

His Power Behind us!

Esther 9-10

“God’s Sovereignty in Everything”

Have you ever wondered why when people get in an elevator – everyone stops talking and looks forward

A) Tempted at times when last one – to stand facing everyone – Starring –

B) Elevator protocol – Stop talking – hands to your sides – Look forward – WHY?

C) PERHAPS THIS IS where that originated: A law on the books in the state of New York, it is illegal in NY to speak to a person while riding in an elevator and you must fold your hands while looking forward.

D) Perhaps that is where it started.

Lots of obscure – Bizarre laws on the books in this country.

A) In Texas it is against the law to sell your eyeballs.

B) You can be fined and arrested for harassing Bigfoot in the state of Washington -

C) They think there is a Bigfoot

D) Bear Wrestling is Prohibited in Alabama

1) Pet Bears

E) One more – in Ohio, Policemen are allowed to bite a dog if they think it will calm the dog down

Law is necessary in any well-ordered society.

A) It is one of the great stabilizing influences among peoples and nations.

B) But if laws are not grounded in general principles, if they just address a current crisis or a narrow concern,

1) They become either ludicrous or counterproductive.

C) Throughout the Book of Esther, King Xerxes confronted each new situation by the issuance of a decree.

Ch.1 Marital Defiance – Vashti – Law no wife can reject her husband.

A) Laws about wine consumption

B) Haman created a law – Annihilate the Jewish nation – on a certain day.

C) Saw last week another law had to be put into place that gave the Jewish people the right to defend themselves ON THAT DAY!

AS we come to Chapter 9 – THAT DAY OF DOOM HAS ARRIVED!

Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, the time came for the king’s command and his decree to be executed. On the day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, the opposite occurred, in that the Jews themselves overpowered those who hated them.

“Nine months passed between Mordecai leaving the presence of the king robed in royal finery, and the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar.

A) This was the anticipated and dreaded day when the edicts commanded by the king was to be carried out.

B) Two conflicting edicts were commanded for that day, but the historical notes of interest involve only the Jewish perspective.

C) Those harboring anti-Semitic sentiments were eager and ready for that day, anticipating the help of imperial forces (Esth. 3:12).

D) Instead, the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand.”

2 The Jews gathered together in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could withstand them, because fear of them fell upon all people. 3 And all the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and all those doing the king’s work, helped the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. 4 For Mordecai was great in the king’s palace, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai became increasingly prominent.

5 Thus the Jews defeated all their enemies with the

stroke of the sword, with slaughter and destruction, and did what they pleased with those who hated them.

6 And in Shushan the citadel the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. 7 Also Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, 8 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, 9 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vajezatha—**10 the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews**—they killed; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder

Look back at V.4 – See something very important as application to our lives.

A)Not only did they have freedom to fight, but they have power to fight: "For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai became increasingly prominent."
(Grew more and more powerful)

B)They were fighting now in the consciousness that the man of power was on their side,
1)that right up to the very throne itself they had not only the authority to fight, but they fought in dependence on his power.

C)Throughout this book, **Mordecai is a picture of the Holy Spirit at work in your life and mine.**

D)Mordecai – protects and raises Esther – teaching her in the ways of Israel

1)Mordecai – urges Esther – you need to do something – Holy Spirit – convicts us -

E)Here – Empowering his people

This picture blew my mind. - A thin stick that had been picked up by a tornado and driven through a telephone pole.

A)Now If I gave you a straw and said to you, "Would you kindly go out and drive this through a telephone pole," you would say it is impossible.

B)**But here is a picture of it! How did it happen?**

1)The only answer is that the straw, weak as it is, has been caught up in the power of the tornado,

2)And in the power of that mighty wind it is able to do that which it could never do itself.

C)It is rather remarkable, isn't it, that throughout the Scriptures the Spirit of God is referred to as the wind, the breath of God.

D)This is a continual figure of his ministry in our midst.

Last week we noted that there was a law that affected man – Law of sin and death.

A)Nothing could be done to change that law

B)New Law – supersedes it! – **The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus – set us free from the law of sin and death-** Romans 8:2

C)When we realize that truth and walk in the power of the Spirit – Our lives Change!

³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.-

Romans 8:3-4

We learn that in the power of that new life, ministered to us continually by the Holy Spirit, it is quite possible to do everything that needs to be done.

A)The Holy Spirit will never be like a tornado if all you need is a gentle breeze,

B)But if you need a tornado, that is what He supplies.

1)He can move mountains, change circumstances, set aside kingdoms, or overthrow thrones if necessary,

C)Our need is to learn how to walk in the Spirit for whatever is necessary, the man of power has power to do it.

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. – Romans 8:5,6

Romans 8:37 - ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

That is what we see here. They fought in the realization that the man behind the throne is the one from whom power comes.

A) They defended themselves, but went no further.

B) They protected themselves and didn't carry it to the extreme. – They didn't take the plunder

C) How did that happen? – Throughout the whole region? – Answer - Act of God.

1) Unity of action amongst the Jews

D) A fruit of the Spirit is Self Control!

¹¹ On that day the number of those who were killed in Shushan the citadel was brought to the king. ¹² And the king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the citadel, and the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what is your petition? It shall be granted to you. Or what is your further request? It shall be done."

¹³ Then Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Shushan to do again tomorrow according to today's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows."

¹⁴ So the king commanded this to be done; the decree was issued in Shushan, and they hanged Haman's ten sons.

Haman and his sons were descendants of the ancient Amalekites – Type of the Flesh

A) God commanded Saul, the son of Kish, to execute the full extent of God's judgment against the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15:2-3).

B) Saul failed; but this later descendent of the tribe of Benjamin and a son of Kish named Mordecai completed God's judgment against the Amalekites.

C) When the Spirit is in Control – the flesh is defeated!

¹⁵ And the Jews who were in Shushan gathered together again on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and killed three hundred men at Shushan; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.

¹⁶ The remainder of the Jews in the king's provinces gathered together and protected their

lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of their enemies; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder. ¹⁷ This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. And on the fourteenth of the month they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

¹⁸ But the Jews who were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day, as well as on the fourteenth; and on the fifteenth of the month they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. ¹⁹ Therefore the Jews of the villages who dwelt in the unwallied towns celebrated the fourteenth day of the month of Adar with gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and for sending presents to one another.

So here we see the celebrating of what would become known as the feast of Purim

A) Purim is the plural of the word Pur - Ch. 3 – to determine the day Haman cast Pur - = the lot

B) In our English Language – we add an (S) to make something plural. Purs

1) Hebrew they add im – Seraph – Angelic being Plural Seraphim – Cherub is Cherubim

C) So it became known as the feast of Purim – the feast of casting of lots

D) Today they still celebrate this victory –

Still celebrated over two days:

A) The Jews in the city celebrate it on March 14th The Jews outside of Jerusalem on the 15th

B) The people gather for the reading of the Esther Scroll. A reader chants the entire story.

1) All goes well through the first two chapters.

C) But at chapter 3, wildness breaks out. At each reading of Haman's name, those in the audience boo, hiss, stamp their feet, or twirl a noisemaker.

D) The audience delights in this raucous behavior as they try to blot out the name of Haman.

1) Like our harvest festival – Games / Music / Dress up – Girls Esther – Boys Villian Haman / or hero Mordecai

I read a story this week about a Jewish man who was being interrogated by Hitler –

Hitler was boasting of his plan to annihilate all the Jews – this Jewish man started laughing.

Patting his knee laughing – Hitler asked him – what is so funny –

“The man said – throughout the History of Israel there have been those who have sought to Annihilate us from off the face of the earth. Every time that happens – God intervenes and we end up with a new Holiday.”

So Pharaoh gave us Passover –
Haman Purim –
Antiochus – Hannahak –

So I am just wondering what holiday you are going to bring us.

RD v.20-32

²⁰ And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews, near and far, who *were* in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, ²¹ to establish among them that they should celebrate yearly the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar, ²² as the days on which the Jews had rest from their enemies, as the month which was turned from sorrow to joy for them, and from mourning to a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, of sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor. ²³ So the Jews accepted the custom which they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them, ²⁴ because Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to annihilate them, and had cast Pur (that *is*, the lot), to consume them and destroy them; ²⁵ but when *Esther* came before the king, he commanded by letter that this wicked plot which *Haman* had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

²⁶ So they called these days Purim, after the name Pur. Therefore, because of all the words of this letter, what they had seen concerning this matter, and what had happened to them, ²⁷ the Jews established and imposed it upon themselves and their descendants and all who would join them, that without fail they should celebrate these two days every year, according to the written *instructions* and according to the *prescribed* time, ²⁸ that these days *should be* remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city, that these days of Purim should not fail *to be observed* among the Jews, and *that* the memory of them should not perish among their descendants.

They wrote it down and made it law- on the books to be read and remembered. Tradition

A) Traditions are great if we know why we keep them

“Jim’s wife decided to cook his favorite meal—a beef roast. He was puzzled when she took the meat, cut a chunk off each end, and placed it in the roaster. When he asked her about it, she replied, “My mother always did it that way.”

One afternoon Steve's mother-in-law was visiting, so he asked her, “Why is it important to cut off the ends of the beef roast before cooking it?”

“Well, it's a family secret,” she replied. “The meat always turns out very tender. I learned it from my mother.” The next day Steve called his wife's grandmother.

“We're trying to unravel a mystery,” he told her.

“Why is it you cut the ends off a beef roast before cooking it?” “Well, it's the only way I can get the thing to fit in my roaster!”

Often what starts as a meaningful and necessary action becomes a pointless custom over time.

A) As the memory fades, only the rituals remain.

B) In order to assure the tradition of Purim as well as its meaning within the Jewish community,

1) the violent days preceding the feast were recorded, and the edicts from Mordecai and Esther were established.

C) They didn't just celebrate the day but they continued to talk about why they celebrated it.

Good for us to remember: Communion – Do this in Remembrance of me. – Often

A) Good for us to be reminded of the importance of the Cross

B) **Unity at the Cross – Life at the Cross** –

1) Remembrance of our need to die – to self and flesh at the Cross!

C) Even Christmas –

D) Escape the danger of these things becoming meaningless in our lives

²⁹ Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim.

³⁰ And *Mordecai* sent letters to all the Jews, to the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, *with* words of peace and truth, ³¹ to confirm these days of Purim at their *appointed* time, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had prescribed for them, and as they had decreed for themselves and their descendants concerning matters of their fasting and lamenting. ³² So the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim, and it was written in the book.

So the day was made an official holiday written on the books to remember.

A) The day that was to be their death turned and became their hope for the life in the future.

Do you know about Enterprise Alabama?

A) That is the place – where their Cotton crops were being destroyed by the Boll weevil –

B) Led the farmers to look to plant other crops things that- Boll weevils didn't like

C) One planted Peanuts – Huge – major grower of peanuts – other crops – Enterprise

1) Monument – Boll weevil

D) Statue of a woman holding the hideous looking Boll weevil –

E) This plaque next to it reads

"In profound appreciation of the Boll Weevil and what it has done as the herald of prosperity this monument was erected by the citizens of Enterprise, Coffee County, Alabama."

A) **In Profound appreciation.** Haven't you found that to be true in your life- something brought pain

B) Something that Caused Pain – heartache
Seen God work – through the brokenness

1) Make a memorial – Write it down – not forget

C) Those things bring Pain - cause Scars –

1) Two possibilities: One a vicious reminder of a horrible time in your life – what caused life to be ruined

D) Or it becomes a reminder of God's grace – and it really has to do with how we REACT TO IT

Jesus is the healer – restorer – he doesn't want us to be crippled by our past –

A) Crippled by our decision –

B) Turn to the Lord – Let Him lead – Let Him work

C) That Scar can become a memorial – in your life of the Victory of Jesus –

1) His healing – His grace- His restoration

D) Then make a memorial – plant a tree – or write it down.

Ch.10 And King Ahasuerus imposed tribute on the land and on the islands of the sea. ² Now all the acts of his power and his might, and the account of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? ³ For Mordecai the Jew *was* second to King Ahasuerus, and was great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen.

This last chapter is just a conclusion of the story.

A) We are told of the greatness of King Ahasuerus and of Mordecai.

B) Ahasuerus imposed tribute on the land and on the islands of the sea.

C) This appears to be a statement of his power: he had power so widespread that people throughout the land and sea paid him tribute.

D) Also the greatness of Mordecai were recorded in the written chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia (cf. on 6:1).

E) This would emphasize that these men and the story **we have studied were real history**, not myth or legend.

F)As we wrap up this study I want to remind you of three themes we have seen in this study of Esther.

#1 God's Protection of the People of Israel.

A)Since the beginning of man it has always been Satan's desire to destroy Israel.

B)**Curse in the Garden** – the seed of the women would crush his head – he was determined to prevent the Messiah from coming.

C)In the book of Exodus – Pharaoh sought to destroy all the babies – God saved Moses – Savior

C)Various Gentile Kings who invaded Israel – There was always a remnant

C)Herod in the NT –

Modern History Hitler – Iran Ahmadinejad

A)Messiah has come but Satan knows that He is going to return – restore Israel

B)Satan wants to thwart the plan of God.

C)The book of Esther reminds us that plan for Israel will be carried out.

1)God's plan for your life will be carried out. Complete the work that He started in you.

D)**CURRENT DAYS:** People afraid to go to Israel – probably one of the safest places –

1)More murders – robberies – etc in our Country

#2 God is Sovereign.

A)God is not mentioned – but he was always moving behind the scenes to orchestrate His plan.

B)Orphan Esther – Queen – position to speak to the king – **Such a time as this**

C)Mordecai – His position

D)**Never forget the providence of God** – things don't make – sense He is working.

1)Look back and see what He was doing.

E)There is a potential Boll Weevil monument in your Future.

#3 A Picture of the Battle between the flesh and the Spirit.

A)Haman represented the man after the flesh – Pride

B)The Flesh and our **Pride** – **Never satisfied** always wanting more.

C)Flesh sees what it doesn't have instead of what it does have.

D)In order for God's purpose to be carried out the flesh had to be put to death.

E)We have power over the flesh – God's Spirit

Tonight:

Baptism of Holy Spirit –

Fresh filling

Difficulty – you want to be remembered AS A VICTOR