

"A Queen Deposed"

Part 2

Introduction: Last week in our study of Esther we looked at how Xerxes was humiliated in front of all his friends at the drinking feast as he sent his chamberlains to call the queen to come before the people in order to display her beauty and she refused.

Notice Esther 1:10-12

This is the event that will set the stage for Esther to become queen so that she might intercede on behalf of her people, the Jews. Here was a disagreement between a disobedient woman and a drunken king that will eventually result in salvation for the Jews.

Notice Esther 1:13-15

Here the king turns to his seven counselors and seeks advice as to what should be done to the queen since she refused to be obedient to the king's command.

Application:

Proverbs 11:14

¹⁴ *Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.*

Proverbs 24:6

⁶ *For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.*

The Bible is very clear that counsel is good and in a multitude of counselors there is safety. But the counsel must be Godly counsel. We must be sure that when we are faced with a situation in which we need guidance that we seek Godly counsel. We should never get our counsel from the world. Let us notice a text from 1 Kings during the days of Rehoboam.

1 Kings 12:1-8

And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.

² *And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt:)*

³ *That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,*

⁴ Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.

⁵ And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.

⁶ And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

⁷ And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

⁸ But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:

Ignoring the counsel of the Godly wise men proved to be very costly for Rehoboam and the people. This would divide the nation. Let me show you how the people responded to Rehoboam's answer.

2 Kings 12:16-18

¹⁶ So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.

¹⁷ But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

¹⁸ Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.

Rehoboam sent Adoram as a representative which was a great mistake. He was the man who was in charge of the forced labor under Solomon. They hated him and they killed him when he showed up.

Let us now get back to Esther. The king looked to worldly counselors for his advice and their advice would later prove to be costly.

Notice Esther 1:16-18

Memucan, who is an alarmist, paints a very dark picture of what is going to happen in the kingdom if there is not quick action taken. This man could get a job with the modern-day media companies because alarmists are in demand today. He tells the king that if Vashti's rebellion is not addressed then ALL the women in the kingdom are going to rebel against their husbands and the end result will be contempt and wrath. In other words, he is stating that because of what the queen has done the kingdom will be in disarray and the men will lose their positions and power.

Application:

I need to just share something from this that we need to keep at the front of our minds. When alarmists share their message there is always a personal motive behind what they are doing. Their messages are designed to strike fear in people so that they can push their agenda. When people are afraid, they are more likely to surrender their rights over to someone whom they have been made to believe knows what is best for them.

Notice Esther 1:19

The laws of the Medes and the Persians were unalterable. Once they were made there was no way to change them.

Daniel 6:8-12

⁸ Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, **which altereth not.**

⁹ Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

¹⁰ Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

¹¹ Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

¹² Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, **which altereth not.**

Notice the words of Henry Morris;

"The Persians considered their laws to be so perfect--an opinion probably justified in most cases--that once enacted, they could be neither repealed nor revised.

Notice Esther 1:19 again.

The royal commandment would be that Vashti would no longer hold her position as queen. She could no longer come into the king's presence. Some believe that she remained part of the king's harem, but we do not know because she is never mentioned again in this letter.

I appreciate the words of Swindoll on what is happening here;

"This is the wonder of God's sovereignty. Working behind the scenes, He is moving and pushing and rearranging events and changing minds until He brings out of even the most carnal and secular of settings a decision that will set His perfect plan in place. We see that here, and we'll see it throughout the story of Esther. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that God is asleep when it comes to nations, or that He is out of touch when it comes to carnal banquets, or that He sits in heaven wringing His hands when it comes to godless rulers (and foolish presidents!) who make unfair, rash, or stupid decisions. Mark it down in permanent ink: God is always at work. But His ways are so different from ours, we quickly jump to fallacious conclusions and either react rashly or get paralyzed in panic."

As we apply this to our lives it is good right now to rest in the words of Isaiah;

Isaiah 55:8-11

⁸ *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*

⁹ *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

¹⁰ *For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:*

¹¹ *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

Notice Esther 1:20-22

The king took the advice of Memucan. It was a hasty decision, and it was a decision that he would seem to later regret. When we look at this commandment, I have to wonder how it would ever be enforced? It was a law that stated that every man was to rule his house.

This was a kingdom of 127 provinces, so there was no way it could be enforced. I see something in this that tells us some things never change. The commandment was about controlling the people. Those who were in the position of power issued this in an attempt to control even the personal lives of the people.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10

⁹ *The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.*

¹⁰ *Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.*

Application:

I want to make an application here concerning hasty decisions. Let us learn to be patient and use our minds to think things through. If we are presented with what looks like the need to make a quick decision be very careful. It is important that when we make decisions that we be sure we are not being controlled by our emotions or by the desires of the flesh. The Bible gives to us some examples of people who made quick decisions and later were forced to live with the consequences.

- **Esau's hasty decision.**

Genesis 25:29-33

²⁹ *And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint:*

³⁰ *And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.*

³¹ *And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.*

³² *And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?*

³³ *And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.*

Esau's decision was controlled by the appetite of the flesh.

- **Esau's regret.**

Hebrews 12:16-17

¹⁶ *Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.*

¹⁷ *For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.*

- **Abram's hasty decision.**

Genesis 16:1-3

Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.

² *And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.*

³ *And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.*

Abram's decision was controlled by personal desire.

- **Abram's regret.**

Genesis 16:4-6

⁴ *And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.*

⁵ *And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee.*

⁶ *But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thine hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.*

Conclusion:

God will use our decisions to bring about His will but that does not erase the consequences.