

**"The Change of Power"**

**Part 1**

**Esther 8**

**Introduction:** Tonight in our study of Esther we have now come to chapter 8. In the previous chapter Haman was taken to his own gallows and there he died. Wicked Haman is now out of the picture but the problem for the Jews still exists. The death decree is still in effect because the law of the Medes and the Persians could not be reversed. Therefore, the Jews are still in need of deliverance. Today we shall see the hand of God as He uses Esther to deliver the Jews.

**I. The Reversal**

**Notice Esther 8:1-2**

Here is a major turn of events. Esther is given the wealth of Haman and Mordecai was given the position of Haman. The wealth of Haman must have been very substantial.

**Esther 5:10-11**

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

<sup>11</sup> *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.*

Haman the Jew hater passed on all he had to a Jew. He left nothing for his family except a death sentence.

**Esther 9:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> *And the king said unto Esther the queen, The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? now what is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: or what is thy request further? and it shall be done.*

<sup>13</sup> *Then said Esther, If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do to morrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.*

<sup>14</sup> *And the king commanded it so to be done: and the decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons.*

**Application:**

Let us stop for a moment and consider what would have happened if Mordecai had given in under pressure and bowed down to Haman. If Mordecai had not had the resolve to follow his convictions Haman would still be in power. The king would have known nothing of what was about to happen. Mordecai would still have his position in the king's gate, but he would have violated his conscience. His refusal to bow started the entire chain of events that led to the death of Haman and his own promotion to Prime Minister of Persia.

**Psalm 37:34-40**

<sup>34</sup> *Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.*

<sup>35</sup> *I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.*

<sup>36</sup> *Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.*

<sup>37</sup> *Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.*

<sup>38</sup> *But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.*

<sup>39</sup> *But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.*

<sup>40</sup> *And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.*

Let us notice the words of Peter to his readers.

**1 Peter 5:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

<sup>7</sup> *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

Now let us understand that God does not always give an earthly promotion to all who stand for Him in this life. There have been many people who have taken a stand and they were martyred, or they just faded into the pages of history. Let us see an example:

**1 Kings 22:26-28**

*<sup>26</sup> And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son;*

*<sup>27</sup> And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace.*

*<sup>28</sup> And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you.*

Micaiah stood for and spoke the Truth of God and he was sent to prison and as far as we know he died there. There was no earthly promotion for him.

Notice the words of Warren Wiersbe on Mordecai's promotion:

*"God doesn't always give this kind of a "happy ending" to everybody's story. Today, not all faithful Christians are promoted and given special honors. Some of them get fired because of their stand for Christ! God hasn't promised that we'll be promoted and made rich, but He has assured us that He's in control of all circumstances and that He will write the last chapter of the story. If God doesn't promote us here on earth, He certainly will when we get to glory."*

God does not promote everyone who stands as Mordecai did, but this entire scene should make us stop and think about how things might change if we too are willing to stand for our convictions. We must consider how God might use us if we refuse to side with the majority. Too often believers today are too fearful to stand alone because they are worried about the cost. This is why we are call to "LIVE BY FAITH".

**Hebrews 10:38**

*<sup>38</sup> Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

**II. Esther's Plea**

The next three verses contain the plea that we have been expecting to hear from Esther.

**Notice Esther 8:3-5**

Esther does something here that she has not done earlier. She falls at the feet of the king, and she weeps for her people who are under the death sentence.

**Application:**

Esther is a wonderful example for God's people today and how it is that we should be praying for our fellow man who is under a death sentence. A while back we had looked at something that I want to bring to your attention again.

**Luke 16:24-31**

*24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*

*25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*

*26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.*

*27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:*

*28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.*

*29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.*

*30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.*

*31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

There are four things in hell that should be in the church:

1. Tears
2. A burden for the lost
3. Prayer that someone would be sent to the lost
4. A grasp of the reality of hell

**Notice Esther 8:3-5 again.**

There is something else here that we need to see. The choices that we make affect the lives of others long after we are gone. Haman had issued the death decree and now after his death Esther was forced to deal with what he had done.

When we die it does not mean our that the affects of our choices stop. That is far from what happens. What you instill in your children will live with them the rest of their lives. Notice the words of Matthew Henry:

*"Many a man's mischief survives him, and the wickedness he devised operates when he is gone. What men project and write may, after their death, be either very profitable or very pernicious."*

Remember the choice which Joshua and the elders of Israel made to enter into a treaty with the Gibeonites? It was four hundred years later seven innocent men died because of their choice.

Understanding this Truth then let us practice the words of Paul to the Ephesians.

**Ephesians 4:29-32**

*<sup>29</sup> Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

*<sup>30</sup> And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

*<sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*

*<sup>32</sup> And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

**Notice Esther 8:5-6**

We must understand that Esther is asking the king to somehow reverses the letters that Haman had issued. This is completely against the laws of the Persians. Their laws were irreversible. They believed their laws were so perfect that there would never be a need to change them. So Esther is requesting something that is next to impossible (humanly speaking).

**Application:**

This brings to mind here something else which Paul wrote to the Ephesians.

**Ephesians 3:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

<sup>21</sup> Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

God is able to do exceeding abundantly ABOVE all that we ask or think. Therefore, let us not be hesitant to pray for God to do the miraculous.

**Mark 10:27**

<sup>27</sup> And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

Let us notice the words of James.

**James 4:1-3**

*From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?*

<sup>2</sup> *Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

James' readers did not have what they desired for several reasons:

- a. Sometimes they did not ask.
- b. When they did ask, they ask for the wrong reasons.

**Notice Esther 8:6 again.**

I want you to notice that this is the climax of Esther's appeal. She appeals to the king's heart here. She is saying, "If my people die this will be more than I can bear. If my people die then something inside of me will die!" She pours out her heart as she intercedes for her people.

This brings to mind two other intercessory prayers:

- **Moses' Prayer for Israel.**

**Exodus 32:30-32**

<sup>30</sup> *And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.*

<sup>31</sup> *And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.*

<sup>32</sup> *Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.*

- **Paul's prayer for Israel.**

**Romans 9:1-3**

*I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,*

<sup>2</sup> *That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.*

<sup>3</sup> *For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:*

**Conclusion:**

Might we be burdened for our families, friends and acquaintances just as Paul, Moses and Esther. Might we understand that they are truly under a death sentence and if they die in their sins they are lost forever.

Why is the church not burdened?