

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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"Thou Art Come to the Kingdom For such a Time as This"

Last month we looked at Moses' journey to the top of the mountain of God and God's call to us to "come up" into His presence. Those who answer this call will abide in Christ Jesus, will walk in the Spirit, be led by the Spirit, and be surrendered to His will (Gal 5.25). They are set apart and chosen to minister life and strength to others in the body of Christ.

Just as the majority of the Israelites failed to go to the top of the mountain of God and into God's presence, the majority of Christians today will fail to pay the price to go into God's presence and dwell in Him. Not all who know Jesus Christ as Savior will surrender their lives and wills to Him - completely. But some will! Some must!

Though they be few in number, a remnant, there are those who will climb to the "top of the mountain" – alone – as did Moses. There are those who will go before the king at the risk of their own lives to intercede for God's people – as did Esther.

As you read the Book of Esther, notice the scriptures which indicate the following.

In Mordecai's actions and life, we see reminders of Jesus Christ, our Savior; while in Esther, who is adopted by Mordecai, we have a picture of the Christian, the remnant, who will go to the throne into the presence of the King to live at one with him – and "fight" the enemy, Satan, for the deliverance of God's people.

When we first meet Esther, she has been adopted by Mordecai as both her parents are dead; no longer does she have her *natural* family, her *natural* relationships (Est 2.7). She had been living in Mordecai's house as his daughter, reared by him, trained in the ways of the Lord, taught to obey Mordecai's instructions and commands – her will submitted to him. She had reached young adulthood, having been nurtured in Mordecai's love and righteousness.

After Esther was taken into the palace to be prepared for the king, "Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did,

If one wants to be close to the Lord, and at one with Him, the only way is through prayer, fasting and seeking Him, being in the Word, and dying to self. Esther understood that perhaps **she had come to the Kingdom for such a time as this** and could say, "If I perish, I perish." It was not about her, but about the will of the Lord in her life.

Everyone in the body of Christ is to be standing one for another (Eph 4.1-16). If we have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this, our lives in Christ Jesus will be about His will for the body in and through each of us as we stand together as the body of Christ Jesus, **yielded and still** before Him and ready to say with Esther, for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, "**If I perish, I perish.**"

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

and what should become of her" (Est 2.11) – reminding us of Jesus as He watches over His own.

Esther was taken to the king after completing the required time of purification; she obtained his favor and was crowned queen (Est 2.12, 17). If we desire to dwell in Him, Jesus Christ, we must be prepared, purified.

We are given a good picture of this remnant in the person of Esther. She came to the throne – not to take the king's place on the throne, but to become his bride, to be one with him. She continued being guided by Mordecai's instructions received as a young person. She had learned surrender. Her own desires and will were surrendered early in life – which was preparation for fulfilling her purpose in life.

Esther came to the throne at a time when Israel, God's people, would soon face Haman, their enemy, and his diabolical plan to destroy them. Haman's self-centeredness, pride, hatred, wrath, and attempted murder all speak of the nature of Satan. Haman was given a certain amount of power by the king – and all who serve the Lord know through experience that Satan has power!

Mordecai's refusal to bow to Haman stirred much wrath in Haman, the enemy (Est 3.5). Jesus refused to "bow" to Satan during and after the 40 days of temptation in the wilderness (Mt 4.10). Haman, in his wrath, sought to destroy Mordecai for not bowing to him (Est 3.5, 6). We see Satan's purpose against God's people in the decree that Haman made against the Jews.

And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day . . . and *[to take]* the spoil of them for a prey (Est 3.13).

Is not this Satan's purpose today (Jn 10.10)?

Satan was at work in those days. He continues working today full of wrath against God's people – the closer one's relationship to Jesus Christ, the stronger the wrath and vengeance of Satan.

Know that God is not caught off guard. He will have a remnant, an "Esther," who will go to the throne, go into God's presence to intercede for His people and expose the work of the enemy, to tear down Satan's strongholds.

Haman set his stronghold in Shushan the palace. He set his stronghold near the throne thinking he had solidified his position of power and authority with the king. His wife and ten sons, living in Shushan, were all participants of the stronghold – as well as his friends. Because of Haman's wrath against Mordecai, he determined to destroy all Jews. (Est 3.5, 6) After all, his edict could not be revoked – Haman underestimated the power of God through His people!

Saints, we can rejoice in the face of the enemy, because our God, the living God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, is Almighty God; we can rejoice because

He has given us the weapons, the power and authority in the Name of Jesus, to pull down Satan's strongholds!

This remnant are those who have an insatiable hunger for the Lord, a desire for Him beyond anything else in life. Following through with this desire for Him will place one near the throne into God's presence – in a position to hear God's voice and accomplish His will for the Kingdom of God. This is the journey one has to walk alone, but we do not have to fight the enemy alone. As we do battle with the enemy, it is important that others in the body of Christ stand with us – united in strength and in the power of Almighty God against the enemy.

When the enemy comes in like a flood (i.e. Haman), the Spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against him (Isa 59.19) – through His people, most often, such as Esther, who was one with the one on the throne, the king, wherein lay the greatest strength to fight the enemy. Through Jesus' Name we are commanded to fight Satan – to turn his decrees back upon him (Mt 10.8; Eph 6.10-18). The victory is ours!

Becoming one with the Lord, coming into the presence of His throne, His glory, is to enter through the rent veil into God's presence at the Mercy-seat. To go behind the veil, one must be stripped of all vestiges of sin and fleshly desires – purified and clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

This requires valuable time spent in the Lord's presence – in the Word, prayer, and worship. It means abiding in Him and He in us, aware of His presence every moment. It means dying to all attitudes, all thoughts, and all desires contrary to God's will. It means

... that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *[which is]* your reasonable service.

And **be not conformed to this world**: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *[is]* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God (Rom 12.1, 2).

When Mordecai charged Esther to go before the king and make request for her people, she knew if she were not accepted it would cost her life. She needed the prayer and support of the other Jews in Shushan as she depended on God to give her favor with the king. She knew where she stood in her relationship with Mordecai; therefore, she could command him to have all the Jews in Shushan fast three days and three nights, then she would go before the king (Est 4.17).

In the days ahead, we in the body of Christ who know how to intercede and to do battle against Satan, to seek God for deliverances and setting people free from the clutches of Satan, will be needed to encourage, fast and pray for, and strengthen in battle those whom Satan is attacking and who are faltering under his attack. We must be close to the Lord Jesus to do battle effectively against the enemy, to even discern the enemy.