

[Authority]

## Esther Chapters Nine and Ten

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~ Most Christians in this present world perceive God to be a distant, mysterious, and providential overseer of one's free-will, whims and desires. They never learn to walk with God hand-in-hand by obeying His Word. Of course, God will lead us, irrespective of how close or how far we are from Him; and that's what the book of Esther is about — but, it just so happens to make a world of difference whether the Lord leads us and guides us in providence — or with His eyes — by being at His side. Candidly, I don't want to be way out on the fringes of His providential permissive will. I've been there. It's not a great place. I don't want to go back. This Spiritual Safari challenges you to begin to take the Word of God completely seriously in your life today, for a change. We will conclude commentary on Esther in this report and, if the Lord guides us closely, we will next examine with great intensity the Book of Job; perhaps the most ancient manuscript known to mankind, beginning in our next report.

As we have learned in this Book of Esther the Jews who had remained behind in Babylon after the captivity are totally and completely out of the will of God. God's will was for them to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple and the city with Ezra and Nehemiah; but these had chosen to remain in the wealth, affluence, and comfort of their captors! If any of them had access to Scripture, it is highly doubtful they ever bothered to read it. Well, let's not look down on these Jews at the time in which we are studying because, quite frankly, most of us aren't much better than they were in that connection.

Today, we have what is known as the "Gallup Poll." Gallup has been making reputable surveys for more than seventy years — delivering dependable, relevant, timely, and visionary research on humans around the world; how they think and feel about public opinion, and attitudes on virtually every political, social, and economic issue relevant to mankind. Its data production reaches the highest levels of government, the judiciary,

business, and academia. Well, Gallup made a survey many years ago regarding the Bible in American culture. The result of that study was that America today still, overwhelmingly, believes in God; and proclaims to trust in God — but Americans do *NOT* read the Bible.

Almost every home and every hotel room in the United States has at least one Bible in it — but it typically has enough dust on the cover to write “blaspheme” on it. Let’s just be real, friends — your Bible is rarely, if ever, taken down off the shelf and studied in an educated, sincere, systematic, proper, correct and complete manner — and we both know it. And God knows. You may carry it under your arm every Sunday, but that’s as close as it gets to your heart. Religious racketeers on television and radio programs provide religiously-themed amusement for a few minutes as we rush through busy days; and they are more likely to draw people to church and the synagogue than to keep them away. Most churches now claim you don’t even have to be a believer to come fellowship with them. Blaspheme.

The local genuine church that is teaching the Word of God in sound doctrine, on the other hand, is as unappealing to world society as going to the dentist, driver’s license office, or a courthouse. They’re not only not interested — they won’t approve of it under any circumstances. Our Spiritual Safari was originated and designed to help the modern-day church and theologian who actually believes God — because they certainly need help. I now know that many sincere believers want that help, too.

I also know there are multitudes of self-professing “*believers*” who have no interest whatsoever in — nor any desire to learn — the Word of God properly, correctly and completely. Biblical illiteracy is as fatal as stage four pancreatic cancer in the body of believers, my beloved. Believers revere a book that they are totally and completely ignorant of; and of which they refuse to examine meaningfully. That’s really our problem today — ignorance of the Bible. All of the bickering and debating and opinion and arguing and separation and division and discord among “*believers*” can all be traced directly back to that one singular problem: ignorance of God and His Word — pure, willful, and blind ignorance. Professing themselves to be wise, they have become fools.

Well, one of the other primary missions of this so-called safari is stamping out Biblical illiteracy. The Word of God still works in our lives when we understand it and apply it in obedience according to the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't know why so many people use the Bible like a crutch instead of a staple; consume it like a condiment, instead of a meat – but, that's just about all I see in religious circles – people using the Word of God like tartar sauce on a self-concocted, over-cooked fish sandwich of misapplied theory and misguided conjecture. These are they who incessantly talk about revival; but there is no revival happening in this world – and the reason for that is because revival can *ONLY* and *MUST* begin with Holy Writ having its proper place in the day to day and minute to minute life of the Christian. Because that is not happening — revival is not happening.

Now, I realize I constantly rail against what is defined as Christianity today – and, let me assure you – I make *NO* apologies for that at all. I see and hear many people crying out about how they need a Bible so they can get to know God; and I am sure there are some who are sincere — but — candidly, most of them will simply resell the Bibles if you send them. If you tell me you are passing out Bibles to a segment of society that cannot even read in the first place then, guess what? – I know you are a fraud; and I call you out. Don't like that? – You don't have to read this report. I doubt those types are reading anything I write anyways. Let's just make sure we are clear.

So, that brings us to our final study in the Book of Esther. We have seen the providence of God raise Queen Esther to the throne, depose Haman the Agagite, overrule a heinous and Satanic decree Haman had devised to exterminate all Jews in the Babylonian Empire, and save His people who were utterly disobedient and out of His will. Esther and Mordecai have been moved by God's permissive will because God is capable of accomplishing His plan and purpose. Standeth God in the shadows keeping watch over His Own! When that moment of need came for these Jews, God already had Esther on the throne so she could step in and intervene! Thank God for the teaching of this book of the Bible that doesn't even mention or allude to the Person or the Name of God Almighty!

Queen Esther had motives and designs for entering the beauty contest at the beginning of this book that were entirely, wholly different, and absolutely separate from God's motive and plan for her life. She had *NO IDEA* what she was doing and, frankly, Esther and Mordecai weren't very honorable people – period. Well, Mordecai was right when he said that Esther may have come to the throne for such a time as this. What has happened in the course of a few short months and years have led to the Jews being saved; if they will simply believe the second decree that has now come from Shushan the palace, authored by Mordecai with the authorization of King Xerxes – a.k.a. Ahasuerus.

Esther had a difficult choice to make in chapter four and, as a result of making the right choice, the golden sceptre of grace was extended to her! You and I have a wonderful Savior today; and His Throne is not a Throne of judgment for the believer — but a Throne of grace, peace and mercy! God doesn't want to whip us and kill us – He has His Arms outstretched to a lost world right now — and at the end of that Arm is a Hand and in that Hand is the Golden Sceptre of Grace. The first decree God has sent out today says the soul that sinneth shall surely die. The second decree God has provided says *“believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and ye shall be saved.”* Both are true.

God is inviting *ALL* men to come to Him – *BUT* – you will have to come His way and believe His way of salvation; there's no way of salvation apart from His prescribed procedure, friends. There is no other Name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Any Jew in Babylon at the time in which we are studying that didn't believe the second decree was put to death – end of story. What a wonderful and merciful God this lost and dying world has access to today.

The death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ according to Scripture is the Gospel decree; and the only possible way men and women can be saved by faith. To as many as will receive this truth gave God the right to be called sons of God – even those who do no more or less than believe in His Name. Be it known that through me is preached the remission of sins. However, if you do not believe my report, then there is no hope for you – at all. And let's be clear: you may or may not break some bad habits, you might forsake evil, you may go to church every single day,

you might be baptized and take part in the Lord's Supper every Sunday for the rest of your life — or maybe not. Only when we come to the Word of God and believe it at face value can we receive salvation. These people in the Book of Esther have great joy because they believe the message they were given....

## IX

***<sup>1</sup> Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them)***

***<sup>2</sup> The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.***

***<sup>3</sup> And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.***

***<sup>4</sup> For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.***

***<sup>5</sup> Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them.***

***<sup>6</sup> And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men.***

***<sup>7</sup> And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha,***

***<sup>8</sup> And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha,***

***<sup>9</sup> And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha,***

***<sup>10</sup> The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew them; but on the spoil laid they not their hand.***

***<sup>11</sup> On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought before the king.***

***<sup>12</sup> And the king said unto Esther the queen, The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? now what is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: or what is thy request further? and it shall be done.***

***<sup>13</sup> Then said Esther, If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do to morrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.***

***<sup>14</sup> And the king commanded it so to be done: and the decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons.***

***<sup>15</sup> For the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and slew three hundred men at Shushan; but on the prey they laid not their hand.***

***<sup>16</sup> But the other Jews that were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey,***

***<sup>17</sup> On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.***

***<sup>18</sup> But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the***

***fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.***

***<sup>19</sup> Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.***

***<sup>20</sup> And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far,***

***<sup>21</sup> To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,***

***<sup>22</sup> As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.***

***<sup>23</sup> And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them;***

***<sup>24</sup> Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them;***

***<sup>25</sup> But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.***

***<sup>26</sup> Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them,***

***<sup>27</sup> The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year;***

***28 And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed.***

***29 Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim.***

***30 And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth,***

***31 To confirm these days of Purim in their times appointed, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry.***

***32 And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book.***

~ So, that brings about the feast of Purim. We know very little about this feast — which is not even mentioned in the New Testament. What we do know is that there were three prayers the Jews prayed at this feast: they thanked Jehovah that they were counted as worthy; they prayed for the preservation of their ancestors – and they thanked God that He had allowed them to live to enjoy another feast of Purim! Today, the Jews still celebrate this feast, and they attach as much importance to it as they do to the Passover. They recognize this speaks of a great deliverance for them. We see the providence of God in all of this; of course, Christ our Passover was offered for us.

Well, God Himself instituted the feast of Purim for Israel. The word comes from the root word “*Pur*,” which means: lot. It was on this day, when a lot was cast, that the Jews were delivered; even in self-imposed, continuing captivity! Of course, none of this is chance or luck – and our safari rejects coincidence, chance or luck – but we do accept the providential permissive



will of God — and the religious world mostly refers to it as luck. Anyone who teaches there is no such thing as the “*permissive will*” of God just doesn’t happen to understand the Word of God in ANY capacity, my beloved.

**Proverbs 16:** <sup>33</sup> *The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD ~*

Herodotus made the statement in secular history that, after Xerxes – or Ahasuerus – returned from the war campaign against Greece, his wife Amestris – or Esther – was a cruel and vindictive queen. I think it’s rather easy to see how the world outside, particularly the Greeks, got that impression of her. Anyone who steps in and intercedes for God’s people will be viewed that way by the lost world, friends – it has always been that way — and it always will be that way down here. The way she got rid of old man Haman makes the bleeding-heart liberals cry a river of tears – just as they seem to do for all murderers and evil men. Well, the throne that condemns also protects; and that’s exactly how the Throne of God protects His children today – and the world hates God for it.

**Romans 8:** <sup>33</sup> *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.* <sup>34</sup> *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.* <sup>35</sup> *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?* <sup>36</sup> *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.* <sup>37</sup> *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us ~*

This is the reason no one can condemn those of us who are in Christ today! Christ died for our sins, and He rose from the dead for our justification! Today, Christ is at the right hand of God making intercession for us. At the time in which we are studying, Mordecai is next to the king – not Haman anymore – because Haman would have put them all to death. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Man in the Glory and He knows *EXACTLY* how we feel – and He is there for you and me right *NOW!* That should be a wonderful comfort for every believer in the world who knows Him. We can thank God

that things have changed for us sinners. Well, Jesus is thoroughly despised in this world today; and the dirtiest, most blasphemous, and nastiest things that can be said are being said about Him – and about His children, too. If you don't know Christ or what He is all about, then the only conclusion you can reach is that God is *NOT* good.

We need to get in the habit and practice of bowing our knees to the Lord Jesus Christ and worshiping and praising Him daily. It just happens to be very, very important. God should become sweeter to us every day. There is an old hymn I don't hear any more entitled "*Sweeter as the Days go By*" – and that's the song we should be singing. Do you rejoice more in Christ than you did last year? How about a decade ago? Yesterday? Well, if you're not happier each day in Christ Jesus, then there is something radically wrong in your walk with God – you can just write that down....

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***<sup>1</sup> And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea.***

***<sup>2</sup> And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?***

***<sup>3</sup> For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.***

~ So, our Spiritual Safari concludes another successful leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God in sound doctrine as we complete commentary on the book of Esther. We know now that God will keep the nation Israel, He will hold His church, and He will keep you and me as individuals! God is able to save to the uttermost those who come unto Him through Christ. God knows and loves and cares for those who desire to become close to Him through knowing His Word properly, correctly and completely. No one can dim or nullify these Scriptural truths. God gives the very best to those who leave the choice to Him concerning direction,

provision, and leading in their lives. God wants to guide us with His eyes – but we’re going to have to be *VERY* close to Him for that to happen. You’ll never get close to God outside of Holy Writ.

You’ll never draw close to the Lord Jesus Christ outside of the Word of God. Most Christians are walking in their own will, the sun is shining nicely in their rose-colored sky, and their paths seem to have the stones removed and the way paved with gold. Most people seem to believe they can work this life out themselves – and they don’t look to God for everyday living. What they expect is God to come behind them and bless whatever thing they have dreamt up. Then, one day the sky darkens, the winds begin to howl, and the waves begin to roll. Only then do they cry out, “.... *Lord, save me!*” Most are half-drowned by that time. Many don’t make it through crises; and their faith becomes hopelessly shipwrecked. Well, those people were only ever led by His providence – they were never in His direct will. Where are you?

Many reading this report aren’t in the direct will of God for their life. I hear so much talk about “*dedication of life and heart*” – I am actually nauseated when I hear people talk like that. Many people get down on their knees and dedicate their lives and hearts to God – but tomorrow, they’re completely out of the will of God – again! When we advise them to “.... *trust the Lord with their problems*” – they are positively repulsed. That takes them right back to providence! Well, God wants to lead us today – in His *DIRECT* will; why settle for less? ~

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