



Empowering People to Change the World

Treasures of Darkness

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Strategic Prayer Night

Wednesday 9-30-2020

Isaiah 45:1-3, 13

- Unique mission given to Cyrus to bring the Jews back to Jerusalem
- King of Persia 559-530 BC
- 538 BC became ruler over Babylon
- Ezra 1
- Josephus writes that Daniel showed him the prophecy in Isaiah 45
- “Edict of Restoration”

Vs. 2-3

- One commentator writes, “This referred to the wealth of the vanquished pagan nations which was customarily concealed in subterranean vaults. Thus, they are called the treasure of darkness, i.e., treasures which came from darkness spiritually and literally. They were also called “the hidden riches of secret places (see Jer. 41:8; 50:37).”
- Of the treasures which fell into the hands of Cyrus, the greatest were probably those of Babylon (Herod., 1:183) and of Sardis (Xen., 'Cyrop.,' 7:2, § 11). The value of the latter has been estimated at above one hundred and twenty-six million sterling.
- Ellicot: The heaped-up wealth of “gold-abounding” Babylon. The capture of Sardis, with all the riches of Crœsus, must have been almost as fruitful in plunder. (Herod. i. 84). The conqueror was to see in his victories the token of the protection of Jehovah, and so accept his vocation as the redeemer of His people.
- Matthew Henry: The gates of Babylon which led to the river, were left open the night that Cyrus marched his army into the empty channel. The Lord went before him, giving entrance to the cities he besieged. He gave him also treasures, which had been hidden in secret places.

- Job 12:22: "He reveals mysteries from the darkness And brings the deep darkness into light."
- Barnes: The treasures of the kings of the East were usually hidden in some obscure and strong place, and were not to be touched except in cases of pressing necessity. Alexander found vast quantities of treasure thus hidden among the Persians; and it was by taking such treasures that the rapacity of the soldiers who followed a conqueror was satisfied, and in fact by a division of the spoils thus taken that they were paid. There can be no doubt that large quantities of treasure in this manner would be found in Babylon. The following observations from Harmer (Obs. pp. 111, 511-513), will show that it was common to conceal treasures in this manner in the East; 'We are told by travelers in the East, that they have met with great difficulties, very often from a notion universally disseminated among them, that all Europeans are magicians, and that their visits to those eastern countries are not to satisfy curiosity, but to find out, and get possession of those vast treasures they believe to be buried there in great quantities.
- Dr. Perry has given us all account of some mighty treasures hidden in the ground by some of the principal people of the Turkish empire, which, upon a revolution, were discovered by domestics privy to the secret.
- D'Herbelot has given us accounts of treasures concealed in the same manner, some of them of great princes, discovered by accidents extremely remarkable: but this account of Chardin's, of conquerors pretending to find out hidden treasures by means of sorcerers, is very extraordinary.
- The Jewish Rabbins say (f), that Nebuchadnezzar having amassed together all the riches of the world, when he drew near his end, considered with himself to whom he should leave it; and being unwilling to leave it to Evilmerodach, he ordered ships of brass to be built, and filled them with it, and dug a place in Euphrates, and hid them in it, and turned the river upon them; and that day that Cyrus ordered the temple to be built, the Lord revealed them to him: the riches of Croesus king of Lydia, taken by Cyrus, are meant;

especially what he found in Babylon, which abounded in riches, [Jeremiah 51:13](#). Pliny (g) says, when he conquered Asia, he brought away thirty-four thousand pounds of gold, besides golden vessels, and five hundred thousand talents of silver, and the cup of Semiramis, which weighed fifteen talents. Xenophon (h) makes mention of great riches and treasures which Cyrus received from Armenius, Gobryas, and Croesus:

God revealed to Cyrus where the hidden treasures of Nebuchadnezzar were to be found in order to bring them back to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple.

In a spiritual sense, Christ came to do the same!

- Loose the armor of Satan
- Open up the double doors
- Crooked places straight
- Break in pieces the gates of bronze
- Cut the bars of iron
- Give us the treasures of darkness; hidden riches of secret places

John 3:4-7:

*... as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying:
“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
Make His paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled
And every mountain and hill brought low;
The crooked places shall be made straight
And the rough ways smooth;
And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”*

Jesus’s Mission – Luke 4:18-19:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me ^[a]to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives*

*And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”*

We have Authority to Pull Down Demonic Dark Strongholds

2 Corinthians 10:1-6

- We have authority to pull down strongholds of the mind. Any area in our thinking that is not subjected to Christ can become an idol. We pull these strongholds down through renewing our mind.
- But there are also strongholds set up in society/culture that have enslaved people—like sex trafficking, drug dealers, criminal activity, etc.
- Even in such areas, we don't wage war just in fleshly ways but our weapons are mighty in God for pulling down these strongholds.
- These are the “the treasures of darkness; hidden riches of secret places.”
 - Encased in armor
 - Double doors
 - Gates of bronze
 - Bars of iron
- Our weapons are “mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”

We are Engaged in A Spiritual War of Prayer, Presence, and Proclamation:

- 1. Presence pulls down stronghold—your character and mindset**
- 2. Prayer (with Praise) pulls down strongholds**
- 3. Proclamation pulls down stronghold**

Review of the past few weeks:

- This life is all about overcoming. God is training us for reigning with Him in eternity.
- This world is given over to the evil one and God has placed us here to bring the Kingdom of God through a battle of overcoming forces that are arrayed against God.
- Satan and his demonic powers have authority on the earth. It has been given over to Satan when Adam gave up his right by sinning.
- This is where you and I were seated—in the earth—captured to the flesh, captured to spirit of this age.
- But we have been “made alive in Christ.”
- Promoted to a new place.
- Given a new inheritance of riches, power, and authority.

Ephesians 1-2

The Manifesto of the Authority of the Believer/Overcomer

Vs. 3 “Every Spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”

- These are the privileges, resources, power, and authority that are yours.
- Are you experiencing all of God’s blessings?
- It’s all about being “in Him” 7x over the next 11 verses.
- Write down all of these spiritual blessings as I read it ...

We are on the Throne of Authority with Christ

Ephesians 1:20—2:7

- This resurrection of Christ elevated Him to the right hand.
- He made us alive and raised us up to that place.
- Sharing His authority with us.

We have the DNA of Jesus

- When we surrender our lives to Christ, He comes to live within us through His Holy Spirit.
- This is the same Holy Spirit that empowered Christ on earth.
- We are “born again” reborn into Christ.
- No angels, principalities, or powers in the heavenly realm have the genes of Christ. They are only created beings, but we are created and regenerated into a new humanity, a co-regent with Christ over the earth.

Matthew 16:18-19 *Jesus said, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

- Overcoming the gates of hell—gates are opened with keys.
- We have been given the keys of the Kingdom.
 - Keys denote authority.
 - Keys unlock doors; keys unlock prison doors!
 - Every prisoner in a cell knows that the one with the keys holds the power!
 - To bind and loose on earth.
- **Lord’s Prayer:** “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

- Christ came as the Second Adam to restore His power and authority on the earth through His Church.
- Don't miss this: You are called to overcome every obstacle in your life! You can even overcome Satan!
- God is building a church of men and women who know their authority and power in Christ.
- You can become an overcomer over demonic forces that oppose you.
- The Church has a new authority through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ to "bind" and "loose" on earth, that reverberates in heaven.

Acts 16:25-40

- Prayer with praise breaks through:
 - Encased in armor
 - Double doors
 - Gates of bronze
 - Bars of iron
- These are the "the treasures of darkness; hidden riches of secret places"—the souls of men!
- Our weapons are "mighty in God for pulling down strongholds"

Ephesians 6 A Battle Manifesto

Vs. 10-17 Presence

- 1) Be "Strong in the Lord" Belief/Mindset. We are to stand strong in the Lord against demonic powers, rulers of darkness in heavenly places.

- 2) Be “Battle-dressed” Belief/Mindset. We renew our Belief System with a Battle Mindset. We take up the whole armor of God—this is a mindset!

Vs. 18 Prayer

- 3) Prayer in the Spirit. With the above mindset, we move into prayer!

Vs. 19-20 Proclamation

- 4) Bold Proclamation of the Gospel.

Focus on the Treasures of Darkness in America:

1. **Children, trafficked and enslaved for sexual exploitation.**
2. **Children, trafficked and enslaved for pornography purposes.**