

## The Unique Cylinder

I am King C \_ \_ \_ \_ of Persia. I conquered Babylon. The captives in Babylon were set free by me. I even offered to help with goods and money so the people who wanted to return could rebuild their Temple in the city Jerusalem. I even sent back items the Babylonians had taken out of the Temple when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed it and Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

It is so strange but the prophet Isaiah called me by name so many years before I was even born! He also prophesied I would let the Hebrew captives return to their homeland 154 years before I did it. Critics of the Bible said no Middle Eastern king would ever release any slaves---then archaeologists found my cylinder.



This cylinder is the Persian king's actual decree to free the slaves and to give them help. The real Cyrus Cylinder (which this was taken off of its mold) is in the British Museum in London, England.

Some Bible references: Isaiah 44:28; 45:1; 2 Chronicles 36:22 - Ezra 1:8; 3:7; 4:3-5; 5:13 - 6:14.