

races on the face of the earth are all verification of prophecy. Christ's birth, his life of self-denial and voluntary humiliation, his death and resurrection, the nature and mission of his work are all graphically outlined in the Old Testament Scriptures. Prophecy fulfilled is one of the grandest evidences to the truth of the Bible and Christianity. I commend the careful study of this line to the sceptical and unbelieving. A great many people have but a slight appreciation of the truth of religion, because they have not examined into the evidences. Christianity comes to you with ample credentials, its truth attested by a great crowd of witnesses. Examine this evidence, study it, "try the spirits whether they be of God." Fulfilled prophecy is one of the grandest proofs for the divine origin of the Bible and Christianity, and also of the sovereignty of God who is supreme in history, and who harmonizes the apparently tangled, inextricable web of human events. The proclamation for the restoration had been foretold. It was certain to come to pass. Many a pious Jew who awoke sorrowful notes from his harp beside the willow covered banks of the waters of Babylon looked for the fulfilment of prophecy, and believed that God would fulfil his promise. The confidence of the believing Jew was not misplaced. The seventy years were completed. At the appointed time deliverance came. A proclamation was published for the return of the captives. But

II. This proclamation was made through Cyrus the King of the Persian empire. "Now in the first year of Cyrus King of Persia, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus King of Persia that he made the proclamation." Who was Cyrus, anyway? History informs us. He was the grandson of Astyages—the last King of Media. Like Moses he had a very narrow escape, when he was an infant. I suppose because, like Moses, he was to play a very important part in the history of God's chosen people. His grandfather prompted by a dream, determined to put young Cyrus to death. However God watched over this promising boy, as he watched over Moses, and Cyrus was spared, nurtured, brought up in secret by the very persons who were commissioned to put him to death. There were marvellous genius, power and resources in that growing youth. When he came to years of manhood, the affections of thousands of oppressed subjects went out towards him. Cyrus defeated and overthrew the reigning sovereign, who was cruel and despotic: and consolidated the Persian empire, after inaugurating a humane,