



THE STORY OF CYRUS THE GREAT

I want to tell you a story of a man named Cyrus who lived a long time ago. He was a great man and because he was great he bore the title of Cyrus the Great. Cyrus was an emperor who ruled from 560 to 539 B. C. and he ruled the largest empire of his time, the Achaemenian or Persian Empire. Throughout history the accomplishments of Cyrus the Great have been admired, studied and duplicated not only by leaders of countries but also by leaders in business. What was it about Cyrus that captured the attention of men and God?

Cyrus was born in 580 B. C. to a Median mother and an Persian father. Cyrus' father was a ruler or king of Anshan or Persia and his mother was the daughter of the king of Media. At the time of his birth, his Median grandfather had a dream that his grandson would one day take his throne. As a result, Cyrus' grandfather ordered that he be killed. Instead of slaying the baby as was ordered his steward took him to herdsmen to be raised away from his grandfather. Later his grandfather learns of the boy's existence and returns him to his parents. Cyrus grew up and became ruler of his father's kingdom. Because of his parent's marriage, he is subjected to the over-lordship of his grandfather. Now his grandfather was not very popular among his subjects and when Cyrus rose up in revolt, many of his grandfather's army followed him. Cyrus was successful in overtaking his grandfather's kingdom and that became the beginning of the Achaemenian Empire.

Cyrus continued to invade the Near East and much of Asia until his Empire grew to be the largest of that time. He captured such great cities as Babylon and Lydia. With each of his conquests came great wealth. He captured Babylon without the shedding of blood. The gates were left open and he just rode in receiving arms of welcome from the citizens of Babylon, allowing Cyrus to receive the greatest wealth transfer of all his conquests. Cyrus believed that he could rule and grow his empire more successfully if the people thought of him as a liberator instead of a conqueror. Because of this generosity, the Achaemenian Empire thrived for 200 years after the death of Cyrus.

At the time of the Babylonian fall, the Hebrews or Jews were captives, having been taken captive by Nicodemus 70 years prior. It was Cyrus who set them free and allowed them to go home. Cyrus provided for the Temple to be restored and for the stolen items to be returned to the Temple. History tells that Cyrus gave the Babylonian god Marduk credit for his accomplishments until he read the scriptures shown to him by the scribe Ezra. He saw his name and accomplishments written in the scriptures 100 years preceding his rule by the prophet Isaiah.

Why would God honor Cyrus, who worshiped and credited his accomplishments to another god? Why was Cyrus given access to untold riches that continued to flow throughout his kingdom for over 200 years? At the Cyrus School of Finance you will learn the (3) secrets that operated in Cyrus' life and resulted in him ruling over the largest empire of his time and acquiring great wealth.

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