



Cyrus the Great

Jacob Abbott

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This is the story of the founder of the ancient Persian Empire, a monarchy, perhaps the most wealthy and magnificent the world have ever seen.

Cyrus the Great Details

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Author : Jacob Abbott

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Mike says

Interesting read

Written in the Augustine style, this book reflects the era in which it was written. It's a great read, and the author actively encourages their readers to consider the extent to which the sources can be trusted. Targeted I guess at teen-agers of the day, it nonetheless makes interesting reading for even such ancient folk as myself.

Iran says

O man, whoever you are and wherever you come from, for I know you will come, I am Cyrus who won the Persians their empire. Do not therefore begrudge me this bit of earth that covers my bones.

Carol Bakker says

Short biography, originally published in 1850, Volume 3 of the Makers of History. Abbott's sources are Herodotus and Xenophon. This was an enjoyable read which reviewed familiar stories, but taught me new ones. One complaint I have was that the writing failed to portray Persian culture. I couldn't/didn't picture an Asian boy/man while I read this.

Unrelated to the story, there were two exhilarating word-bird moments. After Cyrus conquers Croesus, they meet face to face. *There were difficulties in respect to language, too, which embarrassed the conversation, as the two kings could speak to each other only through an interpreter.* Embarrassed: an archaic meaning is to hamper or impede, complicate.

Explaining the engineering of the land around Babylon, the author compared the raised banks to the **levees** of New Orleans with a glorious asterisk*: From the French word *levée*, raised.

Commenting on monuments:

In fact, statues of brass or of marble generally make far more durable monuments than statues of gold; and no structure or object of art is likely to be very permanent among mankind unless the workmanship is worth more than the material.

To Bible readers, Cyrus is the king who liberated the Jews from Babylonian captivity. Abbott framed this in a way I'd never before thought of (emphasis mine):

*The march of this peaceful multitude of families—men, women, and children together—burdened as they went, not with arms and ammunition for conquest and destruction, but with tools and implements for honest industry, and stores of provisions and utensils for the peaceful purposes of social life, as it was, in its bearings and results, **one of the grandest events in history**, so it must have presented, in its progress, one of the most extraordinary spectacles that the world has ever seen.*

Kathy says

Abbott does a great job with his histories. He gives enough detail to bring the characters to life, but not so much that one gets bogged down. I always enjoy his "moral of the story" as well. I have just learned that Abraham Lincoln read and enjoyed Abbott's histories. So, I'm in good company!

JennyF says

Really enjoyed reading this. A very easy read. It gives background information to Cyrus who is mentioned in the Bible in relation to the Jews returning from captivity in (what was) Babylon to their homeland in Judea.

Therese says

\$0.0
