

The Edict of Cyrus

I am Cyrus, king of the world, great king, legitimate king, king of Babylon, king of Sumer and Akkad, king of the four rims of the earth... when I entered Babylon... Marduk, the great lord induced the magnanimous inhabitants of Babylon to love me, and I was daily endeavoring to worship him... Marduk, the great lord, was well pleased with my deeds and sent friendly messages to myself, Cyrus, the king who worships him, to Cambyses, my son, the offspring of my loins, as well as to all my troops, and we all praised his great godhead joyously, standing before him in peace.



All the kings of the entire world from the Upper to the Lower Sea, those who are seated in throne rooms those who live in other types of buildings as well as all the kings of the West land living in tents, brought their heavy tributes and kissed my feet in Babylon. As to the region from.... I returned to these sacred cities on the other side of the Tigris the sanctuaries of which have been ruins for a long time, the images which used to live therein and established for them permanent sanctuaries. I also gathered all their former inhabitants and returned to them their habitations.... I resettled upon the command of Marduk, the great lord, all the gods of Sumer and Akkad whom Nabonidus had brought into Babylon to the anger of the lord of the gods, unharmed, in their former chapels, the places which make them happy.

May all the gods whom I have resettled in their sacred cities ask daily Bel and Nebo for a long life for me and may they recommend me to Marduk, my lord... (Proclamation of Cyrus, 538-7 BCE)

It is I who say of Jerusalem, "It shall be inhabited." And of the towns of Judah, "They shall be rebuilt; and I will restore their ruined places." I, who said to the deep, "Be dry; I will dry up your floods," am the same who says of Cyrus, "He is My shepherd;" He shall fulfill all My purposes! He shall say of Jerusalem, "She shall be rebuilt," and to the Temple: "You shall be founded again." (Isaiah 44:26-28)