

gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings?" You say, who is this righteous man? Well, we discussed it in the criticism of Isaiah, and so you all know that this refers to ~~the righteous man~~ Cyrus. Now, people in Isaiah's day must have been mystified. "Who raised up the righteous man from the east?" What is this ~~righteous~~ ^{righteous} man? Well, they say, He is giving us assurance of the end of the exile. He is picturing how it is going to come. How God is going to deliver His people. We are not yet in the exile, but we know it certainly is coming. He is picturing the end of it. There will be one then whom people will recognize, as the righteous man from the east.....

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.....and shortly before the end of the exile, the Jews there in Babylon see Cyrus coming from far east, from Persia, and they see him coming from the east, and ~~going~~ going to the north of Babylon with tremendous speed, his armies conquering section after section, and he goes clear across Asia Minor, and takes all this region before him, and until Babylonia is left almost by itself, and he conquered all the great regions of the north. Who ~~is~~ is this great righteous man from the east? Why they say, this man seems to be this great new oppressor, this new world conquerer....1½... And God said, I raised him up. He says, "Who hath wrought and done it?" v.4, "calling the generations from the beginning?" Who predicted in the time of Isaiah that this mighty Cyrus would come 100 years later? I the Lord. You see the omniscience here, the omnipotent God, and now the omniscient one. "I the Lord, the first and the last. I am he." And then he describes what happened ~~when~~ when Cyrus comes. "The isles saw it, and feared." The coastlands, the coasts of Asia Minor, the people of Greece see the coming of this mighty person, conquerer and the fear, and get all excited. "The isles saw it and feared; the ends of the earth were afraid, drew near, and came." And what did they do? Well, vv. 6&7 tell what they did, they made them new idols. They make some new idols, and they turn from the work of their hands. They turned to the work of their hands as if that would deliver them. He said, In the work of your hands you can't find deliverance. That's not the thing to do. You.....2½.....