



*PRESENTS*



Cyrus the Great's Cylinder (now in The British Museum)

**Cyrus The Great Cylinder** Babylonian, about 539-530 BC  
This clay cylinder is inscribed in Babylonian cuneiform with an account by Cyrus, king of Persia (559-530 BC) of his conquest of Babylon in 539 BC and capture of Nabonidus, the last Babylonian king.

Cyrus the Great was the founder of the Archaemenian dynasty and the Persian Empire. Cyrus' military victories eventually put him in possession of the largest empire in the world at that time. No doubt he was a remarkably humane ruler for his time.

Certainly he has achieved his greatness not by words but by hard and difficult choices, actions, and sacrifice. Without any doubt all the above selected criteria in regard to Cyrus the Great is true. Even the Greeks, who for a long time considered the Persian Empire the chief threat to their own independence, never ceased to regard Cyrus as a thoroughly admirable ruler.

His policy towards the people of his empire was one of tolerance and understanding, as reflected in his authorization of the rebuilding of the Jerusalem Temple in 538 BC.

### Masoud Marvasti 1993

**..When my soldiers in great numbers peacefully entered Babylon... I did not allow anyone to terrorize the people...**

**I kept in view the needs of people and all its sanctuaries to promote their well-being... Freed all the slaves**

**I put an end to their misfortune and slavery (referred to 50,000 Jews and other religious minorities).**

۲۴ (و آنگاه که) سربازان بسیار<sup>۱۹</sup> من دوستانه اندر بابل گام بر می داشتند، من نگذاشتم کسی (در جایی) در تمامی سرزمین های سومر و اکد ترسانند باشد.

۲۵ من (شهر) بابل و همه (دیگر) شهرهای مقدس را در فراوانی نعمت پاس داشتم. درماندگان باشنده در بابل را که (نیوتشید) ایشان را بدرغم خوارست خدایان یوغی<sup>۲۰</sup> داده بود(؟) نه در خور ایشان.

۲۶ درماندگی هاشان را چاره کردم و ایشان را از بیگاری برهانیدم<sup>۲۱</sup>.

- Cyrus is admired as a liberator rather than a conqueror, because he respected the customs and religions of each part of his vast empire.
- The Cyrus Cylinder is from 2534 to 2543 years ago; the start of Persian Calendar year can be based on this important significant document in the history of mankind which reminds us who we were and who we want to be.
- The Persian culture is the dedication to ethical and moral excellence which is based on three simple fundamental principles:

**GOOD THOUGHTS, GOOD WORDS and GOOD DEEDS**

(EXCERPTS FROM WWW.MARVAST.COM 2002)

**Complete English translation of The First Declaration of Human Rights**  
**[www.derafsh-kaviyani.com/english/humanrights2.html](http://www.derafsh-kaviyani.com/english/humanrights2.html)**

On this historical turning point, by order of Cyrus, all the captive nationalities held as slaves for generations in Babylon were freed and the return to their homeland was financed. Among the liberated captives were 50,000 Jews held in Babylon for three generations whose return toward the rebuilding of their temple in Palestine, a policy that was followed by Darius and his successors. Cyrus has been anointed in the Bible.

He is the only gentile in the Bible...

who has been mentioned explicitly as the Lord's shepherd and his anointed.

Other references to Cyrus are attested in Isaiah 45:4

where Cyrus is called by name and given a title of honor;

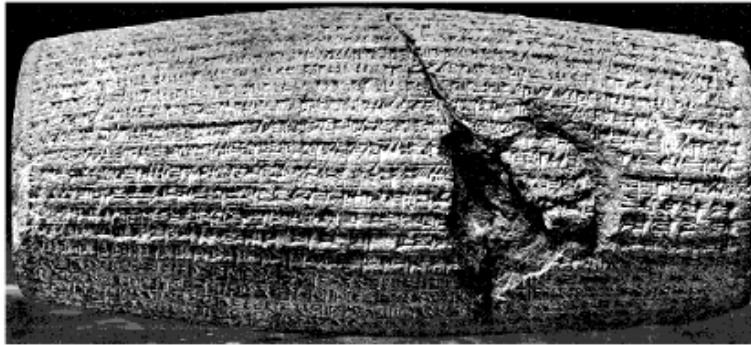
he is also called to rebuild the God's city and free His people (Is. 45:13)

and is chosen, called and brought successful by God (Is. 48:14-15).

**By Dr. Darius Jahanian**

**(Excerpts from: [www.derafsh-kaviyani.com](http://www.derafsh-kaviyani.com))**

# فرمان کوروش بزرگ



نوشته‌ای که به زبان بابلی نو، روی استوانه‌ای در سالهای آخر  
قرن نوزدهم کشف شده و متضمن فرمان کوروش بزرگ پانزدهمین پادشاه  
تخیخ شریابل است کمترین سند کتبی از دادگستری و معاملات حقوق  
بشر در تاریخ ایران و مایه سرفراز ایرانیان است.

The charter of Cyrus the Great, a baked-clay Aryan language (Old Persian) cuneiform cylinder, was discovered in 1878 in excavation of the site of Babylon. In it, Cyrus the Great described his human treatment of the inhabitants of Babylonia after its conquest by the Iranians.

**The document has been hailed as the first charter of human rights,** and in 1971 the United Nations was published translation of it in all the official U.N. languages. This is a confirmation that the Charter of Freedom of Humankind issued by Cyrus the Great on his coronation day in Babylon could be considered superior to the Human Rights Manifesto issued by the French revolutionaries in their first national assembly.

The Human Rights Manifesto looks very interesting in its kind regarding the expressions and composition, but the Charter of Freedom issued twenty three centuries before that by the Iranian monarch sounds more spiritual.

Comparing the Human Rights Manifesto of the French National Assembly and the Charter approved by the United Nations with the Charter of Freedom of Cyrus, the latter appears more valuable considering its age, explicitness, and rejection of the superstitions of the ancient world.

Cyrus the Great entered the city of Babylon in 539 BCE, and after the winter, on the first day of spring, he was officially crowned.

#### [Human rights timeline:](#)

C. 570 B.C. - The Charter of Cyrus is drawn up by King Cyrus the Great of Persia (now Iran) for the people of his kingdom, recognizing rights to liberty, security, recognizing freedom of movement, right of property, and some economic and social rights.

1215 - King John of England signs the Magna Carta.

1628 - The British Petition of Rights declares that no freedom can be withheld without legal cause.

**1648 - The Treaty of Westphalia, Germany, an early international legal treaty, establishes equality of rights between Catholics and Protestants.**

1679 - The Habeas Corpus Act in Britain gives anyone who is detained the right to a fair trial within a certain amount of time.

1689 - Britain's Bill of Rights upholds the supremacy of Parliament over the King, and provides freedom of speech, the right to bail, freedom from torture, free elections, and trial by jury.

1776 - The US Declaration of Independence establishes North America's independence from the British Empire.

1789 - The French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizens is established when the French monarchy is overthrown by its people.

1791 - The American Bill of Rights, American Constitution and the first Ten Amendments, list basic civil and political rights of citizens including freedom of speech and the rule of law.

1864 - The Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Armies in the Field (First Geneva Convention), an international treaty of the International Committee of the Red Cross, protects war wounded and sick, and gives immunity to hospital staff, and the Red Cross during war.

1878 - The Treaty of Berlin is signed, protecting the rights of religious and ethnic minorities in the Balkans.

1899-1907 - The Hague Conventions are drafted, establishing international humanitarian laws for the treatment of civilians, prisoners of war, and war wounded.

1919 - The Treaty of Versailles establishes both the League of Nations and the International Labor Organization is established to improve working conditions and promote social justice.

1941 - The Allies proclaim "four freedoms" as their objective: freedom of speech and worship, and freedom from want and from fear. The Allies repeated that commitment in the 1941 Atlantic Charter.

1942 - UN War Crimes Commission established international war crimes trials in Nuremburg and Tokyo that took place after WWII

1945 - UN Charter sets forth to United Nations' goals, functions, and responsibilities.

1948 - UN adopts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1961 - Amnesty International started by a British lawyer.

1966 - The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are ratified by the United Nations. Along with the UDHR, they complete the International Bill of Human Rights.

1979 - International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women is ratified by the United Nations.

1984 - International Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ratified by the United Nations.

1989 - International Convention of the Rights of the Child ratified by the United Nations.

1995 - The Fourth World Conference on Women is held in Beijing, China. Participants agree on a five-year action plan to enhance the social, economic and political empowerment of women, improve their health, advance their education and promote their marital and sexual rights.

In 1998, To mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Anan was awarded a copy of Cyrus the Great's edict

(From "Speak Truth to Power": an educational and advocacy package in collaboration with Amnesty International and Umbrage Editions –

So there we have it ... Cyrus' declaration went all around the world and throughout history freeing all people till the present, but somehow ...

The Iranian people are yet to receive the benefits..Paryeh Mazda)

**(Excerpts from: [www.derafsh-kaviyani.com](http://www.derafsh-kaviyani.com))**

