

This is talking about Cyrus and it is only by analogy it can be taken. God tells Cyrus who is doing this great work and He tells him and it seems to be God's normal method of procedure and so he places it straight before the one whom he sends to perform the work. It does not mean He always does it--it might be God's will for a person to go through all the crooked ways before this is done. The walls of Jericho fell when the people marched around but there were plenty of other cities that did not and God in sudden cases will give us those things with out very little effort on our parts and then again He will not. There are cases too where it is His desire that we should fight and struggle for these different things. Just how much you can take one of these specific things and say it refers to me especially, I don't know. I heard a great fundamentalist say during a depression that when he saw a man begging, then he knew that one must not be a Christian, as Solomon said, "I was young but now am old, and never have I seen the righteous forsaken----". If Solomon had never seen it does it mean that no one else will ever see it? Does it mean that God will never permit a Christian to get in such a state? I do not think so at all. I think as a general principle due to their industry, the characters developed and all of that that the Christians do go ahead with God's blessing upon them as a general rule but I think there are many situations where His people will glorify Him by patient endurance and suffering. Adversity does come to the righteous as it came to Job. Ques. Some say this refers to all Christians. We can't say it go generally. Paul says it is Christ's message which he is bringing but we can't build too much on the particular verse. I wouldn't try to learn something about myself but I might take this verse as an expression of the principle which I find to be true. Even as God opened up the way before Cyrus, if I am truly in God's will in doing a work He wants me to do, then He will open up the way for me. He will in a general way open up and there are cases where we can expect Him to open up in a remarkable way. There may be other cases where He may seem to put great difficulties in the way. For His own purposes there may be great obstacles and if we don't accomplish anything it may be because we are wrong and we may not be in His will if we don't. You can take the general principles and see the general dealing with His followers but the possibilities are given there and you can see how they may relate to you. Get it-- There will be certain different attitudes which will apply to you in one way or the other. I don't think God wants us to simply pick a verse out and say this is what God wants for me. He wants us to get principles and to understand them. We are then to see how we can carry out His will in our lives. Ques. about