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IS GOD GIVING AMERICA A SECOND CHANCE?

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We want to take our Scripture text today found in **Isaiah 45:1 -3**, **“Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved (swinging) gates; and the gates shall not be shut. I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel”**. It has been quite some time since America has been at the crossroads that I believe will determine our mere existence: presently we are at that crossroad. Throughout the Holy Scriptures God has given men the opportunity to make choices between good and evil. Again America is going to make a choice this coming fall for its national leadership. As a Christian you would be well advised in seeking God for direction concerning this nation because of your children, grand-children, and great-grandchildren. Often times we are prone to speculate about government and governmental officials that God will or will not use for His purpose. But we need to remember that all governmental rulers serve at God's pleasure and that the Lord can use virtually anyone to accomplish His purpose. Remember it is the Lord God of Abraham that takes the foolish things of the world to confound the wise so that no flesh can glory in His presence! In Isaiah's time, a

king named Cyrus ruled Persia, but it was actually Cyrus's grandson, better known as Cyrus the Great, who fulfills Isaiah's prophecy. Cyrus II came to power in 559 B.C. Under his rule, Persia became the empire that displaced Babylon. Cyrus demonstrated sympathetic policies toward the many people that the Babylonians had conquered and taken into exile. Cyrus made it possible for the Jews to return to Jerusalem and to begin rebuilding their Temple. With this mindset he became their anointed deliverer by overcoming their former captors. Cyrus in retrospect became a shepherd to God's people leading them safely back home and helping to restore unto them what the enemy had previously taken. I want to digress a little and look back at **Ezra 1:1**, **“ Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred the up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, the Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and yet charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in the Judah”**. I want you to witness how King Cyrus gave God all the glory in giving him all the kingdoms of the earth and he also declared, God has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem. I also want you to reflect on Donald Trump's theme or motif since running for president of the United States of America **“Make America great again.”** Cyrus decreed that all the Jews could return to their land and rebuild their

Temple, which was probably as startling in their present world as the collapse of the Berlin wall was to our modern world. Too often, as children of God, we limit the power of God and who God wants to use to fulfill His perfect will. King Cyrus gave unprecedented privileges to the many exiles that lived and remained throughout his conquered territories. He allowed most of them to return to their homelands, and he also permitted Israel to return and worship the only true and living God. Knowing that the Hebrews had no idols, Cyrus decreed that they could rebuild their Temple which had been destroyed by the Babylonians. Now Cyrus himself did not worship the true and the living God though God had placed him in this particular position as a world leader. Though God used King Cyrus to accomplish His will, the Bible is very clear that Cyrus did not know the Lord God of Abraham. We read in **Isaiah 45:5** **“ I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me.”** It is not my job to tell you whether Donald Trump knows God or not, that's between him and his Creator. What is truly perplexing is how King Cyrus made a proclamation that God had given him this great authority coupled with all the kingdoms of the world and yet he did not worship the Lord God of Abraham. Thus, God used a pagan King to fulfill Jeremiah's prophecy that the Jews should return to their home land after 70 years of exile. This is a very tremendous illustration of how God can use virtually anyone or any means to accomplish His will and His purpose. Regretfully, true spirit filled prophecy has been hijacked

by many people who seek and desire notoriety and have turned Bible prophecy into predictions and prognostications. The true spirit of prophecy is for the purpose of edification and comfort for the body of the Lord Jesus Christ. We read in **1st Corinthians 14:3, "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort"**. No matter how greatly one is gifted in the spirit, they must always walk in humility so as to not detract from what God is desirous to say and what men want to say. There is a very fine line between the Holy Spirit and the spirit of mankind when the gifts of the Spirit begin to operate. One of the great hallmarks of Cyrus was that he was humane and benevolent toward those whom he had defeated: I witness this same characteristic in Donald Trump. One of Cyrus's most politically popular policies was to allow those who were subservient to his authority to retain their own religions, and for the most part to do as they willed without his interference. Would it not be great for America to once again have a president who would allow us our true inalienable rights given to us by God and allow us to live our lives in peace and prosperity? Having done some limited historical research concerning Cyrus and his triumphant empire I learned that the Persians developed roads, cities, postal systems, and many legal codes. There is no doubt about it, the God that we serve is a God of great mercy and a God of second chances. I suppose my greatest question would be to you: is God giving America a second chance with an opportunity to repent and witness a great move of God in these last days? There is one thing I am certain of and that is if Jezebel gets into the White House, woe be to all of us. This woman will rule America with a ruthless, uncaring, arrogant, iron fist. There is a Bible prophecy found in **Isaiah 3:12, "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over**

them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths". I have certitude Jezebel will lead us into more chaos and erroneous paths than ever before. For over 38 years I have humbly fasted, prayed, and sought the face of God concerning my personal walk with him. There are untold millions of people in America who have also prayed and paid an extreme spiritual price in walking upright before God who do not have a platform nor a voice such as I. However, that does not negate the fact that God is going to honor their work and labor of love which they have demonstrated faithfully in His name here in these last days. Multitudes have sought God and many of them more years than I. No matter how tenuous and despicable America looks right now as a nation I do not lose hope in my God because my God can do anything! I've often said **"my God is the latest on time God I have ever witnessed."** Just when you think the battle is almost lost and victory cannot be obtained, God Almighty arises to the occasion and His enemies are scattered like the chaff in the wind. You are about to witness a move of God that is unparalleled to anything seen since the early church. I believe right now the church of the living God is being challenged to trust God and to stop honoring God with our mouths and with our lips and trust him with all of our hearts. Let each of us come humbly and prostrate ourselves at the foot of the cross through brokenness and contrite hearts with genuine repentance. The destination of America is truly dependent upon the church of the living God and responsible for America's ultimate destiny. You cannot lay the entire blame on sinful wicked men alone, but the church must accept its own responsibility in failing to be the salt and the light we were called to be. Paul the apostle declared in **Romans 5:5, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed**

abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us".

This verse encourages me to never lose my hope because the Holy Ghost has been shed abroad in my heart and that gives me unparalleled hope within my spirit to trust in the Lord with all my heart! In the very near future America is either going to witness the hand and blessing of God upon our nation or His vengeful wrath. Whichever way the hand of God moves, I want to encourage you to find yourself a refuge in the secret place of the most High God. The Lord God of Abraham has never failed you and He will not fail you now in spite of the uncertainty of our nation. God is still on His throne, thus no power in heaven above, nor in the earth beneath can overthrow the hand of God. Never forget the words of the sweet psalmist found in **Psalms 118:24, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"**. The Lord has made every day so let us rejoice and be glad in this day. Until next month, walk in the Holy Ghost and I'm confident you will have absolute victory in your life and that includes today.

Serving With You All,

Pastor David W. Lankford