Dear Open Door Family,

I have heard recently statements made by several who are angry, upset, or full of fear over the things that our current president is doing. Although I am troubled by much of what I hear and I would disagree with the methods. I do not think it is ever time to doubt the sovereignty of God. He knows exactly what He is doing and He moves the hearts of leaders and kings to accomplish His purposes. Cyrus of Persia is a case in point. God's plan required the Jewish people in exile to return to Israel. So he caused Cyrus to do exactly what He wanted him to do. So, let us not despair, or let our blood pressures get out of control. Let us pray for our president and trust God. Ultimately, He is in control. Let's look at this verse together.

***Ezra 1:1*** *(NIV) In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to FULFILL the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:*

Many years before God had given Jeremiah the horrible task of telling the people of Israel that they would be conquered and carried off to Babylon as slaves for 70 years as a punishment for their disobedience to Him. I love the wording in this verse. God wanted to perfectly fulfill the prophecies He had made through Jeremiah. So, He moved in the heart of Cyrus the pagan king of Persia. It was a simple enough thing for God to do. It was time, so God moved the most powerful man in the world at that time to do exactly what He wanted him to do.

**PRAYER:** Lord God, You are the one that moves in the hearts of Kings. Lord, Your plans and purposes will always be accomplished. Lord Jesus, I surrender to You today. May You have Your way in my heart, my mind, and my life today. May You fulfill Your plan in and through me.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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