

[Vengeance]

Esther Chapter Eight

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~ Haman was hanged on his own gallows in our previous report – the same gallows he had constructed for Mordecai the Jew; but the decree Haman had made to exterminate all Jews from the Median-Persian Empire has not gone into effect yet — and it has not been altered or changed by his death, either. Any law, edict, or decree made by a Persian king could never be altered, abolished, or changed. So, something is going to have to happen or there is going to be a holocaust of the Jews living in Babylon at the time in which we are studying.

Even though Queen Esther was on the throne next to King Xerxes – or Ahasuerus – none of these people in Babylon are in the will of God at this time that we are studying; and we know that because the will of God was for His people to be back in Jerusalem with Ezra and Nehemiah working to rebuild the temple and the city! All Jews who remained behind in Babylon after the captivity ended are operating under the providence of God and are subject to His permissive will. This reveals that God will overrule and intervene on our behalf many times in order to carry out His Own plan and purpose for His glory; and we can certainly be thankful He does so — even when we willfully, deliberately, and intentionally step out of His will for our lives....

¹ On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her.

² And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

³ And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.

4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,

5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces:

6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?

7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.

8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.

9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.

10 And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries:

11 Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would

assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey,

¹² Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.

¹³ The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

¹⁴ So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace.

¹⁵ And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

¹⁶ The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.

¹⁷ And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

~ Old man Xerxes was reckless and irresponsible with the use of his signet. When it was pressed into hot wax, an official document was produced; and it was an extremely powerful tool. We saw the king give the ring to Haman before; and now he just tosses it on over to Mordecai. Perhaps the ring is finally in good hands, but the king certainly does seem to act foolishly with it.

Well, the only possible recourse for the children of Israel at this time was for the palace to send out another decree amending the previous; and stating that the Jews would be permitted to defend themselves. That will be the only means of salvation for them at this time. The decree would be their only defense; but the king has made a way for them to escape

through Mordecai. Of course, Mordecai wrote the new decree, and it was sent out in the name of the king. With a hundred twenty-seven provinces – and likely even more languages, the decree would have to have been transcribed in – this represented a daunting undertaking.

This section of Scripture may be the most wonderful picture of our salvation in the entire Word of God. It isn't presented much today; in fact, all I ever see from people quoting from Esther concerns the golden sceptre – and that's fine – but it's incomplete if you are attempting to connect and apply a teaching concerning grace. See, God presents these pictures to teach us – but we have to have a complete picture – not just a cropped off partial of a close-up. Unfortunately, that's all we seem to get in most modern-day Bible teaching – a cropped-out close-up that in no way reveals the full depth of truth. In most cases, it is distorted until it qualifies as deception. Quite frankly, most modern-day preaching, and Bible teaching, is about as worthless as an airplane without wings.

God has sent out a decree today that says, "*.... the soul that sinneth it shall surely die.*" That tenet of truth has never been changed; but we're not talking about criminals and drunks — God is talking about *Y-O-U* – and me! All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. None are righteous – no, not one. The righteousness of man is filthy rags, my friends. God cannot save us by perfection because we cannot offer Him perfection. God cannot save us in our imperfection because He doesn't lower His standard of holiness and accept anything less than perfection.

So, the decree God has issued that informs man he belongs to a lost race is the predicament of modern mankind. Man likes to point his finger elsewhere and say, "*.... aha! There's our problem.*" My friends, the problem in this world is right in your heart. Jesus said, "*.... out of the heart proceeds hate, lies, adultery, murder – and a whole long list of very bad things.*" Jesus was talking about you and me; because we are the ones who have utterly polluted this world today – much more than the oceans and the air – I mean the entire spiritual realm encompassing everything is polluted. God is going to have to judge that — and He is going to — whether we like it or not.

Well, people don't accept this type of Bible teaching anymore. They simply reject it wholesale. As a result, the sickeningly stupid liberal religions are running rampant throughout the world. I have come to the conclusion that liberalism is based purely on the weakness of the man in a pulpit who doesn't have the courage to take a principled stand and tell people they are sinners who need a Savior. Men in this world only want to be flattered when they go to church today. I would say 99.666% of the Bible teaching each week in this world is about as poor of a representation of God as can be made. No, I'm not kidding; in fact, I believe that's a conservative number.

I know my Bible teaching is not popular — because the Word of God just isn't popular when taught properly, correctly and completely. I already knew that when I laid my life down for the Lord Jesus Christ to follow His command. This world is full of nothing but sinners and, if you don't accept that, then your best bet is to stop reading right here. However, we can all thank God the same Throne that sent out judgment to the world has also sent another decree by which we can be reconciled. You and I are ambassadors for God to this world; and an ambassadorship in a country means the potentate being represented is still friendly with the country he is an ambassador to.

See, we can also thank God that He is still friendly to this world; and the reason He is still friendly with us is because He provided a way for our salvation. There's nothing in the world we can or need to add to His finished work. What we are to do is proclaim to the world their opportunity for salvation. Some will accept God's gift; and some will continue to reject it. Those who choose to believe will be saved. All these people had to do at the time in which we are studying in the Book of Esther was believe the second decree from the king, and they would also be saved from slaughter.

When God saves people today, He is saving sinners — no one else. God has provided a way for a condemned sinner to be reconciled. None of us are good enough to merit going to Heaven — and nothing we can do or not do will ever make us good enough. The only possible way for you and me to go to Heaven is by accepting salvation from Christ; then — and only then — are we are given the robe of righteousness and perfection. When you and I

are born again in Christ, that simply cannot be improved upon. It means born again into the Word of God that liveth and abideth forever. That is the reason I teach the Word of God as I do; because this the only way lives are ever going to be changed. You *never* hear me talking about “... *committing your life to God*” — because you have nothing worthwhile to commit! God doesn't want your perverted, nasty, and likely half-ruined life; God wants to give you a new life and a new heart!

We have too much easy-believism taught today; a religious philosophy that totally ignores the fact we're sinners facing complete annihilation. We have millions of people holding crusades, evangelistic meetings, prayer festivals, and church campaigns who have never been born again. Until we come to Christ as a sinner — we're under a death sentence; I don't care how many churches you plant, or how many little orphan babies you feed. The people at the time in which we are studying had to recognize and believe that a decree had been made by which they would be destroyed; and they were also required to believe a new decree had been issued that provided a way of escaping judgment! Friends, be ye reconciled to God, because God has made a way to be reconciled! *TODAY* if you will hear His voice and believe, then you shall be saved. That means right now — and let me tell you that, for some of you, this day will be the last day you have to accept Christ as your Savior. For someone reading this report, today will be your final tomorrow.

Notice that Mordecai isn't running around in sackcloth and ashes anymore. It's marvelously wonderful to be saved because there is *NOTHING* else that can bring joy to our life! You can go to a luxury hotel and spend ten thousand dollars a night, and you'll have a pretty good time; and you can eat like a glutton and get drunk and see the show — but the next day will not be a good time for you. We can never know what real joy is trying to be happy in and with the things of this world — and you can just write that down. The Lord Jesus Christ is the light of this world; and He is joy and gladness and honor. God is the *ONLY — ONLY — ONLY* possible way for sinners to be lifted from the muck and mire of this filthy world and gain dignity and respect. God wants all of this to be real to your heart, friends. Is it?

Alright, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition with this second decree going forth – but, apparently, it didn't get through to all places in Babylon. I have a notion that many, many, many Jews were still murdered at this time. They didn't have television, radio, the internet, and a beautiful, leather bound Bible to study – so, they didn't all get the message! Does the Word of God really mean anything to you, friends? Really? If so, then why don't you give Christ the attention He deserves? The last verse of this chapter tells us *“the fear of the Jews fell upon them.”* The nation Israel has been a better witness to this world than they are given credit for, that's for sure; they were much more effective back then than the modern-day church is presently – without question. Which decree do you fall under? Are you a condemned person awaiting final judgment; or are you living a life full of the joy of your salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ? ~

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