

"The Tables are Turned

Part 3

Esther 9-10

Introduction: Last time we were together in Esther we were looking at the picture of the Christian life that is seen in Esther 9. The Jews had been saved through the intervention of Esther and their enemy, Haman, was hanged on the gallows. But while they were saved from their enemy there was still a battle to be fought. The Gentiles still had the authority to kill the Jews and take their possessions.

Application:

We too have been saved from our enemy, DEATH, and our salvation came through the finished work of Jesus Christ. However we are still in a battle and the battle is spiritual.

Ephesians 6:10-12

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

In Esther 9 the Jews faced a battle and they were victorious, and they killed over 75,000 Gentiles who had attacked in their plan to destroy them all. So what were the keys to the victory? This is what we are currently looking at.

I. Keys to Victory

A. Surrender

Notice Esther 9:1-3

This fear came about as the people watched how everything turned around for the Jews. The Gentiles were able to see the mighty hand of God in the lives of the Jews and it brought fear in their hearts. We see something very similar in the book of Joshua when Rahab hid the spies.

Joshua 2:4-9

⁴ And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were:

⁵ And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.

⁶ But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

⁷ And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.

⁸ And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof:

⁹ And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

The fear in the Gentiles of Esther 9 can be traced back to the surrender of Esther and Mordecai. When we are surrendered over to God, we are then instruments through which He can show forth His mighty power.

B. Unity and Fellowship

Notice Esther 9:2

When the 13th day of the 12th month came the Jews, all gathered together because they understood there would be strength in numbers. They knew they needed one another to fight against their enemy.

In the same way we too are called to gather together with those of the faith. Today we call it "church" and it is what God has established in order that we might be equipped for the spiritual battle that we are in.

Ephesians 4:11-14

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

This is where we stopped the last time. Let us now see yet another key.

C. The Weapon

Notice Esther 9:5

The Jews armed themselves with swords to defend themselves against the Gentiles.

Application:

This is a picture of the only weapon that is effective in a spiritual battle.

Ephesians 6:12-17

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

In the spiritual battle that we are facing it is vitally important that we know how to handle the "SWORD". To neglect a solid understanding of the Word of God is to put yourself in a situation where you will be very easily deceived.

Hebrews 5:12-14

¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

It is only through a deep knowledge of the Word of God that we can be equipped so as not to be deceived. The enemy is very sly at twisting the Scriptures to lead God's people astray. To know the Word of God is the only way to defend yourself against the enemy.

Matthew 4:3-11

³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

When we defend ourselves with the Sword our enemy will back away. That is not the only reason we need to know the Word. The Word of God illuminates our path in this dark world.

Psalm 119:104-105

¹⁰⁴ Through thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Proverbs 6:23

²³ For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

2 Peter 1:19

¹⁹ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

D. Contentment

Notice Esther 9:10, 15-16

Three times in this text we are told that the Jews never laid their hands on the spoils of the Gentiles. When the Jews killed it was all self-defense. They were not looking to get rich from the possessions of the Gentiles. They had permission to gather the spoils of the dead, but they chose not to. This tells me they were content to live with what they had.

There have been many believers who have fallen into traps because of a lack of contentment. They have desired more of the wealth of this world.

1 Timothy 6:5-11

⁵ Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain.

⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

So, there we have four keys to victory in our spiritual battles.

- **Surrender**
- **Unity and Fellowship**
- **The Sword**
- **Contentment**

II. Grace

There is another picture in our text that we need to see, and it is a picture of the grace of God in our lives.

Notice Esther 9:10-13

Here we see that the ten sons of Haman were hanged on the gallows after they were killed. Now let us understand that if anyone would have desired to kill the Jews it would have been these ten men because of what had happened to their father. They would have been on a mission to eliminate all the Jews, but God ended their mission, and they were hung on the gallows as a deterrent to any other Gentiles who were thinking of carrying out the slaughter of the Jews.

The fact that there are TEN sons of Haman that were hanged is very interesting. These ten men represent the Law/the Ten Commandments. Let me show you another passage that pictures the Law through ten men.

Ruth 4:1-3

Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by: unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down.

² And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down.

³ And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's:

These ten men were to testify that Boaz qualified to be the kinsman redeemer which is what the Law said. Here in the book of Esther the ten sons of Haman represent the Law, but now that they are dead, they are no longer a threat.

Application:

The Law condemns and calls for the death of all men.

2 Corinthians 3:6-7

⁶ Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

⁷ But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

The Law condemns all men because not one of us can keep the Law, but we who are believers are dead to the Law. Just like Haman's sons no longer were a threat to Mordecai and Esther, the Law has no power over us.

Galatians 2:19-20

¹⁹ For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

Romans 7:6

⁶ But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

Conclusion:

Romans 6:14

¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Praise the Lord that in His grace we victory over our enemy.