

Esther 10 – Thursday, January 11th, 2018

Esther 10 -- 1 And King Ahasuerus imposed tribute on the land and on the islands of the sea. 2 Now all the acts of his power and his might, and the account of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? 3 For Mordecai the Jew was second to King Ahasuerus, and was great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen.

- The chapter begins and ends by telling us because of Mordecai's greatness, the king promoted him to second in the kingdom.
- Like Joseph before him in his greatness before Pharaoh, Mordecai is now the most powerful man in the world next to the king.
- As such, he was received well by the multitude and sought the good of his people, as well as speaking peace to all the Jews.

- I have to confess that the book of Esther has been one of the most fascinating if not the most fascinating studies in all the Bible.
- This for a number of reasons not the least of which is the hand of God's providential sovereignty throughout from front to finish.
- It's for this reason that I would like to revisit all that God did, because it will be germane to our understanding for tonight's study.

- 1) God orchestrated the king's banquets in such a way that Vashti would be removed as queen for refusing his invitation.
- 2) God arranged for a pageant of sorts in order to choose a new king from amongst the beautiful young virgins in the kingdom.
- 3) God set it up perfectly for Esther to be one of those who would be taken to the palace in order to be one of the contestants.
- 4) God gave the special favor to Esther in the eyes of the eunuch's by making her stand out above all of the other women.
- 5) God positioned Mordecai within the gates of the kingdom to have access to both Esther and the affairs of the kingdom.
- 6) God had Mordecai in the perfect place at the perfect time to hear about an assassination plot to murder the king.
- 7) God had Esther in the perfect position and at the perfect time to preempt the assassination by informing the king in time.
- 8) God delayed the rewarding of Mordecai for saving the king's life because it would come at a later time and for good reason.
- 9) God had Haman promoted at the exact time but Mordecai, who was in the king's gate refused to bow down and worship him.
- 10) God set up Haman who is now enraged to convince the king to issue an irrevocable edict to annihilate all of the Jews.
- 11) God had Mordecai in the perfect position at the perfect time in order to here of Haman's evil plan so as to inform Esther.
- 12) God had Esther positioned "for such a time as this," in order to approach the king knowing that if she perished, she perished.
- 13) God controlled the outcome of the decree so as to have it be a battle against civilian forces instead of the Persian military.
- 14) God also controlled the outcome of the lot that was cast giving the Jews over nine months to prepare for the ensuing battle.
- 15) God gave Esther favor in the eyes of the king who put his scepter out when she approached him uninvited to plead her case.
- 16) God gave Esther the wisdom to withhold her request and invite the king and Haman to a second banquet the following day.
- 17) God restrained Haman in his rage not allowing him to kill Mordecai when he had the chance and otherwise would have.
- 18) God gave the king a case of divine insomnia of sorts that very night so he would request for the records to be read to him.
- 19) God that very same night allowed Haman so enraged because of Mordecai, that he would have gallows built to hang him.
- 20) God had the men who retrieved the records select the exact one that had the account of how Mordecai had saved his life.
- 21) God arranged it so that they would read the exact place in the exact record of Mordecai saving the king from assassination.
- 22) God put it on the king's heart to ask if Mordecai had been rewarded and when he learned he hadn't would demand he was.
- 23) God had Haman arrive at the king's palace at the perfect time because he wanted the king's approval to hang Mordecai.
- 24) God instead, had Haman tell him what he thinks should be done for one whom the king wanted to honor, thinking it was him.
- 25) God had Haman describe in detail how he should honor this man only to learn that it was Mordecai who he wanted hanged.
- 26) God had Haman place Mordecai on the king's horse in the king's robe paraded in the streets as he makes this declaration.
- 27) God then has Haman run home and tell his wife and men what happened only for them to tell him that his fate is now sealed.
- 28) God times it perfectly when while they're still talking, men arrive to take him to Esther's second banquet that following day.
- 29) God puts it on Esther's heart to expose Haman and his evil plan to annihilate the Jewish people, of which the queen is one.
- 30) God moves on the king's heart so powerfully that he has to actually leave the banquet because he is so incensed by all this.
- 31) God moves Haman to plead with Esther to spare his life by throwing himself on her at the exact time the king comes back in.
- 32) God then has Haman's face covered and times it perfectly for the king's men to inform him of the gallows he built that night.
- 33) God then has Haman impaled and hung on the very gallows he thought just hours earlier he would have Haman hanged on.
- 34) God orchestrated the turn of events perfectly to where Mordecai would now be in a position of power and issue a new edict.
- 35) God equipped the Jews with all that they needed in order to be victorious when the day of the battle had come upon them.
- 36) God gave them favor in the eyes of many Persian's who were told became Jews because the fear of God came upon them.
- 37) God put it on Esther's heart to request the king hang Haman's ten sons on gallows and be put to death once and for all.
- 38) God arranged for the Jews to institute a feast to commemorate and celebrate all that God had done for his people the Jews.

- It's important to understand that all God did was done in the realm of the providential and not done in the realm of the miracle.
- By that I mean, God didn't intervene by way of the miraculous, rather, He in His sovereignty moved in their affairs providentially.
- The reason that this is important is because it speaks to how God moves in our lives, providentially instead of just miraculously.

Charles Spurgeon of this said, "It has been well said that the Book of Esther is a record of wonders without a miracle, and therefore, though equally revealing the glory of the Lord, it sets it forth in another fashion from that which is displayed in the overthrow of Pharaoh by miraculous power."

- Be that as it may, that's not to say God forces his providential sovereignty on us, this because we still has our own sovereignty.
- In other words, without violating man's free will, God in his sovereignty is able to providentially rule over all and over rule all.
- So much so, He can even over rule the wickedness and evil of man so as to have it ultimately serve His purpose in the end.

Again, Charles Spurgeon said it best this way, "There it is; man is a free agent in what he does, responsible for his actions, and verily guilty when he does wrong, and he will be justly punished too, and if he be lost the blame will rest with himself alone: but yet there is One who ruleth over all, who, without complicity in their sin, makes even the actions of wicked men to sub-serve his holy and righteous purposes. Believe these two truths and you will see them in practical agreement in daily life, though you will not be able to devise a theory for harmonizing them on paper."

- This brings us to the typology that's woven into the fabric of this amazing book, that not one time mentions the name of God.
- Actually, while the name of God is not written in the book we obviously see that the mighty hand of God is throughout the Book.
- Some even suggest that the name of God does appear in several places by way of what's known as an acrostic in scripture.

According to one source, "The name of God is hidden no less than eight times in acrostics in the Book of Esther. Four times it appears as an acrostic, the famed Tetragrammaton, "YHWH" or "Yahweh" or "YeHoVaH"; once as "EHYH" or "I AM" as at the Burning Bush. Also, Meshiach ("Messiah"), Yeshua ("Jesus"), and El Shaddai ("The Almighty"), also appear as equidistant letter sequences."

- Before we get into the typology, I want to mention a couple of things first in order to clarify what typology is and what it is not.
- First, as it relates to what typology is. Typology is a shadow, person, thing or event that symbolizes something that's yet future.
- Second, as it relates to what typology is not. It's not an allegorizing of something making it fictional instead of an actual event.

Queen Vashti the Gentile bride is removed	The church is removed prior to the antichrist being revealed
Esther replaces Vashti as Queen to the King	Israel is restored and reconciled to her King
Haman an Amalekite hated the Jews	The antichrist will hate the Jews
Haman sought to annihilate the Jews	The antichrist will seek to annihilate the Jews
The fast ended on the third day - 16 th of Nisan	Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day - 16 th of Nisan
Haman's evil plan does not succeed	The Lord will not allow the antichrist to prevail
Mordecai was Esther's adopted father	We have received the "Spirit of adoption" and cry Abba Father (Rom 8:15-16)
Mordecai was Esther's guide and counselor	The Holy Spirit is our guide and counselor
Haman had 10 sons	The antichrist will rule over 10 kings
Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman	The Jews will refuse to bow down and worship the antichrist
Haman and his sons are destroyed in the end	The antichrist and his 10 kings will be destroyed in the end
The king has a banquet lasting 7-days	Our wedding banquet will be at the end of the 7-year tribulation
The Feast of Purim is instituted	Purim is a doctrinal picture of the Millennium

- Before we bring our study through the book of Esther to an end, I think it would be good to point out some of the take away's.
- First and foremost, we learn that God is able to choreograph the steps of our circumstances and work them out for our good.
- We also learn that no evil plan that's formed against us by the enemy will ever prevail because God always has the final word.

- Another very important take away is that pride will always lead to a fall and ultimate destruction in the end as it did for Haman.
- We also learned that when the enemy sets a trap for us God can orchestrate it to where they themselves fall into their own trap.
- This comes by way of God's mighty hand working behind the scenes as He's involved in every aspect of our lives big or small.