

Prophets 93.

notice it doesn't say: "You are going to go into exile. After you have been there about seventy years God will raise up a great heathen conqueror who will come from another land and conquer Babylon and he will permit you to go back to Jerusalem and his name will be Cyrus." He doesn't say that. He introduces the actual name of the conqueror, Cyrus, simply in this incidental way that says it's Cyrus. He is my shepherd who will perform all ~~my~~ pleasure. If you think of it now as toward the end of the exile, here is the land of Babylonia with Belshazzar ruling and his father Nabonidus. Here is a great foreign conqueror, Cyrus, who has come out from Persia and he has conquered the Northern end of Mesopotamia and he has conquered all of Asia Minor. This great aggressor is moving forward and the people in Babylonia are terrified and they say, "Cyrus will be a great destroyer here when he comes" but the prophet says to the people: "No". he says, "Cyrus is an instrument in the hand of God" and he says, "God is going to use him for His own purposes." He says of Cyrus, this one you are all so afraid of, this great foreign conqueror, "He is my shepherd. He is going to perform my pleasure. He is going to cause Jerusalem to be rebuilt." Thus saith the Lord to Cyrus, "I have been leading Cyrus in his great conquests, and I'm even going to open the gates of Babylon before him and allow him to conquer what has been the mistress of the world. A very natural thing to say a few years

Prophets 94.

A very natural thing to say shortly before the end of the exile but a strange thing indeed to say at a period a hundred and fifty years before when nobody has ever heard the name Cyrus, a foreign name, a Persian name. They've had no contact even with Persia and God certainly might choose to predict a specific name of a specific ruler hundreds of years ahead but usually He will introduce it as He does Josiah: There will be born a man of the House of David named Josiah who will sit on the throne of David and who will come and do these things, instead of "That saith of Cyrus", this will happen. "Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus". this word anoint is the same word that we translate Messiah. to Cyrus, whose