

TEXT: JEREMIAH 51:20

“YOU ARE MY BATTLE-AXE AND WEAPONS OF WAR.”

For with you I will break the nation in pieces;  
With you I will destroy kingdoms;

Anyone that God decides to use as a battle axe, once he positions himself, he will be used.

For instance, AMP version recorded that this scripture was said to Cyrus.

<sup>20</sup>“You [Cyrus of Persia, soon to conquer Babylon] are My battle-axe and weapon of war— For with you I shatter nations, With you I destroy kingdoms. \_\_\_\_\_AMP

## BACKGROUND

Cyrus the Great was the founder of the Persian Empire. Under his rule, the empire embraced all the previous civilized states of the ancient Near East, expanded vastly and eventually conquered most of Western Asia and much of Central Asia.

His reign lasted 30 years. He built his empire by first conquering the Median Empire, then the Lydian Empire, and eventually the Neo-Babylonian Empire. He led an expedition into Central Asia, which resulted in major campaigns that were described as having brought "into subjection every nation without exception."

**God had said:**

**"You [Cyrus of Persia, soon to conquer Babylon] are My battle-axe and weapon of war— For with you I shatter nations, With you I destroy kingdoms.**

# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JEREMIAH 51:20

## In Ezra 1:

<sup>1</sup>In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, the LORD fulfilled the prophecy He had given through Jeremiah. He stirred the heart of Cyrus to put this proclamation in writing and to send it throughout his kingdom:

<sup>2</sup> **“This is what King Cyrus of Persia says:**

“The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has appointed me to build Him a Temple at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. <sup>3</sup> Any of you who are his people may go to Jerusalem in Judah to rebuild this Temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, who lives in Jerusalem. And may your God be with you! <sup>4</sup> Wherever this Jewish remnant is found, let their neighbors contribute toward their expenses by giving them silver and gold, supplies for the journey, and livestock, as well as a voluntary offering for the Temple of God in Jerusalem.”

**God stirred the hear of Cyrus. Cyrus believed it, wrote it down and followed true.**

## **After Cyrus came Darius (Ezra 6:2 ....)**

<sup>2</sup>And a scroll was found in the fortress of Ecbatana, in the province of Media, with the following written on it: “In the first year of King Cyrus, the king issued a decree concerning the temple of God in Jerusalem: Let the temple be rebuilt as a place to present sacrifices, and let its foundations be laid. It is to be sixty cubits high and sixty cubits wide, <sup>4</sup>with three layers of cut stones and one of timbers. The costs are to be paid from the royal treasury.”

<sup>6</sup>So King Darius sent this message:

**“I, Darius, have issued this decree. Let it be obeyed with all diligence.”**

<sup>16</sup>The Temple of God was then dedicated with great joy by the people of Israel, the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the people who had returned from exile.

The heart of Darius was again stirred up and he continued the mission.

Cyrus knew from onset that He needed God to be on His side to build his strength to greatness. So he committed to God from his first year based on the words of Jeremiah. As he committed to God he was convinced that **“The LORD, the God of heaven, will give him all the kingdoms of the earth.”**

**For a heart like Cyrus, God was committed to using him:**

*“YOU ARE MY BATTLE-AXE AND WEAPONS OF WAR.”*

*For with you I will break the nation in pieces;*

*With you I will destroy kingdoms; \_\_\_\_\_* **JEREMIAH 51:20**

**Isaiah 45:1**

"This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:

2“I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break down the gates of bronze and cut through the bars of iron.

## Result

In his 30 years of reign, Cyrus built his empire by first conquering the Median Empire, then the Lydian Empire, and eventually the Neo-Babylonian Empire. He led an expedition into Central Asia, which resulted in major campaigns that were **described as having brought "into subjection every nation without exception."**

## Ezra 1

<sup>7</sup>King Cyrus himself brought out the articles that King Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the LORD's Temple in Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his own gods. <sup>8</sup> Cyrus directed the treasurer of Persia, to count these items and present them to Sheshbazzar, the leader of the exiles returning to Judah. <sup>11</sup> In all, there were 5,400 articles of gold and silver. Sheshbazzar brought all of these along when the exiles went from Babylon to Jerusalem.

**The WORD of God will manifest in our life once we take deliberate steps and demonstrate commitment to the price required.**

**Isaiah 45:1 says** "This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him"

**Ezra 1**

**<sup>2</sup> "This is what King Cyrus of Persia says:**

"The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth (REWARD). He has appointed me to build Him a Temple (PRICE) at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

**Cyrus understood God's principle of PRICES AND REWARDS**

**Today's Christians even have better access to God than Cyrus. Just like Cyrus took time to build his relationship with God, we need to build our relationship, As believers, a little we put in bears great fruit.**

**Isaiah 41:13**

For I am the LORD your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you: "Do not fear, I will help you."

## SUMMARY

**As His Battle axe, He will use you to conquer nations**

### **1. What is the PRICE for the REWARD?**

- **Cyrus said** “The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has appointed me to build Him a Temple at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.
- **Cyrus took steps towards building the temple (Price)**
- He built his empire by first conquering the Median Empire (Reward)
- **Ask God to lead you to the first nation to conquer**

### **Isaiah 41:25**

**"I have raised up one from the north, and he has come--one from the east who calls on My name. He will march over rulers as if they were mortar, like a potter who treads the clay.**



### Isaiah 42:6

"I, the LORD, have called you for a righteous purpose, and I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and appoint you to be a covenant for the people and a light to the nations,

God does not necessarily wait for you to pay the price first

### Isaiah 45:5

I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God but Me. I will equip you for battle, though you have not known Me.

**Brethren** lets go and be His battle axe and weapon of war.  
For with you He will break the nation in pieces;  
With you He will destroy kingdoms.

**GOD BLESS YOU!**

# 2019 PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray over today's message. Like Cyrus, Lets affirm that we are His battle axe and His weapon of war and follow through.
2. For KCM ask for grace to diligently fulfil its mandate as "the house of prayer for all nations" (Isaiah 56:7), extending God's love to all the nations.
3. Prayer for the Leaders of Nations – their heart be stirred up like for Cyrus  
Proverbs 11:14 - Our leaders should seek God's guidance
4. Thank God for stopping the oppression of rebellious organizations. Ask Him for peace to reign
5. Continue to ask God to have mercy on our land, forgive our sins & heal us (2 Chro, 7:13-18).
6. Pray for Ministers and Missionaries.- for confidence as His battle axe and His weapon of war and follow through.
7. Pray for Marriages, Children and families. Restoration of troubled marriages & children - for confidence as His battle axe and His weapon of war and follow through.
8. Pray for Members of the fellowship - for confidence as His battle axe and His weapon of war and follow through.
9. Make a personal request (pray for yourself)
10. Pray for the needs of the members & the fellowship, and any special request.
11. pray for next Sunday.