I say that. We believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we believe the three are one. Everyone talks about God, the generic God. We love God the Father. He's the greatest. But it's not enough just to say God. We like to say Jesus, more specifically.

“I believe in God.”

“Do you believe in Jesus?”

“I wouldn’t go that far.”

“You don’t believe in God, then.”

Jesus said, “If you hate Me, you hate My Father” (Jn. 16:3, paraphrased). So we like to throw Jesus into the middle of this. He’s the stumbling stone in all of this. God, the generic God, doesn’t trouble people. As long as He’s tolerant, then we’ll take God specifically. People say, “You can have your own religion.” However, God named Jesus, and that’s a real burden. It’s a stumbling stone to many, because we consider it our privilege, because worthy is the Lamb. It’s our destiny to stand loyal. We pledge our allegiance to Jesus.

I wanted to throw that in as sort of a side trail on making the name of God known. We’re talking about Jesus.

### **THE CHILDREN OF ISSACHAR HAD UNDERSTANDING OF THE TIMES**

Paragraph F. Those with a Cyrus calling need prophetic insight of the times.

Look at this. The children of Issachar had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do (1 Chron. 12:32). The sons of Issachar had unusual prophetic insight into what God was thinking and what the people should do. These Cyruses may not get it all directly; they may get it from the prophetic ministries. Some will get it directly. Some will get from others, from the prophets. Either way, they must have it. Because the Cyruses, like the Cyrus of old, can’t go forward in a spirit of “hit and miss.” They can’t just “take their best shot.” We need understanding. We need the eyes of the prophets. Many of these Cyruses will have prophetic insight. That prophetic insight will be completed and enhanced by those whose primary assignment is that of a prophet. They’re people who will understand the times, to know what Israel ought to do. They’ll know what God’s agenda is and what people ought to do.

### **THE WHOLE COUNCIL OF GOD IS THE POSITIVE AND THE NEGATIVE RIGHTLY DISCERNED**

It’s not enough just to have a positive idea that everything is going to get better. Beloved, everything isn’t going to get better. Some things are going to get better and some things are going to get really, really bad. The bad and the good are going to increase at a level surpassing any time in human history. I believe we’re in the early days of the unfolding of that. I believe we’re going to see glory beyond any time in history, even the book of Acts, and we’re going to see trouble beyond any time in history happening in the same generation.

Some people, when they speak for God, only talk positively, but that’s not the complete message of God. That’s not all that God is saying. God is saying many positive things, but the whole council of God is the positive and the negative rightly discerned. We don’t overstate it; we don’t understate it. We discern it according to the Spirit.

You say, “How can we do that?” Beloved, we need to see the prophetic ministry valued and prospering in the land.

## **BREAKTHROUGH ONLY HAPPENS IN THE CONTEXT OF NIGHT-AND-DAY PRAYER**

One man says, “I don’t even believe in that stuff.”

I don’t want to be smart-alecky, but I typically say, “You will.”

In other words, I don’t have any energy to argue with people who don’t believe in that. I understand why they don’t. There has been so much of a mess over the last hundred years in so many circles, but that’s no reason to throw the thing out, because it’s in the Word. Where history is going, there will be no chance of success without the eyes of the prophet in their rightful place. The Cyruses can’t succeed without the prophets, without Isaiah and Jeremiah, and without Daniel in Cyrus’s own generation. He had the prophets backing him up—the prophetic word of Isaiah and Jeremiah. He had the Scriptures. Then he had a prophet in his own day, Daniel, interceding for him. There was a connection to the prophets.

Some people say, “I love the Cyrus calling.”

I say, “Well, you mean you like the breakthrough idea.” Who doesn’t like the breakthrough? I’ve never met a person who wants the downfall instead of the breakthrough. Everyone likes the breakthrough. It doesn’t take a ton of discernment to love the breakthrough. I said, “That breakthrough isn’t going to happen in a vacuum. That breakthrough is going to happen in a particular context.” The context is night-and-day prayer.

That’s with night-and-day prayer. I don’t mean you need to have a building where you do night-and-day prayer. Night-and-day prayer will happen in the cities of the earth, not just in a building. I’m not talking about our version of it; I’m talking about something much bigger than that. God is raising up so many different expressions of prayer around the earth. These Cyruses must be connected to people of prayer. They must be connected to prophetic understanding and the prophetic ministry. They have to be. There’s no way they can make it on their own. The prophets can’t make it without the intercessors. The prophets and intercessors can’t make it without the Cyruses. The whole thing was made to go together.

## **CYRUSES BRING WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING, AND IMPARTATION**

God is setting up divine alliances, even in this hour, where He’s joining them together. We’ve been seeing this in the last ten years. This thing is speeding up with rapid growth. There’s a radical paradigm shift where the marketplace people, the prophetic people, and the intercessors are finding one another, because they value and honor each other in ways they didn’t in years past. The marketplace assignment isn’t just the men who make the money so that they can fund the next building program. That’s not what that’s about. The marketplace assignment, as you know, is an assignment to walk in the wisdom of God, to give godly impartation into that sphere of society; actually to make the name of God known to the people you work with and the people whom business affects. It’s far more than just becoming a supply for the new church building. That’s not what the Cyrus calling is about. Yes, they’ll be a supply, but that’s not the biggest thing they offer. They’ll bring wisdom and understanding, and they’ll have impartation, because they have this calling in the marketplace that’s just as powerful as the calling in the pulpits. It’s just different.

What’s the most powerful instrument in the symphony? I don’t know, I want them all. I don’t want the symphony without the instruments in it. What’s the most important player on the football team? It’s the quarterback. The quarterbacks do pretty badly if they don’t have the other men in place. I don’t care how good

he is; he's a mess without the other people. It's the same thing in the callings in the kingdom. We all know that. I'm preaching to the choir here, but it's kind of fun.

Top of page two. Now, this is what God promised to do in preparing Cyrus, and it's more than preparing Cyrus. These were promises made 100 years before he was born. This is in God's heart before Cyrus ever went to a prayer meeting, before he ever learned business. Cyrus didn't earn this. That's one of many reasons why it was given 100 years ahead of time.

Beloved, God has a calling for you that you can't earn. Yes, you must mix with faith. You must take the various risks. You must have diligence. Even then, that's not the main reason why it works. I have to work hard here at IHOP-KC. I put in long hours, and a lot of energy, but IHOP-KC isn't mostly working at all. There's an invisible dimension of the Spirit of God drawing and inspiring and giving ideas and aligning that no amount of work on my part or the part of 100 other leaders can create by ourselves. It's an invisible hand moving. We understand it. Does that mean I can just be lazy? No. When I work diligently, and even if I work in wisdom and skill, that's still just a fraction of the reason this is happening. It's the invisible "hand of God" dimension that's at work. That's what the Cyrus calling is about. Though the work and the risk and the humility and the generosity is necessary, it's not mostly why Cyrus succeeds.

Here's what the Lord tells Cyrus in Isaiah 45:1-6. "Thus says the Lord to His anointed. . ." (Isa. 45:1). Again, it's unthinkable to call a gentile, pagan king the anointed. He didn't say, "You're the Messiah," but it's the same word.

I think Isaiah said, "Ahh, Lord this hurts. This is a hard one; man, this one is tough."

"Say it, Isaiah."

"OK, I'll say it, but ouch."

I think it even hurt the prophet to say it. I know it hurt the ears of the people when they heard it. "Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus. . ." In other words, "Give this message to him."

Again, Cyrus wasn't born for 100 years, and he wasn't in office for another fifty years, when he ruled Babylon. Daniel was the prophet at the very top of the government in Babylon when Cyrus' army came in and his government took over. I believe that Daniel got the word to Cyrus, and revealed what the storyline was from the Hebrew prophets. I believe Cyrus thought, "Wow, what? Prove that to Me." It was all clear in the book: his name and everything. I tell you, I would love to have been there when it connected with Cyrus, I'm assuming through the communication lines from Daniel at the top of the Babylonian government. When Persia took over Babylon in Cyrus' day, Daniel was at the very top of that government. I have no doubt there was a communication of information. Also, God communicated directly to Cyrus as well. "Tell this to Cyrus: I'm going to talk to you."

You're CyruSES at various levels. Some of you will touch nations, some of you cities, some of you neighborhoods. Others of you will have differences that no one has seen before. Thus says the Lord to you, "I will hold your right hand. I will guide you along the way. You'll subdue nations. You'll have victory over your

adversaries. You will loose the armor of kings, to open before these Cyruses the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut.”

Look at verse 2. The Lord tells Cyrus, “I will go before you. I will make the crooked places straight. I will break in pieces the gates of bronze, and cut in pieces the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness. I will give you hidden riches in places you cannot see”—in unexpected places (Isa. 45:2-3, paraphrased).

### **IN ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, THE NATIONS WILL KNOW THAT HE IS GOD**

Here’s what will happen. “You, Cyrus, will know that I am God. Cyrus, I’m calling you for the sake of Israel as well” (Isa. 45:4, paraphrased).

Then He says, “Not only that: I will gird you; I will strengthen you. Though you don’t even know Me, you personally will be impacted. But not only that. It’s for the sake of Jacob and Israel, My elect, that I’m doing this. I’m calling you. Not just for your sake am I making these promises to you. I will visit you before you’ve ever had a chance to earn any of it or be disqualified from it” (Isa. 45:5, paraphrased).

“That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting” (Isa. 45:6, paraphrased).

In other words, “From one end of the earth to the other; from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets. From one end of the earth to the other, the nations will know that I am God.”

### **IT’S NOT THE PROPHET OF GOD, BUT THE GOD OF THE PROPHET**

There are three things going on here that I have later on in the notes. God says, “Cyrus, I’m doing this so that you know that I’m God. I’m doing this so that Israel knows that I’m God. I’m doing this so that the ends of the earth know that I’m God. I’m bringing together a divine strategy with so many levels of impact and expression that I’m going to make Myself known to the earth.”

Notice, it’s not so that Cyrus is made known, but that the name of the Lord is made known. As one man said, “It’s not the prophet of God, but the God of the prophet.” That’s central to this. It’s not the phenomenal marketplace success, but it’s the God who orchestrated that success. We know that. The Lord really is serious about this. It’s easy to say it, and then, when the success begins to happen, we kind of get a little shy. We kind of get a little cold about the Lord being central.

### **GOD IS GIVING YOU AN ASSIGNMENT THAT YOU CAN’T FULFILL WITHOUT HELP**

Let’s look at page two. Paragraph A. He calls Cyrus His anointed. Now when Cyrus is called “the anointed,” this shocks Israel. Cyrus is a gentile. God is saying, in essence, “I’m going to release supernatural ability to help them.” Beloved, God is going to give you something, an assignment that you can’t fulfill without help. If there’s not an invisible hand helping you, you can’t make it happen. It’s like the preacher said, “It’s safer to be with Jesus on the water than without Jesus in the boat.”

We like to be in the boat. Jesus is out there. He says, “Come out of the boat.”

Peter says, “I’ll do it.” He gulped a few times, but he walked on water. I tell you, it’s safer on the water in a storm with Jesus than in the boat without Jesus.

There are real risks. We really have to do it. The name of the Lord will be made known. The Lord will have an invisible influence. There will be a working, a stirring, a joining, a providing, a giving of wisdom in that day. The Lord will give His wisdom, day by day. He will solve problems we could never solve ourselves, even by sitting around the table and trying to solve them.

I remember when I first said yes to the Lord to do IHOP-KC.

I'm going to tell you this: I've been pastoring for twenty-five years. The Lord had spoken many years ago, specifically in 1983, that we would have twenty-four hour prayer with singers and musicians. That didn't interest me at all, just so you know. In the hour when He spoke it, I thought, "Twenty-four hour prayer with singers and musicians?"

In 1983, He spoke it audibly. We put the sign on the wall. We had that sign on the wall for sixteen years in our prayer room: "Twenty-four hour prayer with singers and musicians." We call it, "In the spirit of the tabernacle of David." That means singers and musicians.

People would ask for sixteen years, "What's that?"

I said, "I don't have a clue."

"When?"

"I don't know."

"How?"

"I don't know."

"Why?" I could guess a few reasons why. I mean, when the Lord first said it, I was mystified, not excited. We were in a prayer time. We were in a time of twenty-one days of fasting and prayer in 1983. I was twenty-seven years old, pastoring a young adult church. We were meeting all day long. It was boring and oppressed. It was terrible. The Lord spoke this audibly. I thought, "Wait." We met from six in the morning until twelve at night. I thought, "We're doing this thing. We're laboring to have this baby. The baby is revival. We're fasting and praying, it's terrible, oppressed, and boring, and You're telling me, God, that the answer to our laboring for this baby is, 'Yea, thus says the Lord, you will have labor pains for the rest of your life?'"

That's what I heard when I heard "twenty-four hour prayer." I said, "I'm going to do this the rest of my life? No way. There's not a chance I'm going to do this. I don't want to do this, but I will."

It wasn't a great thought. Now I look back and say, "Wow," but I couldn't picture a lot of things. Sixteen years went by, and all along we had the sign on the wall. Finally, we started doing it.

I said, "OK Lord, here's the deal." The Lord is so nice, He'll actually let you wrestle with Him and pin Him down. It's like when my sons were little. They were two and four. We would wrestle and I would let them pin

me down. They were so excited when they pinned me. The Lord lets you pin Him sometimes. We say, “We got you.”

The Lord says, “This is so fun.”

I said, “OK, here’s the deal, Lord. You have to do your part.” He must have been smiling all the time. Little Peewee is telling Him how this thing works. I would be Peewee; He would be the Boss. I said, “Here’s the deal: I’ll do this. Here’s the arrangement. I’m not going to raise money. I’m not going to do it. I’m not going to make one trip, one time, ever. I’m just not going to do it. Number two, I’m not going to recruit leaders. I’m not going to get on an airplane and ask them to do it. If a leader comes here and sits across my table and says, ‘Shall I join?’ I’ll tell them how they can fit, but I’m not going to recruit leaders. Number three: I’m not going to come up with any good ideas. I’m not going to wrack my brain. I’m not going to figure out anything. I’m just not going to do it. That’s Your job. You have to bring the money, You have to send the people, and You have to give the ideas. You have to give these phrases here and there to different people. I’m not going to wrack my brain, stay up all night, and try and figure this out. I can’t; there’s no possible way. I really can’t do this.”

I said, “Here are the three things I’ll do that You can’t do.”

Yes, I said that right: “You can’t do.” Because God can’t do man’s part. I said, “I’ll work long hours in my physical body. You can’t do that. Only I can do that with my body. I’ll do the long hours. I’ll do that.”

I think the Lord said, “Good.”

### **THE LORD WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF SOLVING THE CONFLICTS**

“Number two: I’ll be involved in the process of solving conflicts.” Anytime you get a lot of people together, there are a lot of conflicts. I said, “I’ll bear the burden of solving the conflicts that are constant.” We have eighty-five departments. Constantly there’s someone who doesn’t get what should be theirs. There are 1,000 people and eighty-five departments. I think, “This is wearisome, but this is my part of the deal.”

I said, “That’s the arrangement. I’ll work long hours. I’ll sit at the table, work on conflicts, and not quit. I’ll say things that make people mad, unpopular things, if you tell Me to do it. I do my part, because You can’t do that part. You can’t speak through a voice that won’t say yes to You. I’ll do my part; You do your part. You bring leaders, You bring money, You give me ideas.”

I felt the pleasure of the Lord. I think He smiled and said, “You know what, I’m going to let you wrestle Me down and let you have it that way.”

No matter how much effort I put in, without those three parts of the Lord—and He has many other parts as well—it doesn’t work. It just doesn’t work. I don’t care what you do; that thing will fall apart in a moment if that invisible hand is lifted. We need the favor of God. Being successful a month ago is no guarantee for success next month. The minute that invisible hand isn’t holding it together, this thing will fall apart in thirty days.

I say, “Lord, I get it. People have visited. This thing is strong and is growing.” I say, “We’re so fragile, but the reason it’s growing is because there’s an invisible hand.” If it lifts, we’re broken. If it stays, we succeed. We’re not tricked about why it’s working. God is doing the same thing in the marketplace and in all kinds of different

assignments. The Lord will do things, and He may not have the same arrangement with you, but ask Him what the arrangement is. You do your part and do it hard. I guarantee you, and you already know, that if God doesn't do His part, that business will blow away like chaff in the wind. Everything is a minute away from caving in—everything in the earth: governments, banks, businesses, relationships—if the hand of God does not sustain it.

We say, “Lord, we love You. We need You for our very breath right now.”

The Lord might answer something like this: “Yes, and even more than you know.”

“Lord, we're little men, and You're the big One. You're the smart One. We need mercy.” We fail, we stumble, but we push delete all the time. It's called *repentance*. We sign up again—over and over and over again.

I tell folks, the story of IHOP-KC isn't the story of amazing this, that, and the other. I've heard leaders from different places say, “How do you do this?” The story of IHOP-KC isn't how strong IHOP-KC is; the story is how weak we are.

You see our singers and musicians on the stage. You'll see them at the right time. You think, “Wow.” I see them off the stage. I've been here for twelve years. Trust Me, we're fragile, weak, and a minute from breaking at any given time. The miracle isn't that they are awesome; the miracle is that they aren't awesome. We're ordinary folks. It's just us, but we keep on signing back up day after day. When we fail, we push delete and sign back up.

That's the wisdom of it, that the awesome God says, “I can work with that. I can make something awesome out of something that's broken individually.”

Beloved, that's the story of the Body of Christ. Because I have security in that storyline. If the storyline is, “We're massively brilliant, dedicated, and amazing,” I'm absolutely terrified about falling apart next week. If the storyline is, “We're weak and broken, but He's holding us up,” beloved, you can go to sleep with that kind of storyline. Because He gives to His beloved even in their sleep (Ps. 127:2).

I'm speaking about ministry, but it's the same thing in the marketplace. It's the exact same mindset. When it says here in paragraph A, “His anointed,” what I hear in that phrase is, “I will release the anointing through the invisible hand of God. It's the invisible hand that sets things in order. I'll sustain that.” That's what I hear when I see the word *anointed*.

I think, “Lord, I don't have a chance without that. I don't have a chance without that.”

The worst possible thing is that the Lord lifts His hand and the institution goes on for another decade. It's more bitter than death. Sometimes Jesus passes through the room, when He's been long gone from the ministry. The fragrance that He released when He walked through years ago is still lingering in the air. They keep perpetuating all the religious motions. I say, “Lord, I don't want that. I don't want the memory of when You were with us. I want the reality that in our weakness and brokenness, we can encounter You day by day in the little ways together.”

That's what the anointing means to me. It's the invisible hand, the dimension of favor, in the midst of our weakness and brokenness. We must work hard. We must respond in humility. We must search it out. We must hassle in the conflicts. We must say unpopular things. The Lord does the other part, which is the really difficult part. He keeps it together at every level. This is true, not only of ministries, but of families, businesses, governments, banks, everything. Everything in life stays together because of His favor.

Paragraph B. "Whose right hand I have held" (Isa. 45:1b).

The Lord says to you, Cyrus, "I will hold your hand in the process. I promise you I will. If you'll make time, you'll find out that I held your hand and led you."

### **YOU WILL SUBDUE NATIONS AND LOOSE THE ARMOR OF KINGS**

Paragraph C. "You will subdue nations" (Isa. 45:1c, paraphrased). You will conquer those who are adversarial towards you. Most of you won't be in a position to conquer a nation. In the symbolic sense, there will be adversaries, and the Lord will subdue them. You'll do it for us, and you do your part.

Paragraph D. "You will loose the armor of kings" (Isa. 45:1d, paraphrased). A king had a leather belt, with swords, blades, and weapons in his robe. When he loosed his belt, he was disarming himself. He was giving up. What the Lord is telling Cyrus is this: "I will cause those attacking you to give up. They'll take their belt off and they'll surrender and back out of the conflict. Mostly because they can't win, but regardless, they'll back out of the conflict.

I said, "Lord, I need this. I need this dimension. I need enemies to be disarmed and to back out. I can't do it."

The Lord says, "I'll do that. Trust Me. I'll loose the armor of kings. I'll do this for My Cyruses."

Paragraph E. "I will open before him the double doors" (Isa. 45:1e, paraphrased). They're the double doors of opportunity; the double doors of blessing. You open one door and you bring in the cartload of supplies. The double doors means you bring double. You bring double carts through. It's double opportunity, which means double provision.

### **"I WILL GO BEFORE YOU AND MAKE THE CROOKED PLACES STRAIGHT"**

Paragraph F. I love this one. "I will go before you and make the crooked places straight" (Isa. 45:2). "I will go ahead of you." And that's what He's doing to some of you right now. And you're going to walk into the plan a year from now, two years from now, three years from now. He's setting us situations that you'll step into. The mindset of the people, the arrangement of things will be set up. You'll say, "It's almost like this was organized for me. What is this?" Though it will be new to you, it will be clear that the handiwork of God has been involved for many years ahead of you. "I will set it up for you. That's My invisible hand. I will go ahead of you."

He's setting up the businesses and the bankers that are going to give you favor ten years from now. I'm not saying it will take ten years. You'll have favor, many times, but there's favor down the road being set up right now that you currently don't even have a clue is being set up.

I look at this and claim all of this. “Lord, I need all this. I can’t fulfill my assignment without this.” Again, there are various levels of this for everyone. Some have larger measures of this, and others lesser measures.

Paragraph G. “I will break in pieces the gates of bronze” (Isa. 45:2b). Bronze gates are hard to break. First you have the gates of bronze, and then iron bars are laid down to fortify them. “How are we going to get through this gate? Uh, that’s not working. Uhh, that’s not working. Effort isn’t making this work. Let’s ram the gate. That’s not making it work either. It’s fortified.”

The Lord says, “I will remove the strongest hindrances. I’ll do it for you. It will be My hand, because I have a purpose.”

Paragraph H. “I will give you treasures of darkness, hidden treasures” (Isa. 45:3, paraphrased). In our application, these are unexpected, divine ideas; unexpected wealth, unexpected alliances. In all these ways, He will give us unexpected treasure.

#### **“I WILL GIRL YOU, THOUGH YOU HAVE NOT KNOWN ME”**

Paragraph I. “I will gird you. I will make you strong, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting, to the ends of the earth, My name will go forth because of your labors” (Isa. 45:5-6, paraphrased). These are all promises; and they don’t just lie dormant, we speak them to God. We need intercessors proclaiming these. The Cyruses have to have a life of prayer, but they’re not the full-time, fully engaged intercessors. A Cyrus must have intercessors, and intercessors must have Cyruses. In my home, my wife is the Cyrus and I’m the Anna. It works.

Paragraph D. I like D. I’ve said it twice, but I’ll say it a third time. Notice the progression. Cyrus will know God, Israel will know God, and the nations will know God. There are three dimensions of God’s purpose going on.

#### **HARRY S TRUMAN: A MODERN-DAY CYRUS**

Let’s go to paragraph E. Harry S Truman was the president of the United States. He lived half a mile from here. We could like Harry S Truman. Everything around here is named *Truman*. He was the man whom God used in the human sense to establish the nation of Israel after 2,000 years of not having a homeland.

This is a story that has been told and written up in many places. It’s the famous story of the time when he went to the Jewish seminary in New York City, right after he left office. He was introduced at the podium as “the man who helped create the state of Israel.”

Harry S Truman famously replied, “What do you mean, ‘helped’ create? I’m Cyrus.”

He wouldn’t say that in a proud way. In fact, the story goes that in his early days as a boy, his Sunday School teacher told him, “Harry, you’re Cyrus; you’ll see that one day with your own eyes,” and gave him Isaiah 45. It moved him all of his days.

I should have told this story in the right sequence. One of the reasons he said what he said is because, the year after Israel became a nation, in 1949, the chief rabbi of Israel flew over to the White House and read the story of Cyrus to Harry Truman. Tears began to flow down the president’s face. The rabbi told him, “You’ve been given the task of fulfilling the sort of thing that Cyrus did, and you’ll go down in the history of Israel like a Cyrus.”

It's reported that tears were flowing down his face. He already knew that. Now the next time he was at the theological seminary, after talking to the rabbi, he said, "I know. I know that's who I am."

### **BECOMING A MODERN-DAY CYRUS**

Paragraph F. I believe there are modern-day Cyruses. No one would have a more dramatic role than Harry S Truman in being a Cyrus who affected the nation of Israel.

Becoming a modern day Cyrus. Paragraph F. We understand and commit to seek, to know what the Spirit is saying to the Church, to the nation, in terms of our own personal assignment. There's a bigger storyline than just our assignment. Cyruses are fulfilling their assignment in the context of a big storyline that the Spirit is orchestrating across the earth. We want to be people who know what God is saying. Along with this purpose, in a very specific way, Cyrus was to build the city of Jerusalem and the temple. Those are two very specific things. I believe that the modern-day Cyruses will have assignments in the Church and in the nations. I believe there are Cyruses that the Lord has established even now who will begin to understand their relationship and success to the city of Jerusalem and God's purpose. I don't want to go into what I think that is; I have imperfect understanding of it. We only know in part.

Here's what I say to Cyruses: ask the Lord, "What is this Israel thing?" Because beloved, it's critical to the Cyruses. Say to the Lord, "I don't get the Israel thing." According to Isaiah 45, he was made the wealthiest and most powerful man in the earth—not just so that he could show off and have a lifestyle of power, influence, and luxury. He was made wealthy and powerful so that he could touch God's purpose for Israel.

God is raising up gentiles today who will touch the Church and the nations. They will have personal assignments. They will be involved in the larger storyline. They will connect in different ways to God's purpose in Jerusalem, which is building that city and standing for what God says about that city—not even for what the Jews or different Christians say about it, but what God says about it.

### **BUILD THE PRAYER MOVEMENT IN YOUR PART OF THE EARTH**

And it's more than that. We lay the temple. We lay the foundation of the temple. We build the house of prayer. Cyruses must build the temple. I encourage all the Cyruses everywhere: build the prayer movement in your part of the earth. Wherever you are, ask the Lord. You don't have to figure out what to do by tomorrow. Spend the next few months asking the Lord, "What's the deal with Israel? Talk to me. Who are the intercessors. I want to get connected in my region. Who are they?" When we talk to the intercessors, we tell them to begin to ask God who the Cyruses are.

Roman numeral IV. Top of page four. I've said it all, so I'll just say a point or two and leave you to read the rest.

### **SUPERNATURAL REVELATION, INTERCESSION, AND THE MARKETPLACE CALLING**

Paragraph A. The prophets have supernatural revelation; the priests have continual intercession; and the kings have the marketplace calling. They have to come together for the full purpose, and for supernatural favor, power, and wisdom to be released.

The prophets fuel the intercessors. The prophets give insight and inspiration. Beloved, without the prophets, the intercessors will run out of fuel. Then the intercessors cry night and day and release the favor on the Cyruses. Then the Cyruses have wisdom about issues that are coming up in the building of cities. They have insight into leadership and economics. They use some of that to strengthen the prophets and the intercessors, and it's one great connection together. I like to say, "What God has joined together, let not man separate" (Mt. 19:6). God wants a deep relationship between these three ministries. You can say it in different ways.

Paragraph B. I talk about how Daniel did that. He was the prophet and the intercessor. He literally labored for Cyrus. He was dynamically connected to Cyrus in crying out. It's quite remarkable. That's for another time.

Paragraph C. There's coming a transfer of wealth in the end times. The transfer of wealth, as well as the emergence of the Cyruses, is in the context of great conflict in Israel and in the nations.

Notice that He says, "I will shake the nations," and, "The gold is Mine" (Hg. 2:6-8, paraphrased). "I will shake the nations, and the gold is Mine."

One group says, "The gold is God's and He's giving it to His people."

The other group says, "He's shaking the nations." The two need to come together. He's shaking the nations, and there will be a transfer of wealth and the release of the great harvest. The nations will come to the One whom the Bible calls here, "The Desire of All Nations." The great harvest comes, and the transfer of wealth.

Paragraph F. Marketplace breakthrough. I'll say what we've already said, and I'll end with this. The Cyruses must receive prophetic direction. For, even though they have prophetic insight themselves, they need the enhancing and strengthening of the prophets. They must take the risks; they must embrace the labor. They must engage in the warfare. Then they use their resources and their influence and their wisdom and impartation for kingdom purposes. You get a man or a woman; whether you're twenty years old or eighty, it doesn't matter. He's calling Cyruses at twenty and retooling Cyruses at eighty. If you become one of those guys or gals, you'll have a bull's eye on you from the kingdom of darkness. You'll be targeted by the kingdom of darkness. You're a risk-taker who's engaging in the warfare and the labor, and you're going to use the influence and the wisdom and resource to build the kingdom, but you don't think the enemy will come against you.

God says, "Don't worry, I've set you in the context of prophets and intercessors." But it needs to be real.

Someone says, "How does this work?"

I say, "Well, there are several different ways it works."

Ask Him. Just ask Him: "Lord, I need some prophets and intercessors. I'm a Cyrus, but I don't know at what level. I need some other Cyruses."

Call out for it, and the Lord will bring it together in a way that's different from the other place. Amen.