> ways. He will build my city, and he will set my exiles free, not for price or reward, says the LORD of hosts.

The next passage that refers to Cyrus is Isaiah 46:11. It is introduced by a statement emphasizing God's power to accomplish what He chooses (46:10). Verse 11 reads:

Calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my purpose from a far country. Surely I have spoken, surely I will cause him to come. I have purposed it; surely I will do it.

Calling Cyrus a bird of prey might seem quite contradictory to the King James translation of 41:2, which calls helm "the righteous man from the east." As we shall see when we examine chapter 41, that phrase, more precisely translated "the man of righteousness from the east," is not a description of the character of Cyrus but a reference to what God would accomplish through him in establishing righteousness by working out God's just and holy plans. The figure of a bird of prey does not necessarily involve any criticism of Cyrus's moral character, but it is a very appropriate way of pointing out the nature of his career as one of constant conquest.

Before Cyrus conquered this great area, much of it was divided among various tribes or nations, each controlling a small region and often fighting against its neighbors. As a result of Cyrus's conquests, this whole area was integrated into a large region where individuals could travel more easily and within which the ordinary person could enjoy a far greater measure of freedom and opportunity for peaceful development than under the condition of having many small, independent sovereignties.

The final reference to Cyrus is in Isaiah 48:14-15:

> (14) Assemble, all of you, and listen. Who among them has declared all these things? The LORD has loved him. He shall carry out his purpose on Babylon, and his arm shall be against the Chaldeans. (15) I, even I, have spoken; indeed I have called him, I have brought him, and he will make his way successful.

There has been some disagreement as to the reference of the