

[Indignation]

Esther 5:5 – 6:8

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~ Our Spiritual Safari will conclude this wonderful, remarkable and enlightening Book of Esther after three remaining reports; a book in the canons of Scripture that doesn't even mention God or allude to Him in any way. Amazingly, this is the one book in the Word of God where we truly learn all about the unknowns of grace and providence of God through Esther – without even saying His Name. I believe there is a profound lesson and an example for us today in and of that fact alone.

In our last report, we saw Esther act audaciously and bravely by going into the court of the king uninvited and unannounced. That would have been a death sentence for most people, but the king held out his sceptre to the queen in a marvelous display of grace. We also learned that a decree has gone forth at the time in which we are studying, that says all Jews will be destroyed at the hand of Haman the Agagite — which means he was an Amelekite — and he hated one Jewish man, Mordecai, so intensely that he now wants the entire Jewish population exterminated.

Well, the decree is going to be carried out if someone doesn't intercede and intervene for God's people at this time. That leaves Esther as the only hope on the human plane for the Jews who had remained behind in Babylon after the captivity had ended. We know God has placed Esther on the throne by His providence. These people, at the time in which we are studying, are totally and completely out of the will of God; which means they aren't praying to or speaking about Him – in fact, they're not even thinking about God.

We're all going to stand before Christ as the King someday, friends. Believers will have their works judged at the Bema seat to determine if we will receive a reward or not; the Great White throne is where the lost will appear and have their opportunity to attempt to justify their lives by their own standard of goodness. Of course, that will be a losing proposition for

the lost man. Either way, lost or saved, you're going to appear before the Lord Jesus Christ as your King. Every knee shall bow.

Also, in our previous report, we learned that when the king held out the golden sceptre to Queen Esther, he asked her what her request was. I'm sure Esther was lovely and beautiful to look upon in her royal apparel; and we're going to discover that she is truly a wonderful person. Well, even though Esther didn't make her request known at this time, what she did was invite the king and Haman to lunch. Even so, the king basically volunteered a blank check for whatever she wanted — up to half the kingdom. It seems Esther didn't quite know what to ask for. Paul the apostle could say, "... *the Lord shall supply all your needs.*" This should all be most comforting to the genuine child of God today.

Now, it's wonderful to have a generous and loving King; but Christ is much - *MUCH* - more than a King to us. He's our Savior; and He is the Savior of the world — and Christ is God. So, here in Esther, we're undoubtedly seeing the providence of God; but we can only ever know this for certain by knowing the entire Word of God properly, correctly and completely.

Proverbs 21:¹ *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will ~*

Many of our world leaders today are debased, lost, cruel, brutal and murderously treacherous — not to mention godless; but even their hearts are subject to the Hand of the Lord God Almighty. God can move or remove any man at any time, and He can turn any man as we can direct water via irrigation to go places it would never have gone naturally. So, God is moving in this account of Queen Esther in a very definite way. By the way, verse four of chapter five is an acrostic in the Hebrew that spells out the Name of God; but I wouldn't attach too much importance or significance to that fact - I merely point that out because it is a Bible fact....

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⁵ Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

⁶ And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.

⁷ Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is;

⁸ If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.

⁹ Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.

¹⁰ Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.

¹¹ And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.

¹² Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.

¹³ Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.

¹⁴ Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king

unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.

~ So, the king and Haman attend the lunch Esther prepared for them, but she is still very timid and unsure. Actually, she's frightened to death; and the king can tell something weighty is on her mind. It's interesting to note how generous and gracious the king is to Esther at this time. Even though that must have helped, Esther postponed her request yet again. If you have ever had a presentation to make to powerful men, you'll know that preparing for the event is rather simple; however, when it comes time for the actual delivery – not so much. So, I guess the king and Haman finished the meal, got good and drunk again, and departed.

Old man Haman left the lunch banquet feeling pretty good, but when he merely sees this Jew, Mordecai, his entire day is ruined. I'm sure some racial epithets were muttered. This is nothing in the world except pure bone sucking satanic hate for no reason whatsoever. Even so, Haman goes home and brags about his accomplishments to everyone around him. We now begin to see exactly how big of a fool Haman really is. Haman is boasting and bragging about three areas of his life; and they are the same three areas men boast and brag about today.

Proverbs 16:18 *pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall* ~

First, Haman boasted of his riches and how wealthy he was – and that is *ALWAYS* associated with madness, friends. Men today boast of their wealth – and they articulate wealth with more enthusiasm than mentioning their children! It's easy to make claims of wealth; because no one really knows how much money you have. Some people imagine they are worth a billion dollars when their true net worth is a negative million bucks. The Greeks have a proverb that says, ".... *whom the gods would destroy they first make mad.*"

After that, the second thing on man's priority list to brag about is his children. No one really wants to hear about those little brats – I mean angels – but we typically can't refrain from talking about how they are the

most precocious children God ever created – and we all do it. Of course, no one believes us – but we do! The third thing men like to boast about is their promotion to a high position of authority in the world; and many times this is number two on the list. Well, Haman went all the way in his drunken self-promotion, bragging about all three. He also perceived himself as a ladies man, as he informs everyone how deeply Queen Esther adores him. Haman is human - and truly unhinged.

So, Haman has an incredible inventory of worldly stuff on his ledger; but there's one tiny debit mark named Mordecai who was enough to negate the entire account. As long as this insignificant nothing of a man was alive, Haman could not be happy or satisfied. The rich man today does not even want the poor to have a slice of bread to eat, friends; in fact, they don't want the poor man to have *DIRT* to eat — they want them dead — just as Haman wants Mordecai dead; and you can just write that down!

Don't think for a moment I don't speak from experience – and experience from *BOTH* sides of the fence. Think I am wrong about this? – I hate to tell you, but it is *YOU* who is wrong. Little things and little people like Mordecai should mean *NOTHING* to a man like Haman — but they incense, invoke deep hatred and are emotionally disturbed. People are revealed for who they are by the things that annoy them. This man, Haman, had great things in his life, but one little thing took away all pleasure from him; and that's the hallmark of a very small-minded person.

So, what a wonderful wife Zeresh must have been! She's as murderous as Haman was. Making a gallows seventy-five feet tall was a little much, don't you think? Remember, Mordecai means "*little*" or "*short*." Bitterness and hatred lead people to do things that are not reasonable or necessary. They vent their spleen and spew hatred and build gallows for the poor man so high you can see it from a mile away. Well, apparently, they built those gallows throughout the night – which is strange – and that is a whole other subject we could address – but won't at this time. Perhaps the nailing and sawing had something to do with the reason the king couldn't sleep that night; I'm sure the construction of the gallows could be heard all through the palace....

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¹ *On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.*

² *And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.*

³ *And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.*

⁴ *And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.*

⁵ *And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.*

⁶ *So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?*

⁷ *And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,*

⁸ *Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:*

~ Well, the official minutes of the kingdom being read were certainly a boring thing to do or listen to. Unfortunately for Haman, the king happened to discover Mordecai had never been rewarded for thwarting the coup de' etat we learned about earlier in this book. The king had forgotten all about that; and I think he sat up and took note immediately. Did I say "happened" to – no, this isn't happenstance – this is the providence of God Almighty.

Too many little things are piling up in this account for this to be a coincidence. God's Hand in the glove of human circumstance is most definitely revealed; and God is overruling pure evil by His providence. The Lord is still reigning today, too – but not down here on this earth. However, even in this lost world, only He is able to hold out the sceptre of grace to us. Nothing in the account of the story of Esther happened by chance – you may be sure.

So, while all of that was going on in the palace, there's a knock on the door in the middle of the night and, lo and behold, there's old man Haman. Haman is up early, and he's about to request Mordecai be put to death before the decree even goes into effect. He's also very eager to get to the banquet Esther has prepared for them. I suppose those two things would keep anyone from sleeping well. These two circumstances come together through misunderstanding, and it is a beautiful conflict of confusion; I think God just smiled when Haman thought it was he who was going to be honored; but the king was referring to the man Haman wanted to murder. When Haman tells the king his thoughts on what should be done to the man the king seeks to honor, the fact is: Haman wanted the throne – and I think Haman also wanted Queen Esther. Don't kid yourself, friends; this is exactly what goes on today, too. Haman was only thinking of himself ~

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