

Dec 5 2004

Isaiah

Case study #2: Jesus

This man [Jesus] was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge. And you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.
Acts 2:23

Indeed, Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

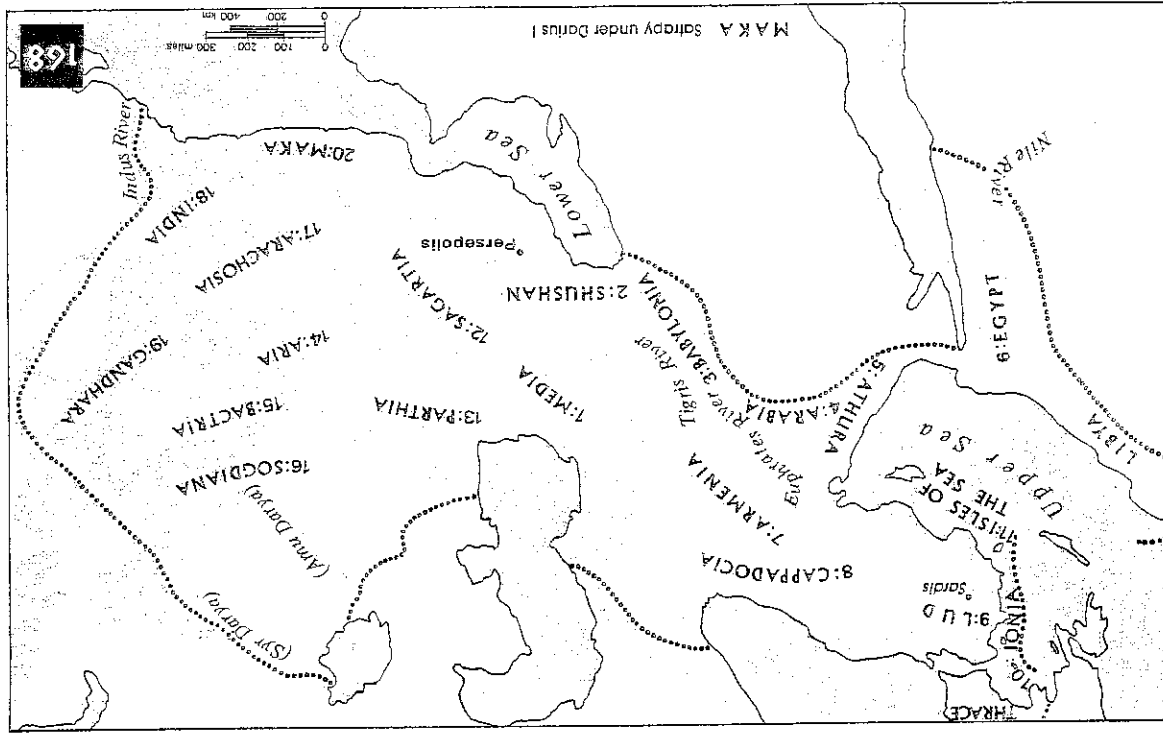
Acts 4:27-28

"From my childhood up, my mind had been full of objections against the doctrine of God's sovereignty. . . . It used to appear like a horrible doctrine to me. But I remember the time very well, when I seemed to be convinced, and fully satisfied, as to this sovereignty of God. . . . And there has been a wonderful alteration in my mind, in respect to the doctrine of God's sovereignty, from that day to this; so that I scarce ever have found so much as the rising of an objection against it, in the absolute sense. . . . I have often since had not only a conviction, but a delightful conviction. The doctrine has very often appeared exceeding pleasant, bright and sweet. Absolute sovereignty is what I love to ascribe to God. But my first conviction was not so."

- Jonathan Edwards

Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he pleases.

Psalm 115:3



Cyrus the Great, King of Persia

- ??? B.C. Born to Cambyses I, ruler of Anshan
- 559 B.C. Cyrus becomes king of Anshan
- 550 B.C. Cyrus conquers Media; from then his kingdom is called "The Empire of the Medes and Persians"
- 547 B.C. Cyrus conquers the Lydian empire.
- 547-540 Cyrus moves west to take Asia Minor and eastern coast of Greece. He then turns eastward to conquer Parthia and even northwest India.
- 539 B.C. Cyrus conquers Babylonian army and is welcomed into Babylon as a hero
- 538 B.C. Cyrus decrees the return of the Jews to Palestine and the re-establishment of the temple in Jerusalem.
- 530 B.C. Cyrus is killed in battle against the nomadic Massagetae on his northern eastern frontier.

Cyrus had, in no more than a decade, made himself ruler of a vast territory extending from the Aegean Sea to India, and had simultaneously established the structures of provincial government that were to serve his empire so well for many generations.

Does God ordain evil and calamity?

This is what the LORD says: Out of your own household *I am going to bring calamity upon you.*
2 Samuel 12:11

After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David and he

became ill. . . . On the seventh day the child died.
2 Samuel 12:15,18

"The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. May the name of the LORD be praised." In all this Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.
Job 1:21-22

In that day the LORD will use a razor hired from beyond the River—the king of Assyria—to shave your head and the hair of your legs and to take off your beards also.
Isaiah 7:2

Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come?
Lamentations 3:38

When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble? When disaster comes to a city, has not the LORD caused it?
Amos 3:6

What about people's sinful actions?

Case study #1: Joseph

And now do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.
Genesis 45:5

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

Genesis 50:19-20