

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Haman Is Back!

W here has God placed you in His kingdom? What strategic place do you occupy in the kingdom, and how important is your calling?

“. . . and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Mordecai asked this question of Esther at a time when the Jews faced the possibility of annihilation (Est 4.14). I ask you, have you come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Have I?

Let us look at the historical setting for this question by Mordecai. After many years of the Israelites’ refusing to turn from their idolatry, God caused them to go into captivity to Babylon where they would remain for seventy years. After the seventy years were completed, the Jews had again begun experiencing God’s favor and blessing. In fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophesy given over 150 years earlier (Isa, Chapters 44 and 45), God stirred the heart of King Cyrus to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. The temple was completed in 516 B.C. What rejoicing! The presence of the Lord was overwhelming as they met to worship, and their spirits were high. But the enemy . . .

Now thirty eight years later, Esther had become queen of Persia; she was in the palace; and it was there where the enemy set up a stronghold. Haman and his ten sons had taken up residence in Shushan the palace. His hatred for Mordecai extended to all the Jews as he laid plans to destroy them all. Only someone near the throne would be able to reach the king and intercede for the life of God’s people. Esther alone was in a position to do so, but it meant laying her life on the line.

Queen Esther might have had an easy, comfortable life – next to the king, in an intimate relationship with him as his wife. Things could not be better. But the enemy . . .

When the Lord is blessing us, when He is stirring hearts and causing His work to go forward, especially when we seek a closer relationship with the Lord, Satan gets angry. He busies himself setting up strongholds as close to

the enemy; however, there is no stopping a surrendered vessel; there is no stopping one who counts not his life dear unto himself that he might accomplish his work in the kingdom, the ministry to which he is called – for such a time as this (Acts 20.22-24).

And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess

The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.

Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31)

the throne as possible. The closer we come to Jesus, the stronger the enemy fights us.

Have we come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Are our lives on the line? Are we willing to go before the throne for God's people – those who love and serve Jesus but are fighting an overwhelming onslaught of the enemy?

Esther had to go before the king uninvited; it could cost her life; however, she prepared for the battle. She requested support from others of God's people; they fasted. She and her maidens fasted. When the time came to go before the king with her request, she clothed herself in royal apparel. She was received, and the king held out the golden scepter to her – the scepter of life (Es 5.2).

Haman, in his efforts to destroy all of God's people, had obtained a decree that could not be cancelled. The Jews had to have another decree allowing them to fight for their lives.

Beloved, those of you who really love Jesus and know Him as your Lord and Savior, we have been given a decree allowing us to fight Satan with power and authority. Indeed, we have been offered the golden scepter of life. We must, as did Esther, reach out and touch the scepter, receiving life, strength, and power to win the battle.

Everyone of us has a vital role to play in the preservation of the Gospel and life of the Body of Christ. We must fit together as one Body, each one providing the strength and support of one's calling. Satan must not be allowed to take the lives of God's people.

Some of us are called to come before the throne of God to lay ourselves before Him as a living sacrifice, to die to our carnal nature that Christ might live and further His kingdom through us. Some of us are called to stand in intercession for God's people. This is not a sixty-second prayer of "God, bless your people everywhere. Amen" There is a battle to be fought in the Spirit – and by the Holy Spirit – strongholds of Satan to be torn down. It is not an easy job; it may cost our lives, literally. Beloved, we dare not come to the throne of grace unprepared; we dare not come "uncleansed" – nor wearing the wrong apparel. We will be received into God's presence only if we wear royal apparel – the righteousness of Christ. It is through His blood that we are washed and made clean; it is through the application of His blood that we are able to stand clothed with His royal apparel, the righteousness of Christ.

Esther did not go out against Haman to fight in His territory. She called him into the king's presence to expose him at the banquet of wine – provided from the king's supply. In this atmosphere, Haman had no power, no strength. The true character of Haman is exposed (Est 7.7, 8). Whether Esther recognized his actions as seduction is not clear, but the king did.

And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath *[went]* into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther *[was]*. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

Satan has, in essence, said to the church, "Grant me my life. Let me become one with you." Until Satan is allowed some intimate relationship with God's people, he does not have life; he is not effective against God's kingdom. But Satan has fallen on the bed with God's people, requesting life for himself, requesting just a small foothold, an area in which to work. Saints, "Haman" is back today, trying to become one with the church.

We are facing disastrous times. We dare not fight Satan without the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our prayer life must be consistent and strong.

Satan has set up his strongholds: strongholds in individuals' minds and lives, strongholds in homes, in neighborhoods, in governments, even in churches. Our country is experiencing strong opposition to the true gospel of Jesus Christ, and many churches no longer preach the truth of repentance and salvation through the blood of the Lamb. Satan has requested and received a place of oneness with these churches; he has a foothold which leads down the wrong path – to hell.

America is changing. Laws are changing. From the highest leadership down to the level of citizens of seemingly little or no power, America is calling that which is good, evil, and that which is evil, good, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa 5.20). Now in our country, the Body of Christ, His true church, is facing an enemy, Satan, who has marshaled his forces in an all-out effort to annihilate the true church and wipe out the truth of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

God is calling a people to come into His presence, into an intimate relationship with Him – a relationship which requires the royal apparel of Christ's righteousness. He is calling a people who will say with Esther, "If I perish, I perish, but I will go to battle for my brothers' and sisters' lives. I will enter the presence of the Lord, stand before His glory, bow before Him, surrender my entire being to His will and purpose." Until we make this commitment and follow through with it, we will be weak in our fight against