

# *Prophetic Fall Feasts of The LORD*

Lesson #5 Cyrus The Great: Type of Jesus Christ - Feb. 6, 2019

The struggle between Judah and Babylon was long and ultimately disastrous for Judah. Judah suffered mightily at the hands of the Babylonians.

1. During the reign of King Jehoiakim [609—597 BC], "Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up [900 mi.], and Jehoiakim became his servant for three years." [II Kings 24:1] The beginning of Jehoiakim's servitude was 605 BC. [1<sup>st</sup> Babylonian Invasion: 605 BC]
2. Jehoiakim paid the Babylonians tribute from the treasury and gave them valuable artifacts from the Temple which were taken to Babylon.
3. Nebuchadnezzar also took the "cream of the crop" to Babylon - Daniel and his 3 friends.
4. Three years later, Judah's king rebelled against Babylon, refusing to pay the tribute.
5. Nebuchadnezzar left Babylon in 598 BC to deal with Judah's revolt > 2<sup>nd</sup> Bab. Invasion
6. He arrived in Jerusalem ~ March, 597 BC and laid siege on the city. II Kings 24:11-14
  - King Of Babylon carried off all the treasures of the house of the LORD
  - Carried off the treasures of the king's house
  - Cut in pieces all the vessels of gold in the temple of the LORD, which Solomon had made, and the LORD had foretold.
  - He carried away all Jerusalem, all the officials, all the mighty men of valor, 10,000 captives, [Ezekiel] all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained, except the poorest.
7. Judah continued to exist under Babylonian rule with King Zedekiah, installed as a puppet king in 597 BC. Zedekiah rebelled.
8. 3<sup>rd</sup> Babylonian Invasion: In his anger, Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem and laid siege to it. [II Kings 25:1 - 10<sup>th</sup> day of 10<sup>th</sup> month; ~587 BC]
  - They pitched against it; and they built forts against it round about.
  - Desperate Conditions: And on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the 4<sup>th</sup> month [9<sup>th</sup> of Av] the famine prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land. [II Kings 25:3]

Lam. 4:10 The poet of Lamentations paints the picture more poignantly, "the hands of compassionate women had boiled their children, they became food for them."

Desperation reigned. Things deteriorated further. The walls were breached and the Temple and Palace were burned to the ground, along with all the houses of Jerusalem [II Kings 25:9-12]. The city fell in 586 BC.

Jer. 25:10-11 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years."

Lam. 5:2 Our inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens.

Lam. 5:11-12 Brutality of a different sort began as hand-to-hand combat concluded: "women in Zion were raped, virgins (raped) in the cities of Judah" and "princes were hung by their hands." Words could not adequately describe the horror.

Profound sorrow and anger flowed from the hill of Zion.

Nebuchadnezzar's campaigns against Judah had brought bloodshed, starvation, and destruction. Judah remembered Nebuchadnezzar as a brutal conqueror.

The Jewish survivors were hauled across the Syrian Desert to Babylon, many of them perishing along the way. Only the poorest of the peasants of Judah were allowed to remain in the land which was by now a place of complete desolation.

The Southern Kingdom of Judah had ceased to exist, the monarchy ended and this marked the end of the First Temple Period.

1. They lost their independence.
2. They lost their land.
3. They lost their wealth and their leading people.
4. They lost their city and temple.
5. They lost their hope.

Fast forward: Captivity = Daniel, an old man probably ~ 84, had been in Babylon for nearly 70 years. He knew from reading the recently completed scroll of Jeremiah's writings that the 70 years of captivity God had ordained for Israel was just about over. [Jer. 25:8-11]

Dan. 9:2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet that He would accomplish 70 Years in The Desolations Of Jerusalem.

Jer. 25:11-12 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. <sup>12</sup> And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

End of the 70 years: God begins to work to fulfill His promise announced by His prophets:

- a. To RESTORE His people from Babylon
- b. To REBUILD the temple at Jerusalem
- c. To RENEW their hope that the Davidic kingdom would be restored

538 BC. Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon where the Jews had been held captive for 70 years.

Note: When Cyrus made his grand entrance, Daniel showed him an ancient scroll of Isaiah. It contained a personal letter addressing him by name! Note the prophecy:

Isa. 44:28 Who says of Cyrus, 'He Is My Shepherd, and He Shall Perform All My Pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," and to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."'

Isa. 45:1 Thus saith the LORD to His Anointed, To Cyrus,

Consider: It seems Cyrus is a type of Jesus Christ, a deliverer of God's people.

Note: Isaiah died 150 years before Cyrus was born. Prophecy was fulfilled in Ezra 1:1! Wow!

II Chron. 36:22-23 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, The Lord Stirred Up The Spirit Of Cyrus king of Persia so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah.

Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him and let him go up!

Prophecy Fulfilled: When the Persians overthrew the Babylonian empire in 539 B.C., Cyrus, the conqueror, issued a proclamation releasing the Jews from their seventy-year period of captivity.

Ezra 1:1-4 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, <sup>2</sup> Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

<sup>3</sup> Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.

Ezra 1:11a All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred.

The decree of Cyrus, as set forth by Ezra, contains the following elements:

- Jehovah is the God of heaven.
- By the providential operation of God, Cyrus had been given his international dominion.
- The God of the Hebrews had charged the Persian ruler to "build him a house" [temple] in Jerusalem of Judah.
- The Israelite people would be free to return to their homeland to engage this enterprise.
- Finances to assist with the endeavor were to be provided by the Persians among whom the Jews resided.
- It is noted further that the "timing" of this decree was in accordance with a prophecy uttered by Jeremiah. (Ezra 1:1).

God's use of Cyrus as a "shepherd" for His people illustrates the truth of Proverbs 21:1, "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases."

A future Time of 7 Year Tribulation: A Brief Summary

The unparalleled horror of The Tribulation is detailed in the Old and New Testaments.

Deut. 4:27-30 The first mention of the Tribulation in the Bible.

Before the Children of Israel entered the Promised Land, Moses warned them that if they were unfaithful to God, they would be scattered among the nations. He then prophesied that "in the latter days" they would come under "distress" and the result would be their return to the Lord.

Jer. 30:7 Centuries later, Jeremiah used the same terminology when he referred to the Tribulation. He called it "*the time of Jacob's distress.*"

Dan. 12:1 In like manner, Daniel called it "*the time of distress,*" and prophesied it would be the worst period of trouble in the history of the Jewish people.

Isa. 2:10, 17, 19 A day of "terror of the Lord" when the "pride of men will be abased."

Zeph. 1:15 A "day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of destruction and desolation."

Zeph. 1:17 Men will stumble around like they are blind and "their blood will be poured out like dust."

Mal. 3:1-4 Malachi stated it would be a time of refining for the Jews, as when silver is purified by fire.

Zech. 13:8-9 used the same imagery when he prophesied that two-thirds of the Jewish people will perish during this time. Of the remnant remaining, he wrote, And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

The Jews will not be the only ones to suffer during this period of unparalleled trouble.

The Bible is clear that all the nations of the world will experience catastrophic calamities.

Isa. 2:10-17 Isaiah says it will be "*a day of reckoning*" for all the nations of the world

Zeph. 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

Ps. 75:8 Psalmist Asaph: For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he pours out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out and drink them.

Rev. 6:15-16 John states the chaos will be so great the leaders of the world will crawl into caves and cry out for the rocks of the mountains to fall on them.

The specific event that will mark the 7 year count down will be the signing of the peace treaty or covenant between Israel and the Antichrist. This treaty allows the Jews to rebuild their Temple and restore their worship. [Dan. 9:27]

Dan. 9:24-27 This period will mark the time when "the prince who is to come" will "make desolate" - a reference to the Antichrist.

The dividing point between the two halves of the 7 years will occur when the Antichrist reveals himself by entering the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem, stops the sacrifices and declares himself to be god. [II Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:5-6]

Matt. 24:15-19 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

<sup>17</sup> Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house:

<sup>18</sup> Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

<sup>19</sup> And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

Matt. 24:21-22 Jesus said it will be a time of tribulation, "such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall." He said it will be so terrible that if it were not stopped at the end of 7 years, it would result in the destruction of all life.

Passages in Daniel and Revelation seem to indicate the acceptance of the Antichrist by the Jews will be as a political redeemer who miraculously works out a peace settlement that will guarantee their safety and enable them to rebuild their Temple.

There is no indication they accept him as a spiritual redeemer.

II Thess. 2:3-4 The Antichrist will go to Jerusalem, enter the Temple, stop the sacrifices, and desecrate the Temple by erecting a statue of himself and declare himself to be God.

The Antichrist becomes obsessed with annihilating the Jewish people during the last half which is referred to as the "great tribulation" or time of Jacob's Trouble.

Zech. 13:8-9 Two-thirds of the Jews will be killed.

The Antichrist will be possessed by Satan who is determined to kill the Jews.

Just as the Jews who left Jerusalem and were taken to Babylon, the Jews at the end of the Tribulation period will suffer the same losses.

1. They lose their independence.
2. They lose their land.
3. They lose their wealth and their leading people.
4. They lose their city and temple.
5. They lose their hope.

Rom. 9-11 God has promised to bring a remnant of the Jews to salvation through faith in their Messiah.

As Israel teeters on the brink of total collapse, suddenly heavenly forces led by the true Messiah will descend from heaven with a shout.

At God's appointed time, Jesus Christ will appear in all His glory at the Second Coming.

Rev. 19:11-16 And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. <sup>13</sup> And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup> And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

## Cyrus As A Type Of Jesus Christ

The Greek historian Herodotus records that, before Cyrus' birth, King Astyages dreamed that out of his daughter Mandane flowed a stream of water that filled his capital and flooded all of Asia. When he asked the interpreters of dreams what this meant, they told him that his pregnant daughter would have a son who would overthrow his rule.

In order to stop this perceived threat to his rule, King Astyages sent for his trusted servant Harpagus and told him to kill and bury his daughter's child as soon as it was born; however, Harpagus could not bring himself to kill the newborn child and instead gave him to a shepherd and his wife to kill. They were unwilling to kill the child and instead reared Cyrus as their own.

Harpagus' reluctance to kill the infant Cyrus and the emotional attachment to the newborn child by the married couple shows the Creator God's hand at work to fulfill his plan for Cyrus.

Does this not remind us of King Herod's attempt to kill Jesus in Bethlehem?

When Cyrus was ten years old, it was discovered who he was as the result of playing a childish game called "King of the Hill." Cyrus was able to escape to Persia. But King Astyages was angry with his steward and took revenge on him by inviting him to a banquet. The steward did not know until afterward that the main "meat" course included his own son who was killed and served on a platter of meat.

The steward managed to hide his anger, but never forgot the incident. Years later, with the incident long forgotten, the steward convinced the nobles of Media to revolt against Astyages under the leadership of Cyrus. In the war, King Astyages foolishly put the steward in charge of the army. The army was defeated, and Cyrus became the king of Media-Persia in 550 B.C. He defeated Babylon in 539 BC.

So not only was Cyrus a type of Christ in the events surrounding his birth, but he was also a type of Christ in that he overthrew Babylon.

Although a pagan, he had a profound sense of justice that few Israelite kings possessed.

His willingness to forgive his enemies did not go unnoticed by his contemporaries.

*He was an instrument God used to achieve an important part of His plan to End The Captivity Of His People And To Rebuild The Temple.*

Interesting parallels which exist between Cyrus and Christ.

### 1. The Anointed

Isa. 45:1 "Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus. [a tool in God's hands]"

- Jesus Christ was the anointed One.
- Acts 4:27 tells us the Supreme Anointed Is Christ.
- Acts 10:38 The apostle Peter speaks to Cornelius:  
"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power."
- As the Anointed, God chooses him. Jesus Christ is given a very specific and glorious mission, as was Cyrus.

Cyrus is set forth as the primary example to prove that God is sovereign over the kings of the earth--and that He does His will through them, whether they know Him or not.

Why God called Cyrus, though Cyrus did not know God:

Isa 45:6 "That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other.

God works out His will, and men follow it blindly, thinking that they are doing their own will, thinking the plan was their own.

## 2. The Shepherd

Isa. 44:28 "[I] saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure."

Cyrus was the shepherd of a great number of people whom he pacified, and whose lives he improved in his immense empire.

John 10:10 Christ is called The Good Shepherd. Give life & life more abundantly

## 3. Forgiveness

Notice the exceptional lesson found in the behavior of Cyrus who showed forgiveness toward his defeated enemies, something not generally done at the time. He knew one exercised better control over a vanquished country by making it an ally rather than a slave.

Matt. 9:6a But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,...

Luke 23: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

## 4. Riches

Isa 45:3 "I will give you ... Riches stored in secret places." Cyrus literally seized hidden riches in Sardis which helped make his empire extraordinarily powerful.

Rev. 5:12 "Worthy is the Lamb to receive power, and Riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing."

## 5. The submission of people to him:

The conquered Egyptians and all people prostrated and subjected themselves to Cyrus willingly; they were relieved by the new and generous administration that Cyrus granted to them.

Isaiah 66:23 "all flesh shall come to worship before me."

## 6. Release of the prisoners

Isa. 45:13 I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways:

"He shall let go my captives ... saith the LORD of hosts."

According to the Plan of God, Cyrus released the Israelites after 70 years of captivity in Babylon.

Jesus Christ will release humanity from the slavery of more than 6,000 years of sin and death. All the released prisoners in Christ's greater release in the kingdom will welcome Christ as well. Both the exodus and the defeat of Babylon picture the great release which will occur under Christ in the age to come.

## 7. The Benefits Will Not Cost Anything

Isa. 45:13 "Not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts."

Just as Cyrus gave freedom to Israelites without requiring a payment, Christ, who paid the ransom once and for all when he died on the cross, will liberally give life to those who seek him:  
Rev. 21:6 "I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."

## 8. The Rebuilding

The Jews had been captured and recaptured, enslaved and their kingdoms destroyed until their temples had been hewn down, their synagogues razed and their religion driven underground. Seen as a liberator, beloved by all, he was a champion of downtrodden as well as the privileged. He strongly believed no one should be terrorized, by the government or criminals.

Ezra 1:3 "Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to - Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel."

When Cyrus swept into Babylon he allowed the Israelites to come into the sunshine again. He rebuilt their temples and synagogues, he encouraged freedom, peace and prosperity and in doing so ruled over a loyal people.

Jesus Christ will return on the Feast of Trumpets which is also a New Moon to restore hope, rebuild, repair and refresh. [theme of New Moon events].

Mankind under the reign of Christ, will rebuild a new world and temple.

Isa. 51:10 Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.