

Esther 7-8 – Thursday, December 28th, 2017

Esther 7 -- 1 So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther. 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!" 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, 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."

- Couple of thoughts here as the chapter begins the first of which has to do with the prudence and wisdom on the part of Esther.
- Notice she doesn't disclose who her people are, only that she and her people were sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated.
- At this point, the king does not know that the edict was to destroy the Jews, nor does he or Haman know that Esther is a Jew.

- The second thought has to do with Esther's wisdom in her approaching the king saying that she would have held her tongue.
- In other words, if she and her people had only been sold as slaves she wouldn't say anything though it would be the king's loss.
- I would suggest that God has given Esther the exact words to speak at the perfect time so the king would grant her request.

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!" So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

- I don't know if it's really possible to describe how utterly shocking this must have been for both King Ahasuerus and Haman.
- For the king, this meant his wife, the queen no less, was to be killed by virtue of the irrevocable edict that he himself issued.
- For Haman, he had no idea that Esther was a Jew, which I believe is why God gave Esther the wisdom to have two banquet.

I like how one commentator said it, "Now the wisdom of Esther's strange request to invite Haman to these banquets can be seen; it maximized the impact upon both the king and upon Haman himself."

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.

- Here we're told that the king is so filled with wrath that he has to walk out of the banquet so as to process what just happened.
- It's hard to imagine what's going through the king's mind given his right hand man has played him for a fool in deceiving him.
- If this weren't bad enough, his wife the queen and her people who have prospered his kingdom greatly are about to be killed.

- I find it interesting that Haman now finds himself before the Queen pleading for his life, knowing that the king will execute him.
- The reason I find this interesting is because one would think Esther, prior, would be the one pleading with Haman for her life.
- But God! But God had orchestrated everything perfectly in this way, which was the only way that the Jews would be spared.

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. Then the king said, "Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house?" As the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

- You'll forgive me for my sanctified satisfaction seeing Haman get what he deserves by having the king walk in at this moment.
- There's such a divine irony, with Haman thinking he had succeeded in killing all the Jews, only to be killed because of a Jew.
- One has to wonder if he remembers what his wife said to him about if Mordecai is a Jew, then, he will not prevail over them.

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, "Hang him on it!" 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided.

- Again, the perfect timing of God in his providential sovereignty is seen here in a very powerful way at the exact moment in time.
- Notice it's one of the king's eunuchs that informs the king about the gallows that Haman had made for Mordecai to be hung on.
- This tells me that Haman was not well liked and that the king's eunuchs knew very well who this evil man was and what he did.

- To me this is a textbook case of God taking that which was meant for evil and working it for good for the salvation of His people.
- It's not just that God does it; it's how God does it, and even when God does it, in the sense that evil will always serve His end.
- Like with Joseph before her and us today after her, no plan or plot from the enemy will ever succeed against us as His people.

Isaiah 54:17 (NKJV) — 17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD.

Isaiah 45:24 (NIV) — 24 They will say of me, 'In the LORD alone are deliverance and strength.' " All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame.

Psalms 7:14-16 (NKJV) — 14 Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood. 15 He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made. 16 His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown.

Proverbs 26:27 (NKJV) — 27 Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 (NKJV) — 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

Esther 8 -- 1 On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. 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.

- Chapter eight begins by telling us how that Esther is given the house of Haman, and Mordecai is given the position of Haman.
- I would suggest if we were to ask Esther or Mordecai if they would have believed this would happen, they would say, "no way."
- Clearly, as only God can, He has done the impossible and turned everything that Haman meant for evil bringing about good.

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?"

- Here again we see Esther's wisdom in waiting until now before she would implore the king concerning the evil edict of Haman.
- God gave her the wisdom to first expose Haman and his evil, so as to then put Esther and Mordecai in positions of authority.
- In other words, had she sought this first, it would never have played out in this way because Haman needed to be exposed.

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. 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.

- Here we're told about a new decree being issued in light of the fact that the previous decree from Haman could not be revoked.
- Notice the order in which God is moving behind the scenes with everything, such that, Mordecai had to first be in this position.
- Also, notice the timing in which the Jews are able to prepare to defend themselves in that they still have nine months to do so.

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.

- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that God's people are rejoicing even though there's a battle.
- Not only are we told that they are full of joy and gladness, we're also told many people of the land became Jews as a result.
- The reason I mention this is because it speaks to how God allows trials and battles into our lives to accomplish this in the end.

James 1:2–8 (NIV) — 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.