

tion—like that of Cyrus—the proclamation of deliverance and restoration. The unregenerate are slaves, captives away from their true home, down in the land of bondage. Sin is captivity. The sinner is a slave. Christ came to preach deliverance to the captives —“the opening of the prison doors to them that are bound.” He came to strike the fetters from the slaves, and to confer upon them “The glorious liberty of the children of God.” His atonement—the sacrifice Christ offered for sin is a deliverance. As ambassadors for Christ, we declare to you a proclamation which, like that of Cyrus, is put on record written down by the finger of God, that you can be free. Restoration is the grand theme of the gospel. The proclamation of Cyrus had a ring of universality about it. “Who is there among you of all his people? let him go up to Jerusalem.” The grand proclamation of the gospel is to all: “Ho! every one that thirsteth come ye to the waters.” In clarion tones it peals forth its glad sound to the utmost limits of the Universe—“Look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth.” Under the proclamation of Cyrus, abundant facilities were placed at the disposal of the captives to help them in their efforts to reach their native land. God holds out abundant encouragements and inducements to those who are desirous of escaping from the thralldom and slavery of sin. He places at your disposal all the resources of his grace. He offers to accompany you every step of the way. “God is able to do for you exceeding abundantly above all that you ask or think.” Once set your faces towards the land of freedom, and God himself will enable you to obtain deliverance from captivity and death.

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