

[Deliverance]

Esther 4:3 – 5:4

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is learning about the grace of God from a book in the canons of Scripture that doesn't even mention His Name. Do you think that's possible? This expedition seeks to find and observe the Lord Jesus Christ on every single page of Scripture; and I apologize now for my failure in pointing Him out on every page – I do my best. Well, if you will pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, you will be amazed at what you can learn from a complete, correct and proper study of the Word of God. See, my job is to take you through the Bible – I am *NOT* your teacher. If the Holy Spirit doesn't teach me to reveal truth to you, then we aren't going anywhere, you may be sure.

In our last report, we considered the decree of Xerxes as it went out through Haman; stating that all Jews in all provinces were to be destroyed. Haman had become upset because one petty official, Mordecai, would not bow down to him; so, now he wanted to kill the entire Jewish race. Of course, all of this is Satanic. Remember, the king gave his ring to Haman; which was the same as a signature stamp. Haman sealed the writing in a wax impression and the decree was the same as being notarized. If you have not read all of our safari reports from Esther, I highly suggest you go back and do so now. There must have been several million Jews who had remained behind in the Median-Persian Empire of Babylon after the captivity; but far less than one hundred thousand had returned to rebuild the temple and the walls when the captivity ended.

So, Haman is prosecuting an unnecessary, uncalled for, and unspeakable genocide towards the Jewish people. The decree went forth — and Mordecai believed the decree would be carried out. The Jews in the land believed it, too. Also in our last report, we learned the decree that has gone out from God which says, *"the soul that sinneth it shall surely die"* has never been changed – and never will be changed....

IV

³ And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

~ Well, these people put on a pretty good religious display — but still no prayer. See, you aren't apt to be praying when you're out of the will of God. Cyrus had made a decree according to the will of God in the Book of Nehemiah that the Jews were to return back to the land and rebuild the temple and the city. These people whom we are studying are totally and completely out of the will of God; so, there's no prayer in their lives. They have no direct contact with the True and Living God....

⁴ So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not.

~ Esther ignorantly felt completely unafraid, safe, and totally secure as queen from this decree. She was totally embarrassed by Mordecai out there in sackcloth — crying and moaning; so, she sends him some clothes. I'm sure these were fine threads from the palace; gay and gaudy, expensive and elaborate with bright colors and flashy accessories. Unfortunately, all of that appearance would not change the edict which said they were to be killed; and it certainly wouldn't remove the stigma attached to the decree. In fact, it would have only infuriated Haman even further to see Mordecai with expensive clothes.

People today deal with sin in many different ways; and outrageous clothing is usually number one on the list. If you have enough riches and a dazzling appearance, you can say the Bible doesn't teach that we're sinners — and multitudes will believe you, follow you and support you. There are many teachers teaching that heresy today; and multitudes will follow them straight to hell.

Others put on the gay and gaudy clothes of reformation. They label sin as a simple error we all make — and they attempt to cover it up and excuse it.

The modern pulpit has become the place where a mild-mannered man can encourage a group of mild-mannered people to be more mild-mannered in an assumed sinless perfection. There is absolutely nothing more insipid than that.

It's no wonder the world is passing by the church and rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ wholesale. We don't need reformation – we need *regeneration* and to be genuinely born again. Nicodemus was religious to his fingertips — but not born again. We need a new nature because our old nature is as corrupt and sinful as it can possibly be. Well, that sinful nature is not going to Heaven, my friends, you can just write that down. If you enter Heaven, you'll do so because you have trusted and obeyed the One Who died for your sins – the Lord Jesus Christ – and because that belief altered the course of your life.

There's another cover up with gaudy clothes known as education. Those people view sin as selfishness; and their theory is that all we need is training and knowledge — advanced science and higher education — to be better people. Well, I can tell you personally that all the learning and instruction in the world never stopped me from being very selfish and sinful. Maybe not you or your kids, of course – but, unlike you, I just happen to be real – and honest. You're only kidding yourself with your phony religious philosophy.

Religion is yet another way man tries to cover up sin; and religion is almost like the education crowd in that they say sin is simply ignorance. They say, 'turn to God' and then a little spark inside of you can be fanned into a great big fire! Dr. Matthews from the University of Chicago once defined sin by saying: "*.... sin is the backward pull of an outworn good.*" If you remove all the modifiers from the good doctor's statement, what you have remaining is: sin is good! That's what *ALL* religions ultimately declare.

Well, the righteousness of Christ is the only garment that will ever enable us to stand before God the Father when that day comes. Mordecai isn't about to put these clothes on — because they would have been an embarrassment to him. When those clothes were returned, Esther knew

this was a bit more serious than she originally understood. Now, Esther wants to know what and why this is going on....

⁵ Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was.

⁶ So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate.

⁷ And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them.

⁸ Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.

⁹ And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

¹⁰ Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;

¹¹ All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.

¹² And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

¹³ Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

~ Well, Esther got the message loud and clear now. She, obviously, hadn't even bothered to read the decree before. She also learned that anyone who went into the presence of the king without an appointment likely wouldn't come out alive. If the king didn't hold up the sceptre to an unscheduled visitor, they wouldn't even hear the king speak – the king would just have to *not* lift that scepter, and that person would be taken out and executed immediately. Esther hadn't been summonsed by the king for over a month at this point. She had *NO IDEA* whether she should go into the king's court or not.

Well, Mordecai laid it all on the line with Esther; and reality shook her sense of security to her shoestrings. One queen had already been set aside; and this decree demanded all Jews be slain – and Esther was a Jew. Interestingly, Mordecai says, in verse fourteen, that if Esther didn't do this thing, then deliverance would arise from some other place. Personally, I would like to ask Mordecai, “... *what other place would deliverance come from?*” This king was a world dictator — and there wasn't a single person alive who could have delivered them. Anyone who says man is not a sinner — or that the soul that sinneth shall not die — needs to actually read the Bible. Some of the educated crowd truly believe they could teach God something. By His providence God is moving in the lives of His people in this section of Scripture.

You and I can trust God because God already knows what is going to happen. We're not only placing our hand in the Hand of the One Who can

hold us – He knows what is going to happen tomorrow – and the next day – and the next. I think this is the first time Mordecai reveals that he is taking a stand for God. That compelled Esther to do the right thing; she’s now willing to die for her people. This is why you and I need to be very careful to let God decide who is faithful and who isn’t. Unfortunately, Esther says in verse sixteen, to do all those things – but – still no prayer. That’s because they are completely out of the will of God for their lives. The same thing happened when Jonah was out there on that ship – no praying – it’s almost impossible to pray when we’re out of the will of God....

17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

V

1 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.

2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

3 Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

4 And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.

~ Our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition touching the scepter of grace. If the king had not held out that sceptre, then this would be the end of the story. God is holding out the sceptre of grace to you and me today, too; all we have to do is touch it by faith. Now that Esther has exercised her faith, the king is willing to give her anything she wants. The king sees this thing is important to her; and that his queen is troubled – and he knows

that Esther doesn't want a new hat or to go out to some expensive restaurant for dinner. I'm sure Esther was shaking like a leaf. They both know this is a matter of life and death.

The setting before us is a king sitting on his throne conducting official world business in beautiful clothing, with beautiful furnishings – and even beautiful people surrounding him – all on open display. I think Esther simply steps out from behind some pillar or tapestry in her royal apparel – and she was beautiful, friends – very, very beautiful. Maybe you are beautiful, too; but I have already looked in the mirror – I'm not very pretty – not at all. We're not only not beautiful on the outside but we're even *MORE* unattractive on the inside. Well, at least I am. Perhaps not you. I cry out, "*O, wretched man I am.*"

The Lord Jesus gave a list of bad things that proceed out of the heart – and it's all ugly – and that's where every bad thing in this world all starts. Well, Esther still doesn't mention what it is yet that she wants to ask. The king knows she is holding back, too. So, Haman and the king are going to a banquet with Esther in our next report. I hope you can see what I see in this section of Scripture, friends ~

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