

"The Conclusion of Book of Esther"

Esther 9-10

Introduction: As we come to the last message in our study of Esther tonight, I want to take a moment and remind you of the spiritual picture in this book.

1. Ahasuerus and his kingdom are a picture of sinner who has been saved by grace.
2. Haman is a picture of the sin nature/flesh which is a part of every one of our lives.
3. Mordecai is a picture of the Divine nature/the Holy Spirit in every born-again believer.
4. Esther is a picture of the spirit of man.
5. The hanging of Haman on the gallows is a picture of what happened to our sin nature when we were crucified with Christ.

Romans 6:6

⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

6. The ten sons of Haman are a picture of the Law, and their hanging is a picture of how the Law has no power over us for we are dead to the Law in Christ.

Romans 7:4-6

⁴ Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

⁵ For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

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.

7. The death decree is a picture of the sentence of death that has come upon every person because of sin.
8. The confusion and instability which came upon the Jews by Haman's death decree is a picture of the instability in the life of the believer who is controlled by the flesh.

James 1:8

⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

9. The rest and joy which the Jews experienced under the leadership of Mordecai is a picture of what the believer experiences when he or she is controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Now, when we ended our last study, the Jews were under the leadership of Mordecai, and they were celebrating the victory over the Gentiles. They were experiencing rest and joy.

Notice Esther 9:22

Mordecai had sent out a letter declaring that the Jews were to set aside the 14th and the 15th days of the month Adar as a national memorial.

Notice Esther 9:28

This now brings us to the conclusion.

I. Unity in the Kingdom

Notice Esther 9:29-32

Here we see that Esther the queen wrote a second letter to confirm the memorial of Purim. Why did she write a second letter? We do not know why Esther felt the need to do this. We do know it was important because it is recorded in the Word of God. This second letter was just to give needed assurance to the Jews and to let them know that the Queen and the Prime Minister were in agreement concerning the memorial. Not only did they have the Prime Minister behind them, but they also had the Queen. This would have been great encouragement for the Jews.

Application:

When I read these verses and I keep in mind the picture here, that Mordecai is a picture of the Holy Spirit and Esther is a picture of the spirit of man, I see something beautiful in all of this. I see a picture of the harmony within the believer who is controlled by the Holy Spirit and the harmony is between the Holy Spirit and the spirit of the saved man. When Esther has the second letter go out, she is stating that she too wants to see that the victory is never forgotten. She never wants to go back and face the stress and the pressure again. She never wants to see another Haman come to power. She wants to live under the mighty hand of God and enjoy His blessings.

Is this not how our spirits feel when we have been delivered from a situation where we experienced great stress and fear? Have you ever found yourself saturated in God's grace as He has not given you what you deserve but instead, He has blessed you with spiritual riches? It is then that you are like Esther in that you never want to go back to where you were when you were outside the will of God. There is joy where you are, and this is where

you desire to stay. Oh, how our spirits enjoy the blessed harmony with the Holy Spirit, but those times of bliss seem to fade away over time but we certainly long for them to stay. You have watched the hand of God at work, you have seen His mighty power and you just want this moment to last. The Apostle Paul longed to live in perfect fellowship and harmony.

Philippians 3:8-12

⁸ *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

⁹ *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

¹⁰ **That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;**

¹¹ *If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*

¹² *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

As we go through life God in His grace will give to us a taste of heaven so as to make us long for more of Him. When you experience one of these Divine meetings there are no words to describe what it is like. Notice what Paul said concerning his experience of being caught up to the third heaven.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

² *I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*

³ *And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)*

⁴ *How that he was caught up into paradise, **and heard unspeakable words**, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*

There were no words to describe what Paul experienced. Now we have not been caught up to heaven (YET), but when our spirit is living in harmony with the Spirit of God it is certainly a heavenly experience.

There is more here to see.

Notice Esther 9:30

In the letters that were sent were words of PEACE and TRUTH.

Application:

Both of these are part of the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

²³ *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Ephesians 5:8-9

⁸ *For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*

⁹ *(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)*

When I consider the letters that were sent out and they were words of PEACE and TRUTH I am reminded that when we are controlled by the Holy Spirit we too will speak forth words of PEACE and TRUTH which could be seen as the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel is an announcement that man can now have peace with God.

Romans 5:1, 6-10

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

⁶ *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*

⁷ *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.*

⁸ *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

⁹ Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

¹⁰ For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

This is the peace that a sinner can have with God. The Gospel is also the absolute Truth. Many people today are like Pilate who was confused concerning the Truth.

John 18:37-38

³⁷ Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

³⁸ Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

Jesus made it very clear that He is the Truth.

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Getting back to Esther's letters that were words of peace and truth and this is a picture of what the believer who is controlled by the Spirit speaking the Gospel into the lives of those who are not saved.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

¹⁸ And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

¹⁹ To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

We, the church, have been given the ministry of reconciliation. In other words it is been entrusted to us to go into the world and tells others that Jesus Christ has made a way for sinners to be reconciled to God.

II. The Blessings from Mordecai

Notice Esther 10:1-3

Here we see that the king taxed those in his kingdom. We do not know exactly why. Some believe it was to replenish what he had lost in the expedition to Greece, but we really do not know. I do believe there is something here that pertains to us, and we shall see it shortly.

In these three verses we are told that the king was powerful and mighty and that he exalted Mordecai in his kingdom.

Application:

This is exactly what happens in the believer's life when the Holy Spirit is given free rein in our lives. We then become powerful and mighty but not in our power but in God's power.

Ephesians 3:14-16

¹⁴ For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁵ Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

¹⁶ That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Notice the words of an unnamed writer on what Paul writes to the Ephesians:

"In the physical world one might lift weights and so strengthen themselves, but in the spiritual world, as believers we cannot strengthen ourselves! That task belongs solely to the Lord! However, don't forget that believers do have a role/responsibility in this spiritual strengthening -- we are not just to "Let go and let God". The believer's "job" is to submit [yield, surrender] himself or herself to God's Spirit so that He can strengthen us. We can only "be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might", and "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus". Believers can resist, quench and grieve the Spirit."

Notice the words of Boice on why we need this power:

"Paul has been talking about suffering, and this is probably why he begins his prayer with a request that the believers at Ephesus might be strengthened by God's Spirit. None of us show much of the manifold wisdom of God in easy days. It is in suffering that the grace of God is manifested. But who has strength for suffering? We do not choose suffering. We shrink from it. Like Christ in the garden we inevitably draw back and ask that, if it is possible, this cup might pass from us. If we are to show God's wisdom in such times, it must be by God's strength. He must send his angels to minister to us."

Still, it is not only in times of suffering that we need to be strengthened. We need strength every day of our lives and in every circumstance.

Is it temptation? We need strength to resist it and be victorious to the glory of God.

Is it a tough moral choice at work? We need strength to do the right thing so that Jesus, whom we serve, might be honored.

Is it witnessing? We need strength to speak the truth regardless of what the world may think of us for speaking it."

Conclusion:

Notice Esther 10:3 again.

Mordecai wanted the best of blessings for his people. This is what the Holy Spirit wants for us also. This can only happen as we are submitted to His Leadership in our lives.