2.5 The Cyrus cylinder

Oral comprehension	https://youtu.be/nkMzrzuOwkw?t=56 (from 0°56° to 5°00°)
Our story begins	, with Cyrus the Great,
After uniting the Persian and M	Median tribes, Cyrus came into conflict with King Croesus of Lydia in
what's now modern-day Turkey.	He defeated Croesus in battle. Cyrus then clashed with the powerful
Babylonian Empire to the west	. In 539 BC, he besieged their capital, Babylon. It fell with barely a
fight. Persia under Cyrus becar	me a superpower of the ancient world.
Cyrus' conquest of Babylon	had been predicted and was
by the Jewish prophet Daniel:	
That very night, the Bah	bylonian regent, Belshazzar had held a feast. He feasted using
the sacred gold vessels from	om the temple of Jerusalem. And then suddenly, miraculously,
there was a hand writing	on the wall, and the writing said : you have been weighed in
the balance, you have bee	en found wanting, and your kingdom will be given to the Medes
and the Persians.	
So from this we have the expr	ession And we have Rembrand's
great painting "Belshazzar's Fe	ast". Within hours, the great empire of Babylon was no more.
Cyrus justified his invasion to	o the Babylonian people in a written on a clay tablet
such as this one, which are like	ely to have widely distributed. Surviving fragments, along with the
Cyrus Cylinder, carry identical	wording.
Because the Cyrus Cylinder v	was meant to a Babylonian audience which is a Semitic tongue related
to the modern languages of H	ebrew and Arabic and Aramaic. The writing system which Cyrus'
officials used was the tradition	al which had been invented in ancient Iraq well
before 3,000 B.C. It is written before 3,000 B.C.	by pressing a stylus, something a bit like a chopstick, into the surface
of the clay which is nearly dry	. And the signs which convey the sound of the language consist of
different arrangement of these s	trokes. They are written one by one, and the reader has to join them
up and the sound emerges from	the clay. This is the line that says "I am Kurash, King of the world,
the Great King, King of Babyle	on" and so it goes on.
[Irving Finkel describes how	w to write cuneiform script]

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The early lines on the cylinder extol ² Cyrus' virtues and his reasons for invading Babylon	. But it's
line 30 to 35 that set Cyrus up as a great leader in the modern liberal sense.	

Questions

1) What v	was the	main	purpose	of the	Cyrus	cylind	ers?
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2) Ex	rplain	the	meaning	of the	phrase	"The	writing	is	on	the	wall"
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Listen to some examples of how you can use this expression[5].

- a) My auntie is really sad because she had to close her shop. To be honest, the writing has been on the wall for her business for a long time.
- b) You know Mary. She's a party girl that loves the city but I heard

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The writing is definitely on the wall for their marriage.

My teachers told me if I don't try harder the writing is on the wall.

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 $^{^2}$ to extol, to praise