

Esther 5-8

“God’s Sovereignty in Everything”

Previously in the Book of Esther

A)The King in Persia at this time is Ahasuerus – also known as Xerxes.

B)**Ch.1 He hosted a 6 month Banquet** – Purpose – support for military invasion from leaders of 127 provinces he controls

C)Show off the Queen – **She refuses - Banished**

C)Xerxes Goes to Greece and is defeated –

Comes home sad: New Wife – Ch. 2 Miss Persia Pageant

A)Young Jewish orphan named Esther is Selected – she is **Beautiful and she is godly.**

B)**Raised by cousin Mordecai** – they are two people like Daniel – like Joseph – who live for God in an ungodly culture.

1)Their lives – along with Shadrach.....
Nehemiah – prove to us that it can be done

C)Ch.2 ended with Mordecai – **unveiling an assassination plot against Xerxes**

1)Noted that was odd – No reward – (Come back into play tonight – Thru - Divine insomnia

Ch.3 Opened – Villain a man by the name of Haman – Agagite

A)**He is promoted to prime minister** – He gets all upset – because Mordecai doesn’t bow when he comes by.

B)Haman finds out that Mortdecai is a Jew and decides that all of the Jewish people are a problem – need to be exterminated

C)Goes to the King – tells him there is a people in the Kingdom that are a Problem – they don’t worship our gods

1)**They don’t respect you as King** – I think they should be exterminated and I will pay 6 million dollars to the Kings treasury if you let me do this.

D)Note this Haman never identifies the people to the King – he just says there are this people.

1)When the decree goes out – the King finds out that it is the Jewish people – {**No idea his new queen is Jewish**}

The King agrees – the plan is set in motion – the Jews will be exterminated from the entire Kingdom – **Jews in Persia, Palestine and Judah**

A)Everywhere that the Kingdom of Persia reached those Jewish people would be affected.

B)Ch.4 Mordecai – sends a message to Esther – **you have to do something** – in fact God has raised you up into this position as queen for such a time as this.

C)Esther says: **I haven’t been with the king for 30 days – he hasn’t summoned me – haven’t been intimate – slept in separate quarters**

D)Persian rule said that no one could approach the King unless they had been summoned not even the Queen.

1)**Esther says - Get the Jewish people to Fast and Pray** and I will do the same with my maidservants – for three days

E)That is where the story ended last time.

Isaiah 40:31 **“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”**

Benefits to fasting and waiting on the Lord
First, Strength renewed

We shall see that Esther definitely seems emboldened after this time of waiting on the Lord.

Second, we gain a better perspective.

A)The passage says we will mount up with wings like eagles.

B)**Eagles soar, eagles fly above the normal terrain.**

1)**Eagles see things from a higher vantage point, they can spot a fish in a lake several miles away on a clear day.**

C)**When we wait on the Lord, we gain a higher or a heavenly perspective on what it is we are dealing with!**

D) We will see that Esther gets a plan!

5 Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house. ²So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.

Here we see that Esther has gained respect from Xerxes – they have been married about 5 years now.

A) But she is not going to break protocol – but she puts herself in a place where the King can see her –

B) They probably like most couples had their signals

How many of you have signals?

1) My wife – the tap under the table {First time – Frisky} - two things

C) Either She is ready to go – or I need to watch what I am about to say.

D) Esther – gets his attention somehow – A Wave – played with her hair – WORKED
She is summoned – she comes in and touches the top of the scepter

A) That was the proper protocol – it showed the utmost respect for the power and the authority of the King

B) I think that unlike Vashti who refused to come before the King-

1) This is something that the King really loves about Esther –

C) She is beautiful – but she is also RESPECTFUL.

Ladies that is a Key to your marriage – Your husband needs to know that you respect him.

A) What if he doesn't deserve my respect?

B) I think your husband is probably better than Xerxes – already seen how he was an ego maniac

1) He has a Harem of over 400 concubines –

C) Esther doesn't despise him – she shows him respect and he in turn will show her love.

D) Listen ladies your husband doesn't want to be commanded - Respect his role as a leader

1) The more you do that the better he will lead!

E) Dr. Emerson Eggerichs marriage expert says in his book "Love and Respect" "If you asked women if they'd rather their friend's love or respect them – the majority would say love.

But if you asked men if they'd rather their friend's love or respect them – the men would answer respect. We are hard wired this way – God created men with the need to feel respected and adequate."

3 And the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!" {Figure of speech – we might say – ask anything}

So Esther answered, "If it pleases the king, Respect – she defers to the King – she isn't demanding – she is not spouting off about Haman – well this jerk you hired

"If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

5 Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, that he may do as Esther has said." So the king and Haman went to the banquet that Esther had prepared. **6 At the banquet of wine the king said to Esther, "What is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"**

I don't think Esther was expecting the King to respond so quickly so she seeks to stall here for time – Come back tomorrow.

A) This is God's providence in action - She is not quite ready – she has a check in her spirit.

B) There is a lot of things that are going to happen in that 24 hours –

C) Haman will build gallows to Hang Mordecai – that Haman will actually be hung upon

D) **Xerxes will experience Divine insomnia** – not able to sleep – he is going to turn to a Persian History record –

1) And just happens to read a story that is going to change everything

E) Mordecai – will be exalted in the Kingdom

Listen: God's name is not in the story but he is working – even here causing Esther to ask for a delay.

A) I want to encourage you when your heart is heavy about something – but you sense a check in your spirit toward **ACTING ON IT** – listen to it

B) **God might be working – there might be something that needs to happen that is going to happen** – week

1) Or a month or even a day – Sense a check – **WAIT**

C) **I have experienced this so many times – I SENSED A check – NO REASON WHY?**

1) **A DAY LATER** something happened – so glad I waited!

D) Also when you feel like God is taking his time on matters – **hang in there because** – sometimes the delay even of a day – makes a huge difference.

7 Then Esther answered and said, “My petition and request is this: 8 If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, then let the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said.”

This is no doubt stroking Haman's ego –

Personal lunch with the King and Queen today – and asked to come back tomorrow –

9 So Haman went out that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, and that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with indignation against Mordecai.

Some people are NEVER HAPPY – they are upset by the littlest things -

A) Haman should have been so happy – just had this special audience with the King and Queen –

B) And He is going back tomorrow again for a special banquet – the queen is preparing –

1) He is the sole guest – he should be on cloud nine.

C) But he rides by Mordecai and when he doesn't bow –

1) Haman **is filled with indignation** – Really mad – he is steaming

D) That should not have bothered him at all! – **Here is something that I have noticed: People who understand grace**

A) People who understand that they have received way more from God than they deserve

B) Are people who are full of gratitude.

1) They are Joyful people

2) They find it easy to worship – natural response

C) How you doing? Better than I deserve!

Those kind of people are not easily bothered by things

A) They tend to see the good around them – the good in others –

B) **Compassionate for those who struggle** – they realize – Accept for the grace of God – there go I

C) However – those who are full of themselves are usually not very thankful for what they have

1) They are always wanting more – because they somehow think that they deserve more

D) Those types of people can be easily bothered by the littlest things.

1) SAD TO BE AROUND PEOPLE LIKE THAT!

Haman has everything he could every ask for – Wealth, position, he is 2nd in the kingdom, he has women at his disposal.

He has everything that the Carnal man seeks after, but there is this one Jewish man who will

not bow to him and pay him the respect that he deserves and he is MISEARABLE

10 Nevertheless Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and called for his friends and his wife Zeresh. 11 Then Haman told them of his great riches, – (just want to invite you all over – tell you how great I am) PERSIAN BRAGFEST the multitude of his children, (Ch.9:10 records – he had ten children –sign of masculinity he was Fertile – that was esteemed in that culture) everything in which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and servants of the king.

12 Moreover (oh great there is more) Haman said, “Besides, Queen Esther invited no one but me! to come in with the king to the banquet that she prepared; and tomorrow I am again invited by her, along with the king. (Doing lunch with Kingy and Queeny tomorrow)

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

(This is under my skin- what is under his skin is the providence of God.) God is working -

14 Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, (look honey) “Let a gallows be made, fifty cubits high, (75 feet high) and in the morning (you are having lunch with him anyway) suggest to the king that Mordecai be hanged on it; then go merrily with the king to the banquet.” (Haman is like – that is what I like about you honey – girl after my own heart) Persians didn’t hang you with a rope they impaled you –

A)His wife is suggesting – make a gallows build it in your front yard impale Mordecai on it –

B)And everyday when you wake up – look at him. After that you can go and eat merrily

And the thing pleased Haman so he had the gallows made. Tension builds

Ch. 6 Divine Insomnia

That night the king could not sleep. (Divine insomnia) So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

(Here we see the Lord’s providence.

A)He could have asked for wine, he could have asked for one of his many concubines, -hot bath – poetry – and host of other things –

B)He asks for a History book. (I get that – hated history in School – love it now – HIS STORY)

2 And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

C)The History of mankind is connected to this story! 1)The Persians were Meticulous about how they kept records. –

NOW don’t miss this – 12 years have passed from the time that Mordecai saved the king,

A)There are lots of things have been written in these History books.)

Aa)So don’t think it is merely a coincidence that the King turned to this particular story to read.

B)Another example of the Providence of God.

C)The history of the Jewish people is going to be a part of the reading of these chronicles this night

1)The coming of the Messiah – everything that is associated with what we celebrate at Christmas is connected to this night.

D)There is a conflict that is associated with Christmas – that is connected to this story –

1)Come Sunday – Christmas in the book of Revelation to see how that is connected.

3 Then the king said, “What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?” And the king’s servants who attended him said, “Nothing has been done for him.”

Now that was unusual because the Persians made a practice of publically promoting and elevating and recognizing someone who showed great loyalty toward the king –

A)Because it sent a message that Loyalty will be rewarded.

B)But for some reason – what Mordecai did is overlooked.

C) Again this is Divine. It wasn't the time for Mordecai to be honored and then forgotten. So the servants of the king tell him that nothing has been done.

D) I wonder if Mordecai thought – “**what a bummer – I thwart the plot to assassinate the King and nothing happens**”

E) And then the King promotes that buffoon – Haman – life is not fair!” Ever feel that way?

Hebrews 6:10 “For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

Matthew 6:4 “What is done in Secret will be rewarded openly.”

This is about to happen to Mordecai
So the servants say: Nothing is done - The king is pondering this – the rest of the night.

Morning comes

4 So the king said, “Who is in the court?” (Who is here early that I can bounce this off of?) -

Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

(Another coincidence right? – Haman just so happened to be there early)

Haman is there early to ask the King's permission to hang Mordecai on the gallows – before lunch –

A) But who better than the 2nd in command for the king to ask such a thing See God's providence in this

B) God is always working behind the scenes.

5 The king's servants said to him, “Haman is there, standing in the court.”

And the king said, “Let him come in.”

6 So Haman came in, and the king asked him, “What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?”

Now Haman thought in his heart, “**Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?**”

Thinking this is great – He is wants to honor me?

A) He is So Arrogant – Haman is probably thinking – can it get any better?

B) I am going to hang Mordecai today – then have lunch with the King and Queen –

1) And now the King wants to honor me even more. **Life is fantastic!**

7 And Haman answered the king, “For the man whom the king delights to honor, 8 let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head. 9 Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: ‘Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!’ ”

Rank was recognized in the Persian Empire by the robe that was worn.

A) What better way to honor someone than to dress them in the Robe the King used to wear,

B) And parade them around the city on the back of the King's Horse with his Royal Crest on the horse.

C) Interesting to me that everything that Haman mentions has to do with Status –

1) How this person will be seen in the light of others.

D) **Haman thinks this is happening to him** –

shows his heart – all about status –

1) The flesh loves to be scene by men.

He doesn't say: Make it so he doesn't have to pay taxes for the rest of his life

A) Or Promise to take care of his family for ever!

B) No Haman says – Dress him up like the king and parade him around the city of the royal horse

C) This is will let everyone know this is someone the King esteems very high.)

1) All about being seen by Men!

10 Then the king said to Haman, (Great idea!)
“Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for **Mordecai the Jew** (bomb dropped bursting his prideful bubble) who sits within the king’s gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken.” **Imagine the look on his face- white as a ghost**

11 So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai (this is comical) –

Haman goes to the guy who would never stand when he passed by and now he has to ask him to stand so **he can put the robe on him –**

Don’t tell me God doesn’t have a sense of humor.

And Haman led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, “Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!” Sure he is real excited

Announcer at a NBA – announces the other team – Guard from NC - ...in a Monotone

A)And now the starting line up for your LA Lakers – At Guard – Kobe the Black Mamba Bryant

B)Haman is probably all Monotone -

12 Afterward Mordecai went back to the king’s gate. I want you to notice that - easy to pass over.

A)Mordecai – is honored – exalted – he returned to the Kings gate.

B)I love this about this guy - He is not looking for a promotion. There is no sense of entitlement.

C)Nothing like that at all. He just humbly goes back to his normal spot. - Awesome.

But Haman hurried to his house, **mourning and with his head covered.** 13 When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him.” This is an omen –this is not good for you.

This is not going to end well.

Thanks honey – you were a little different this morning – Put him on a stake and impale him.

Now Omen – Haman has no doubt lost his appetite.

14 While they were still talking with him, the king’s eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared

Ch. 7 Divine Justice

“Violence begets violence, and evil intentions turn back on themselves, resulting in ruin or destruction.”

So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther. (It seems that neither the King nor Haman still don’t know that Esther is a Jew)

2 And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!”(He is curious by now)

3 Then Queen Esther answered and said, “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, **let my life** be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. 4 For we have been sold, **(Haman said he would pay for it all)** my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king’s loss.” (You have no idea what you are losing – we are loyal subjects in the kingdom – that is the idea.)

5 So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?”

6 And Esther said, “The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!” (Interesting that the numerical value of that sentence is 666) –

Again no coincidence – Haman is a type of the Antichrist who will seek to annihilate the Jews.

A)Suddenly the king and Haman connect the dots that Esther must be Jewish – because that is who Haman wants to annihilate.

So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

7 Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king. 8 When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther was.

They didn't dine at a table like us – but they reclined on these little couches at the table. –

A)The king leaves – because now he has a dilemma once a decree has been made by the king it cannot be reversed.

B)But when he comes back in and sees Haman draped across the queen's couch - **Then the king said, "Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house?"**

C)Here the King is given a way to take care of Haman at least. – **are you trying to assault my queen – that was a crime punishable by death!**

As the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. 9 Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing **at the house of Haman."**

Then the king said, REALLY - **"Hang him on it!"**

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided.

LOVE THE BIBLE!

THE BOOK OF ESTHER REVERED BY THE JEWS – 2ND TO THE TORAH

A)Picture of the Divine Providence of God in protecting the people of Israel

B)READ YEARLY EVEN TO THIS DAY
NETENYAHU – GAVE COPY OF SCROLL
TO OBAMA

Ch. 8 The Tables are turned

V.1 On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews

A)This means what Haman did – Queen – couch – was Depicted a Criminal act –

B)The **normal Persian policy was** the house would go to the remaining family members unless the person who died was a criminal –
1)Then their possessions went to the state.

C) This house was no doubt a Palace since Haman was the 2nd richest man in the Kingdom

And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. {He is related to me and he is related to you by marriage

2 So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.

So Mordecai is elevated to the role of Prime Minister – which could be how Nehemiah ends up in the position of the cup bearer to Xerxes' son Artaxerxes -

3 Now Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored him with tears to counteract the evil of Haman the Agagite, and the scheme which he had devised against the Jews. 4 And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king, 5 and said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to annihilate the Jews who are in all the king's provinces. 6 For how can I endure to see the evil that will come to my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my countrymen?"

Now this was the situation: The King had written an edict under Persian law that could not be revoked.

A)Not even the King had the power to overturn the edict so this is a dilemma –

B)Haman is gone but his edict is in place – that says – in 9 months millions of Jews throughout the 127 provinces could be annihilated.

C)From Persia to India and all the way to Jerusalem the Jews were doomed.

So the first decree could not be altered – but a 2nd decree could be put into place that superseded the first.

A) This is a great Picture of the gospel.

B) See there is a law – the law of sin and death – and it can't be altered –

1) Adam fell – sin entered into the world

C) **The wages of sin is death** – Romans 6:23 – the soul that sins will surely die.

That was the law the edict – we were all born under the curse.

A) We were born with a death sentence on our heads

B) In the same way that when Haman's edict went into play any Jewish child born in that year span was born with a death sentence.

C) We were born with a death sentence.

1) The fact that we sinned only revealed the fact that we were sinners.

Our Sin condemned us. That was the law – that law could not be altered

A) God is a Just God – He can't just excuse sin

Romans 3:26 – He would show himself to be Just and the Justifier of our sins.

How can he be Just and the Justifier

A) A 2nd edict was needed – not one that altered the first – but one that supersedes it

B) The law of the spirit of life in Christ sets us free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2

C) The work of the Cross – supersedes the first

D) God send Jesus to pay the Price

What is King Xerxes going to do?

7 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "Indeed, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows because he tried to lay his hand on the Jews.

8 You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal

it with the king's signet ring; for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke."

9 So the king's scribes were called at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day; and it was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded, to the Jews, the satraps, the governors, and the princes of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, one hundred and twenty-seven provinces in all, to every province in its own script, to every people in their own language, and to the Jews in their own script and language.

10 And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, sealed it with the king's signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on horseback, riding on royal horses bred from swift steeds.

11 By these letters the king permitted the Jews who were in every city to gather together and protect their lives—to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces of any people or province that would assault them, both little children and women, and to plunder their possessions, 12 on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. 13 A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province and published for all people, so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

So here is what happened: The King can't change the edict but he can have them write a new edict that counteracts the old one.

A) So the new edict said that the Jewish people throughout the day that they were supposed to be **annihilated had the right to bear arms and defend themselves.**

B) So this new law was written into the Persia books that would supersede the old law and give the Jewish people the right to defend themselves.

14 The couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Shushan the citadel.

The couriers went out on horseback with this good news –

They went out in haste. There is an answer to the edict

How much more so should we go out in haste who have an answer to the Edict.

15 So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. 16 The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor. 17 And in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday.

Then many of the people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.

Septuagint – they became circumcised.

Takeaways

- 1. The workings of God are not related to our time clocks or our crises. So while waiting, we need to be patience, but also to look beyond the present and the best way to do that is to pray.**
- 2. People make plans, but the purposes of God prevail. God's sovereign rule and man's free will work in harmony to achieve God's glory.**
- 3. When a new edict was needed to supersede the first law – God acted on behalf of man by doing for us what we could never do for ourselves, providing Justice but also Justification to those who were condemned.**