

the physical world. "The Lord that makes all things, that stretches forth the heavens alone, that spreads abroad the earth by himself." Well how do you know the Lord has done all this. Well, the proof is that He can predict the future. His omniscience has proven His omnipotence. The Lord "that frustrates the tokens of the liars, and makes diviners mad, that turns wise men backward, and makes their knowledge foolish. That confirms the word of his servant." Here, the servant in this particular point here is Isaiah. It is not part of what you would say, of the teaching of the servant of the Lord, "that confirms the word of His servant" is simply saying, Isaiah has predicted it. God is confirming it. "That performs the counsel of his messengers. That says to Jerusalem. Thou shalt be inhabited." Isaiah is speaking to people in exile, Jerusalem has been destroyed. He says, it is going to be rebuilt. Thou shalt be inhabited. Prediction of deliverance from exile. "That says to the cities of Judah, ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof. That says to the deep," This is figurative language. It is used for the empires of Mesopotamia. "That says to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers." The two rivers of Mesopotamia. The Tigris and Euphrates. He is drying them up as a figure for destroying the power of the great Mesopotamian empire. How is He going to destroy the power of the great Mesopotamian empire. Why the next verse says, "That says of Cyrus", He is the one whom God is going to enable to conquer Babylon and to destroy the powers of the great Mesopotamian empire. "That says of Cyrus, He is my shepherd." Cyrus the great aggressor, the great wicked enemy. The ravenous bird from the east. Cyrus is God's shepherd, to do God's will. "He shall perform all my pleasure, even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid."

"Thus saith the Lord to his Messiah." Who is His Messiah? Cyrus. When did the Lord ever anoint Cyrus? The word is certainly used here in a figurative sense. Cyrus is one whom the Lord says that He has set apart for His work. Cyrus is one whom God is using as His instrument to release Israel from bondage. So He calls Cyrus and anoints him. To his messiah, to his anointed, to Cyrus. If we didn't have the word Cyrus here, I'm sure there are many people who would say, this must be talking about Christ, and would try to interpret everything in the reverse as referring to Christ. But it specifically says it is Cyrus, He is talking about. "Thus says the Lord to His