

[Reverence]

Esther 2:16 – 3:6

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~ Be not deceived, God is not mocked; whatsoever a man shall sow, that shall he also reap. If you haven't discovered that precept to be absolutely true in your life, then you haven't been alive very long. Sin has long-term ramifications that are sometimes not realized until generations later. If that seems unlikely to you, then pray that the Holy Spirit will speak to your heart – and to the hearts and minds of all who read God's Word today in this report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God.

Our last report left us awaiting the decision of whether or not Esther would win the beauty contest. Well, of course, Esther wins the contest, and she is made queen. Our safari doesn't deal in luck, chance or accident, friends; so, we either have a lesson from God about His providence — in a book of the Bible that does not even mention God — or, we have a secular historical record that is, overall, not that interesting. I realize there has been no spiritual interpretation up to this point, but I think by the time our safari ends this book of Esther, you'll be seeing the Lord Jesus Christ everywhere on the pages of Scripture.

Esther is a historical account of God's chosen people who are out of His will; and He is making arrangements to protect them, in spite of the fact that they are living in willful disobedience. They aren't mentioning God, and they aren't praying at the time in which we are studying; in fact, they aren't even *thinking* about God. But God is thinking about them; because this is the eve of yet another plan for holocaust concerning all Israelites. We're still in the throne room of a great pagan palace in this report — where day after day these people are in a drunken orgy mingled with war. I just can't locate any spiritual significance here, but I can see God is going to rule over and overrule man down here — and Satan, too — and He will do so by His providence if He has to. The providence of God should be a great comfort to the child of God today....

II

16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

18 Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

19 And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate.

20 Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.

~ So, this young lady becomes queen. She was wildly beautiful, and the king was so enamored that he cut taxes in her honor which is, well, no comment. Sheer physical beauty was the basis that won Esther the throne. As we read on, Mordecai is at the king's gate. That means he was promoted to judge. The king's gate is where the courts of that day met. I'm sure nepotism had everything to do with his promotion, too. This is just the way things are, friends; beauty and being connected to the right people in this world will get you everywhere with the world. Well, this, obviously, placed Mordecai in a position to get to know who was doing what; and what was going on around the palace....

21 In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

22 And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name.

23 And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.

~ The king didn't make a mistake promoting Mordecai, because he immediately foiled a coup de' etat. Notice they had a zero tolerance policy against lawlessness; and they executed these men immediately. Interestingly, there was no mention of a reward for Mordecai for uncovering this plot on the king's life. I think Mordecai likely turned the lack of recognition over in his mind several times. He saved the king's life; at least the king could have sent a flower arrangement and a thank you card. But – no....

III

1 After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.

2 And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.

3 Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?

4 Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew.

5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.

6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy

all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari concludes this leg of our expedition with the plan for another wave of Anti-Semitism. Hatred for the Jews goes all the way back to Pharaoh, when Joseph was down in Egypt. Of course, Pharaoh tried to eliminate Jews by killing all of the first-born babies. In modern history, Hitler was the last real effort to exterminate Jews, but Iran hates Israel with such a passion and rage that anything could happen now as the entire world becomes nuclear capable; anything that God permits, that is.

Notice that Haman was an Agagite. Remember, God had told King Saul to kill *ALL* Amelekites, but Saul disobeyed and left Agag the king alive in chapter fifteen of first Samuel. Well, now we know why God told Saul to kill them all. Frankly, I get a little tired of the atheistic crowd that says, “... *a good God could never order a people to be destroyed.*” Well, when those people want to destroy His people then – guess what? – God does things His way – not your way. Maybe you don’t like that? If not, then you are in the wrong classroom, friend.

See, the revelation of God to man through His Word came through the people that we are studying now – Israel. Also, our Savior, our Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ was to come through this nation. Well, these people are in total and complete rebellion against God and literally just ignoring Him at this time in which are studying; but God still loves them and is making arrangements for them. Whether you like it or not God has made good on His promise that He made to Israel through Isaiah, and it has been literally fulfilled.

Isaiah 54:¹⁷ *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD ~*

That verse in Isaiah is not written to you today, either, by the way, Christian friends. It was written to the nation Israel. I am amused at the people who like to find fault with the Bible, and they try to always be smarter than God

and presume to know something God forgot to think about. Other people act as if somewhere in His Word, something was manipulated or twisted until a contradictive mistake was perpetuated beyond control to the point where none of it can be trusted any longer. Well, the only mistake is making a statement, such as, *“God sure is unjust to destroy the nice, sweet little Agagites!”* If King Saul had obeyed God and killed them all, we may not even need the Book of Esther, in fact, I know we wouldn’t. I think that, in spite of the record we have in this book, many Jews were still killed before this upcoming decree was headed off. Human life would have been saved if Saul had been obedient to God’s command, there’s no doubt about it!

So, Haman – who should not have ever existed – is made Prime Minister to King Xerxes. It is certainly a very unique and high position this man is promoted to. When the king tells people to bow to you then you have achieved the highest level in the cabinet that is possible. Unfortunately, Mordecai didn’t get the memo and he refused to bow to Haman! This is why it is extremely important not to make a determination as to who is faithful and who isn’t. Mordecai certainly isn’t being a clever politician with this move. His colleagues think Mordecai is crazy for just not bowing; it didn’t really mean anything besides formality to the others. Well, deep down, Mordecai worshiped the One and Only True and Living God!

At the time in which we are studying the world was in polytheism. Today, we live in the opposite state of atheism. Our commission, as believers, is to declare our stand in the belief of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – the One True God! Haman is so filled with hate by this one little petty judge that he wants to kill all of his kind; and, my friend, that’s exactly how the lost man in power thinks today, too – you can just write that down! What we see so far in Esther is that there is a plot to kill God’s people who had remained behind in Babylon after the captivity; and God is moving behind the scenes to prevent genocide. Esther is going to be on the throne at precisely the right moment; and God is standing in the shadows keeping a providential watch over His children ~

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