

Book

Of

Esther

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The Book of Esther

Historically, the Book of Esther is about God's use of Esther to deliver the Jews from destruction; Haman was a diabolical man used by Satan to devise a plan for the annihilation of the Jews. But through Esther, a Jewish Queen, who was surrendered to the will of God and was willing to sacrifice her life, if necessary, Haman's plan was thwarted; Haman was caught in his own trap and hanged.

As important as this historical setting was in the life of the Jews, it has another meaning equally important to the promotion of the kingdom of God and those true believers who desire to grow into the "... measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Eph 4.13). Read also verses 11-16. Notice that in verse 12 we have the reason for the ministries that God has placed in The Church:

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ (Eph 4.12)

God wants to bring a people to perfection – to the fulness of Christ, and He has put a longing in their hearts to reach that place of oneness in Christ Jesus.

One sees in Esther a picture of one who is completely surrendered to the Lord, rises to the position of "Queen" in the Kingdom of God, and becomes one with the King. She is one who enters the quarters of the King – the Holy of Holies, the place where the Lord dwells. One cannot enter the Holy of Holies without facing death.

Note: The High Priest had to be completely cleansed with no contamination of any kind – no sin – clinging to him. He had to be dressed in proper attire, everything in or on his person proper and acceptable. If God did not accept him, he would die. There he faced the possibility of death every time he entered the Holy of Holies.

In a similar way, Queen Esther faced the possibility of death when she went before the king; notice that she put on her royal apparel before going in.

She had entered the king's chambers and became queen, but the king had not called for her in 30 days. As queen, she had experienced an oneness with the king; however, she did not arbitrarily enter his chambers without his invitation, and she dressed appropriately in royal apparel when she did enter. Had he not accepted her when she entered uninvited, it would have brought death to her.

Let us look closely at the spiritual application to us who are the true Church, Christ's Holy Church, those who truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and are His followers. Each of us is called to serve God in our various ministries as different parts of the Body of Christ. He gives each one the ability to function in that calling as we yield to Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through us.

God calls us as Christians, as His followers, to a high calling in Him; He puts within our hearts an intense hunger, an hunger which is not satisfied with with less than the experience of living in the fullness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We long to enter His chambers, the Holy of Holies, to enter a place of oneness with Him. We must put on our royal apparel, the righteousness of Christ, even as the high priest had to be cleansed and dressed appropriately to enter the Holy of Holies.

One enters the Holy of Holies by responding to the drawing of the Holy Spirit as He calls us to "come up higher" in Him. To spend time in His presence gives life and strength. Just as Queen Esther was drawn to enter the presence of the King to intercede for her people, so must we be quick to respond to the drawing of the Holy Spirit to go into God's presence to intercede for the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ. If we are willing and obedient, we will find ourselves increasingly on our knees doing battle against Satan on behalf of others. Many times, we will find ourselves in heart wrenching intercession. Do not take it lightly; the need is that great. If necessary, go to the "second day" of battle; we must fight against the strongholds

of Satan until he is defeated and God's people are set free. We, like King David, will cry out.

One [thing] have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple (Ps 27.4) .

Few are willing, or dedicated sufficiently, to strive for that position in Christ; therefore, most will not attain it. Most will belong to the Lord, live for Him, but remain carnal in their thinking and in their lives. They will not experience death to their carnal nature. But God will have a people who will strive for all they can reach in their relationship with Jesus Christ. They will experience that high calling of which Paul writes in Philippians 3.13 and 14. How my heart cries out with Paul in this passage.

**Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

May we all come together in the unity of the Holy Spirit and walk together under the Lord's direction and commandments to us in these days that lie before us.

It is not a call to an easy life. There will be the power of Satan to fight an intense battle, but victory is possible, even as Queen Esther risked her life to intercede for her people, even falling before the king and seeking him with tears, so must we seek the Lord for others regardless of the price that we must pay. It requires a submission of our lives to the will of God for the ministry to which He has called us.

May we obey and wait for the commandments of the Lord that we might perform His, the Lord's, exploits, His work, in the Kingdom of God.

I am reminded of Daniel 11.32 where it is written that "**the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do [exploits].**"

I hear the cry of King David's heart in Psalm 17.15: "**... I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.**"

Lord, grant that I may be one who is faithful to the call and come to know You in the high calling of God in Christ Jesus by Your Holy Spirit. "Here am I, Lord, send me" (Isa 6.8).

Dr. Carolyn Cole

Mrs. Lowery taught Middle Hebrew from the Old Testament (Joshua - Esther) and gives to us the following brief on the Book of Esther that she taught in the mid 1970's in Christian colleges. Take note of how prophetic these notes and her comments are, all through the ten chapters that follow, as we stand with Queen Esther, seeking the Lord in our lives to strengthen us, in the days that lie before us. May we each one have the courage and the strength of the Lord to walk on with Him - come what may - and all for His glory.

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Introduction

Are you longing to know the Lord in a greater measure, longing to know His presence, to walk with Him, in a measure that brings peace in your life? Do you desire to know Him, to know His voice, as He speaks to your heart and to know He hears your heart? Are you listening to Him as He touches your heart, as you daily walk with Him in His will, becoming one with Him?

There is a picture in the Scripture that gives us great insight into the profound relationship of Esther with the Lord God Almighty. In the Book of Esther, we see Esther's obedience to the Lord God, as she is faithful to hear the Lord as Mordecai speaks to her; and she is willing to risk her life to go before the king on behalf of her people. Oh, how we need to be still before the Lord God to know His voice and obey. How we need to discern between the voice of the Lord God and the enemy, Satan.

The Book of Esther was written regarding the time after the Jews were allowed, by King Cyrus of Persia, to return to their own country; they were to live in Judah and rebuild the Temple. This is significant as we read this in the Book of Isaiah. [II Chr 36.22, 23; Ezra; Isa 44; 45; Daniel; Isaiah (814 BC) 44.28; 45; Isaiah's Prophetic Ministry: 745 – 695 BC – 50 years; Cyrus' Reign 538-529]. This is significant, as many today believe that a prophetic word means an easy road. However, we see Biblical prophecy being lived through horrendous persecution to include the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Book of Esther reveals this truth as many lives were taken under the edict, under Haman in the name of King Ahasuerus - a heathen king, to take the lives of all Jews. It was not an easy road for the Jews; lives were taken. The cost was great in the Jews being set free. But, let us not forget the hand of the Lord was mighty upon His called in bringing to pass His Word to His people.

Let us not forget that the Lord uses His people who are sold out to Him in accomplishing His will in the life of His people, as we shall see in this study in the Book of Esther. We will see how the Lord used Queen Esther powerfully in saving the Jews from annihilation, as we see the Lord elevating Mordecai to a position in the king's court to be used with Queen Esther, in bringing about the will of the Lord in the life of the Jews, His chosen ones (Est 8.7-17).

King Ahasuerus was a heathen king; but as king, he had final authority in his reign. However, let us be mindful, let us never forget, that the Lord God has **final authority** in the lives of His people, but let us also be reminded that he has **final authority** over the enemy, all of life, as we shall see in this study. Our God Reigns!

Mordecai reminds us of Jesus Christ, as is seen in many places in the Book of Esther. The way Mordecai watches over Esther reminds us of the Lord Jesus Christ as He cares for His own, watches over them, and makes clear in the Word of God that He is with those who live for Him, who serve Him.

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God [is] with thee whithersoever thou goest (Jos 1.9).

Esther is a type of the true Christian who is sold out to God and loved not her life unto death (Rev. 12.11). We see this as we *hear* her say, "If I perish, I perish." Her love reminds us of John 14.15.

Queen Vashti shows us how one must have the courage to say, "No," to that which is not of the Lord, to say, "No," regardless of the cost. Lord, help us never to say, "No," to You. Help us to go forth discerning Your voice from *another* voice that we might live in Your holiness, Your righteousness from this day forth regardless of the cost.

Haman? Oh, I do not believe anything needs to be stated or addressed. Let us not give time to the enemy, Satan, who is out for the

souls of all people. Let us not forget that Satan is the father of lies, the deceiver (Est 3-6, 8-13; Jn 8.44).

We shall see how the enemy, how Satan, endeavors to lure all under his power as we study the Book of Esther. But, we shall also see how the Lord God Almighty is the final authority in this life and in eternity. Our God Reigns!

Chapter One

Queen Vashti Defies King Ahasuerus

In Esther, Chapter One, we are introduced to King Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia, over 27 provinces. In the third year of his reign, he made a feast for his princes and servants, and showed them the riches of his kingdom; the feast lasted 180 days. He then made a seven-day feast in the court of the garden of his palace for all the people in Shushan. At the same time, Vashti made a feast for all the women.

We are given a picture of this beautiful court in verse six.

[Where were] white, green, and blue, [hangings], fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds [were of] gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.

Verse seven describes something of what took place in the feast.

And they gave [them] drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king.

It is a beautiful picture of the Lord God serving royal wine in His vessels of gold. We are God's vessels of gold, diverse one from the other. God fills His vessels with the "royal wine" of the kingdom, the Holy Spirit, that they may give drink to others who are thirsty. All of His ministers serve in their specific capacities where the Lord has placed them.

It is interesting that in verse eight, we are told that none were compelled to drink; each was to drink according to each man's pleasure. The Holy Spirit is given to God's people in whatever measure one might desire of Him and allows Him to work.

On the seventh day of the feast, the king sent his chamberlains to bring Queen Vashti with the royal crown to show the people and the princes her beauty. Queen Vashti refused to obey the king's command. In his anger and upon the advice of his wise men, the king removed Vashti from being queen.

And Memucan answered before the king and the princes,

Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that [are] in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.

For [this] deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all

women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.

[Likewise] shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus [shall there arise] too much contempt and wrath.

If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she (Est 1.16-19).

The advice given the king seems a little harsh, since Queen Vashti may have refused the King's command because the men had been feasting for several days and, most probably, were inebriated.

Her refusal to obey the king's command seems justified; however, God allowed Queen Vashti to be removed from her position so that His servant, Esther, would be in a strategic position when the time came for God's people to be delivered from annihilation.

The suggestion of Memucan to depose Queen Vashti, as we read in these verses, pleased the king; ". . . the king did according to the word of Memucan" (Est 1.21). In his letter to all the provinces, the king declared ". . . that every man should bear rule in his own house . . ." (Est 1.22).

Note: Is this the origin of the attitude of many men who believe that women should not be used by the Lord in the ministry? Their beliefs seem to be that a woman's place should be only in the home as a servant to their husbands and also bear their children. Many people, who have evil hearts, promote their wrong thinking using the Name of Jesus to make it *seem* right.

In spite of this, God had a plan for Esther, which must be carried out; and she must be in the right place at the right time: in the court of the king. This meant allowing circumstances that would remove Vashti from being queen and would allow Esther to take her place – Esther, the dedicated servant of the Lord, the one who would obey His command even though it might bring death.

Note- How God used women, as well as men, in the OT and NT.

Chapter Two

Esther is Made Queen

In Chapter Two, verse one, when King Ahasuerus' wrath was appeased, he remembered Vashti, but she was no longer Queen. The decree against her could not be revoked. The king's servants suggested that fair young virgins be brought for the king and that their things for purification be given them.

And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hegel the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given [them]:

And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so (Est 2.3, 4).

Mordecai was a man of strength and courage with great endurance. Queen Esther experienced Mordecai's strength in her life. Mordecai was one of the captives that was taken from Jerusalem during the invasion by the king of Babylon.

We are introduced to Esther as Mordecai's child in this chapter. Mordecai took her in her youth as his own daughter when both her parents were dead, and she was no longer committed to her prior life (Est 2.7). Esther was a *faithful daughter*, eager to learn and follow Mordecai. It was under the teaching of Mordecai that Esther was prepared "for such a time as this." She was prepared to serve the Lord in the calling that He placed upon her. Does not Jesus Christ take one to be His own child when that person accepts Him, and is no longer attached to natural ties of the world? Are we not to have a teachable spirit that we shall be prepared "for such a time as this" in our lives?

When the young women were gathered together, Esther was also brought into the palace. She was given in to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women (Est 2.8, 9). Hegai favored Esther and quickly gave her the things for purification and preferred her and her maidens unto the best place of the house (Est 2.9).

We are told in verse ten that "Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew *[it]*." Even as an adult, Esther still obeyed Mordecai. Mordecai had wisdom of years in what he knew and what he had experienced in life, and the captivity of his people and what he had seen and experienced in captivity (Est 2.10, 20). Esther respected Mordecai's knowledge as she was growing up. She heard and obeyed with diligence as she knew she could continue trusting him. The marks of a true Christian are seen in one's obedience to the commandments of Jesus.

Many times, we do not know how important each moment is that we have in the service of the Lord is, in the moment – or maybe we shall never know. I believe Esther walked day by day, as she was taught by Mordecai, not knowing that she was being used in the service of the Lord all through her life, even as a child, and certainly, not knowing the significance of each step she was taking in the palace as she was given in to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women. I believe she was walking step by step, trusting what lay ahead. I believe she did not know yet how important her position in the palace would become, but God had arranged the circumstances to bring about the fulfillment of His call on Esther's life, thus the deliverance of His people.

In verse 11, Mordecai continued walking every day before the women's house where Esther was kept to know how she did and what should become of her. He was concerned for Esther, for her as an

individual, for her who was his family. It reminds us of this promise from Jesus, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb 13.5).

The young virgins completed their days of purification – six months with oil of myrrh and six months with sweet odours and other things – after which they were each brought into the king's chambers. The next morning each was taken to the house of the concubines, and came before the king no more - unless he delighted in her and called for her by name.

As was customary, each one was allowed to take with her into the king's chambers whatever she chose. When Esther's turn came, she took only what Hegai chose for her, and she obtained favor of all who saw her. She also obtained the favor of the king when she was taken to the king's chambers in the tenth month in the 7th year of his reign.

And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti (Est 2.17).

Queen Esther was powerful in her role; she had courage as she feared not to speak forth the truth to the king about two of his chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, who sought to kill the king. Queen Esther had the trust of King Ahasuerus; he pursued this matter to seek the truth of which was given him about his two chamberlains. The king had the two chamberlains hanged on a tree. I believe it takes strength, the strength of the Lord, in one's life to speak forth the truth, to trust that the Lord will see you through the situation – knowing it might work against you to speak forth the truth which may be speaking ill of the king's chamberlains.

Is the Lord building fortitude in Esther that she might be received of the king as she speaks forth the truth to the king - when the king has those who are working against him appearing to be friends of the king. Whom does the king believe? His Queen or Haman whom

the king advanced and "set his seat above all the princes that were with him"?

In the Book of Esther, we see the powerful, miraculous working of the Holy Spirit to reverse the damage done by the enemy, and the profundity and beauty of the story. God had brought Esther to the "throne position;" she was in the strategic place to be used when the time came for God's people to be delivered from the enemy.

The city of Shushan was full of God's people who believed in the Lord God Almighty, worshipped Him, and lived for Him – but only Esther was in the "throne position" at the right time to be used to bring down the stronghold of the enemy, Haman. God had set the stage for His will to be accomplished and would continue bringing events into position at just the right time to expose the enemy.

How often we stand in need of a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit to tear down the stronghold of Satan in some area of our lives! Do we recognize the events and circumstances to be the hand of God working for the Kingdom of God and for our benefit? Are we, like Esther, full of courage and strength to obey the commands of the Lord, to go when directed, to speak forth the truth of the Lord?

We, as God's people have the right, have the invitation, to ask the Father for our needs in the Name of Jesus and expect it to be done (Jn 15.16; 16.23). Let us begin to exercise our faith to see circumstances change in our lives – and give praise and glory to God for what He does. Let us go forth in His truth with His courage and strength – for the glory of His kingdom.

Esther did not spend every minute of every day sitting on the throne, but she had reached that position and the queen's throne was her throne as long as she was married to the king. When she needed to go before the king, she could do it. Our King Jesus invites us to go before Him with all our needs, problems, and desires. Remember, we must be cleansed and dressed in the righteousness of Christ to go

before the Father and be accepted by Him. He is our supplier. He cares for us. He has given us the Word that He is with us whithersoever we go.

After Esther became Queen, Mordecai sat in the king's gate. I am reminded of John 14.6 when Jesus said to Thomas, ". . . I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Also in John 10.9,

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

During the time Mordecai sat in the king's gate, he learned of a plan by two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, to kill the king. Mordecai told it to Esther, and she told the king; the two men were hanged. Mordecai's hearing of the chamberlains' plan was God's hand at work to bring about His will.

God would use this event as one of the things that would help to bring the enemy down.

Many times are we unable to see the Lord's plan as He, many times, uses us one step at a time to accomplish His will day by day, not realizing each step we take under His leadership leads to a ministry of which we neither know or see in the future.

Are we able to accept that how the Lord uses us, knowing His plan is larger than "the me"? Are we able to, with joy, to go forth with praise and thanksgiving that we may be a miniscule part of the ministry, knowing that the Lord is using others, the body of Christ to accomplish His will through the body and – not us alone?

Chapter Three

Haman's Plot

In Chapter Two, we read of Esther becoming Queen. In Chapter Three, we read of Haman's power growing with an enduring strength that appears with the blessing of the king; his plan against God's people is full of hate against the Jews. Have we not experienced, read of the Holocaust in past centuries that continues throughout each century? God's people have always been at the center of the enemy's heart and life, has been a scene of great hatred that only the enemy, Satan, can grow, nurture, fuel, incite, and motivate in his people. And, yes, he has his people (II Cor 11).

The king's servants and the people bowed and revered Haman, but Mordecai refused to bow to the enemy. How could a Jew revere, esteem, honor an ungodly, unholy man, when the Lord God Almighty had commanded His people to have no other gods before Him?

The king's servants, upon seeing that Mordecai was not bowing, reported it to Haman to see if Mordecai's matters would stand, to see if he, being a Jew, would excuse him standing before Haman. Haman was filled with wrath when hearing of this.

And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that [were] throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, [even] the people of Mordecai (Est 3.6).

Satan is not satisfied with destroying one or two Christians who are seemingly the strongest against him, though he has often used great persecution against the Lord's people to intimidate, to make fearful others following Jesus Christ. Satan endeavors to destroy anyone and anything that promotes *The Way* of the Lord. But recall

what was written in the Gospel of Matthew that we might be strengthened when the enemy comes in like a flood (Mt 10.28). Satan has power which he uses against the Lord and His people (Isa, Jer, and many others all through the centuries.) Mordecai refused to bow to Haman. Haman's rage was explosive, and was put before the king's people with great cruelty. He was so full of wrath that he was not satisfied with setting himself against Mordecai alone, but felt he must destroy all of Mordecai's people along with Mordecai, must destroy a nation.

People of God, awaken! Awaken! Are we not living in the days in which there are Hamans who desire to destroy not only a nation, but also all of those called according to His purpose, according to the purpose of the Lord God Almighty in Jesus Christ.

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, [even] upon the thirteenth [day] of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and [to take] the spoil of them for a prey (Est 3.13).

Haman devised a plan to carry out his cruelty, to accomplish his insatiable hunger for filling his fierce wrath, believing it would satisfy him and appease his wrath. One insane thought leads to another and another. One vile act that comes from such vile thoughts leads to another and another - as Satan is the father of all evil; it will lead to hell. Haman had no thoughts of holiness, righteousness, of a God who is Almighty. But know that the Lord does not bow to such ignorance. We are called to "Come Up Higher." Know that the Lord God Almighty has the last word, and we must turn from such as Haman, from the enemy, from Satan.

In verses 7-11, Haman presented his vile plan to the king, and is given the authority to carry out whatever he wished (Est 3.11). Where? Where was the king? Who was in charge? Where are the shepherds

of the Lord? Where are the pastors of the Lord Jesus Christ? In whom is your trust? Oh, turn to the King of kings, Jesus Christ!

Notice that Haman was willing to pay ten thousand talents of silver into the treasury to secure the death of the Jews (Est 3.9). *Is that hatred? A shadow of Jesus' betrayal? Thirty pieces of silver?*

Lots were cast before Haman to choose when the annihilation would take place; the thirteenth day of the month, Adar, was chosen; letters were written, sealed with the king's ring, and sent to all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

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, [even] upon the thirteenth [day] of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and [to take] the spoil of them for a prey.

The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day (Est 3.13, 14).

Do you ever wonder why Satan seems to come against you when your guard is down, when you least expect it? Or does he attack you with one thing after another until your strength is almost gone; and except for the **power of God** building you up, you would fall – defeated? Satan continues using his people such as Haman trying to destroy all of God's people. No matter what the battle, one's faith in Christ Jesus must be kept strong. Satan uses every false thought and action, that he knows, to eat away at one's strength and faith, but he is defeated before he starts.

The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat

**down to drink; BUT THE CITY SHUSHAN WAS
PERPLEXED (Est 3.15).**

Chapter Four

Mordecai Asks for Esther's Help

Satan comes in like a flood to deceive God's people, to kill and destroy the people of the Lord God – as we see in this chapter of Esther (Est 3.8-10). He comes in to God's people to bring division among the people of the Lord (Ps 55.11-14; Jn 8.44). He knows how to make general statements without being definitive for the ear of those who are so ready to hear the ill against other people.

We need to be a people of the Word of the Lord, a people in prayer, as we hear things that are against the body of Christ that we might know the Truth, the Truth of God in Christ Jesus – and pray, pray, pray (Isa 59.19).

There are battles to be fought, but God has given His people power over the enemy in the Name of Jesus. Every Christian must face the enemy with the **power of the Holy Spirit** and know that God is the victor!

So often, God's people are not stirred into action until Satan tries something that makes them feel desperate. On the heels of the decree issued by Haman, and sealed with the king's ring, Haman would experience God's people in intercessory prayer and the force of the Holy Spirit at work on behalf of the Jews.

Haman did not know whom he faced. He had not declared destruction to the Jews only, but he had come against the Lord God of heaven. Even though the Jews had been a rebellious people, they were still God's people, and had received promises from the Lord, such as the following:

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from

heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land (II Chr 7.14).

Upon hearing of Haman's decree, the Jews from the greatest to the least began to cry out to God for deliverance. Mordecai, who was not hesitant to be seen or heard, set the example for the Jews; he rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes – thus humbling himself before the people, the Jews as well as the heathen. Mordecai

**... went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;
and came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth** (Est 4.1, 2).

One might hear the sound of the Jewish nation as they cried out to God as one voice – the mourning, and weeping, and wailing. Or one might see them lying in sackcloth and ashes, and refusing to eat as they attended to something much more serious than satisfying their natural hunger (Est 4.3). They knew to whom to turn, the only One to whom they could turn, the only One Who had more power than did Haman.

True to His promises, God did hear and make possible this deliverance. Esther was strategically placed at the right time – by the hand of God – and was ready for instructions from God.

Should we in this country not cry out to God in repentance with weeping and wailing, with fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes? Perhaps God would forgive us our idolatry and disobedience to Him – and restore us unto Himself. Perhaps He has those who are already strategically placed waiting for the repentant cry of God's people – waiting to risk their lives – to go before the king on the strength of the cries and prayers of brothers and sisters who have become desperate. Think about it. Are you willing? Can you say,

"... so will I go in unto the king, which [is] not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish (4.16).

When it was told Esther how Mordecai was dressed and was acting, she sent clothes for him to clean up and dress appropriately. But Mordecai refused the clothes; they would not solve the problem (Est 4.4). When the Lord puts a situation in our path that needs special attention, one that requires spiritual warfare, is not our reaction to want to cover over the ugliness of it? Will not a quick, "Lord, touch this person. You know what he needs," solve the problem? No, Jesus will not accept a cosmetic approach; He calls us to respond to His directive, not react to the enemy.

Just as Mordecai gave Esther a commission to fulfill, which could cost her life, so does Jesus give to those who have come to the throne of His Kingdom for "such a time as this" commissions that require a battle to be fought. The battle requires putting one's life on the line regardless of the cost. To accomplish the will of the Lord is worth the risk (Est 4.4-9).

The commission given to Esther, apart from Divine intervention, would bring certain death; it was the law. She was to go into the inner court of the king to make request for the life of her people. She would walk toward the king, not knowing what his response would be; she had not been called for thirty days. Walk . . . walk . . . walk . . . Would the king hold out the golden sceptre of life to her, or would his servants take her out to be hanged?

Although these words are not in the Scripture, it is as if I can hear Esther's reply to Mordecai, "No, Mordecai. Please do not ask me to do this. It can bring death!" We do know the following answer she gave,

All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, [there is] one law of his to put [him] to death, except such to whom the king

shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days (Est 4.11).

Do we long to enter the inner court, the Holy of Holies, to become one with the Lord? Do we want to live a life that is completely surrendered to Him, to be obedient to His commands – no matter what the end may bring? Do we know that the law decrees death to anyone entering the Holy of Holies without being called – unless God finds them acceptable and grants life to them?

Esther's answer to Mordecai did not change his commission to her; he just gave her more information that she did not want to hear.

Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, [then] shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for [such] a time as this? (Est 4.13, 14)

Esther knew the man who had reared her; she knew she could trust him in all that he was saying to her though they were hard words in her ears and heart. The words given to Esther were words of encouragement, encouragement that the Lord has chosen her and placed her in the king's court as his Queen. After hearing Mordecai's words, and his heart, she stood with him with the words that came forth, "If I perish, I perish" (Est 4.16).

Esther's response to Mordecai's report of Haman's vile acts, vile decision, made with the king's ring to kill all the Jews, established in the hearts of her people, no doubt, her trust in the Lord God Almighty, as her command given was:

Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which *[is]* not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish (Est 4.16).

It is important to see how the body of Christ functions when all are working together as a body. We see in this chapter the understanding of having our hearts and minds fixed upon the Lord God for the glory of the Lord, **not** for someone to take note who is giving the commands, but taking note of how each are ready to receive an order to obey, knowing it is for the good of the body of Christ. We see Mordecai and Queen Esther able to receive from the other for their people. We see Queen Esther not struggling with who is giving the command. They are working together that the will of the Lord God Almighty be accomplished in them and through them and the whole of the nation, God's chosen people.

Also, notice verse 14 above, the words from the man whom Esther knew. How well do we know our Lord, the One Who taught and trained us? Do we trust Him to know the outcome, trust Him enough to act on His Word even though we do not know what the result will be?

There is a truth in verse 14 that each of us needs to know before we pray, "Lord, I want to really know You, to always obey You."

Mordecai said to Esther that she would not escape more than all the other Jews just because she was in the king's house. If Esther had not listened to Mordecai, what he had to say, had not understood the dire situation they were in, God would send deliverance for the Jews from another place, but Esther and her father's house would be destroyed. Queen Esther was not threatened by what Mordecai said to

her. She was one with him in hearing the words and desiring to do her part in what the Lord wanted accomplished in her and through her – as was Mordecai seeking the Lord's will for what the Lord wanted of him that they together would serve the Lord and the nation.

Those who come into the Lord's presence, into the Holy of Holies, must be ready to obey the Lord's commands. Only those committed to the Lord, those whose lives are fully surrendered unto the Lord God Almighty in Jesus Christ, are invited into the Holy of Holies. I am reminded of Isaiah in Chapter Six, his experience of the glory of the Lord coming down upon him and his seeing his sins and repenting in the presence of the glory of the Lord. The responsibility, walking in obedience to the Lord is great, but, oh, the glory of God's presence!

We read in Matthew 12.48, ". . . For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required . . ."

Notice the last of Esther 4.14. ". . . and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" What a question! What a responsibility! But Esther rises in the strength of her understanding of Mordecai, the one whom she knew so well; she knew she could give him a commandment which, if obeyed, would bring results according to God's will.

Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which *is* not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him (Est 4.16, 17).

Chapter Five

The Banquet

". . . and if I perish, I perish." The willingness of a surrendered soul, a surrendered life – but Mordecai obeyed her command and it brought life.

The three days of fasting and seeking God had passed; it was time to go before the king. Would she be accepted? Before going into the king's presence, she prepared, made ready by putting on her royal apparel. Before we present our requests to God, we must be cleansed of all sin and clothed with the righteousness of Christ; we must be clothed with royal apparel to go before the king, to go before the King of kings.

Esther found favor in the king's sight, and he held out to Esther the golden sceptre. The Scripture says she drew near and touched the top of the sceptre. May we find favor with our King; may He hold out to us His golden sceptre of life; and may we touch and receive that life offered to us. Then will He receive our requests.

Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what [is] thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom (Est 5.3).

It is interesting that we find in Chapter Five, verses 4-8, Esther requesting not only one banquet, but a second banquet of wine. She had a very serious request of the king.

Surely, she felt the need for a double portion of the wine of the kingdom, the strength of the Holy Spirit, the need to be more established in her relationship with the king. He had not called her into his presence for the past thirty days; yet, she had a request that must be received. It was a request for life. She was going before the king knowing that her life was being weighed, but also her people.

She must be accepted as one having knowledge of the work of the enemy. She must present to the king the plans of the enemy to destroy her people; she must not be found wanting as the life of her people would be weighed and found wanting. She must not be as the one who was lacking, but be received as one who knew the facts in the enemy's plan to destroy God's people. She must have the strength needed to stand before the king and make this request – as well as the power to experience the defeat of the enemy. This meant more time with the king and more of the royal wine to give her added strength to face the king.

There is an important lesson for us in this passage. We must be filled with the Holy Spirit, and saturated with the Word of God, before attempting to tear down the work of the enemy. Remember the more that is given to us, the more is required. Satan does not put his greatest effort into attacking the fringes of God's people, where the weak ones are; discouraging the weak and defeating them takes little time and effort. He looks for those who stand in the strength and power of the Holy Spirit – even better if there are several whom he can attack at once. May we feast on the royal wine of the Spirit and the Word of God to have sufficient strength for the battle that we face.

Reading an occasional verse from the Bible, saying a "Now I lay me down to sleep" prayer, or singing an hymn on Sunday morning will not strengthn us and keep us in the right standing with God when we are to do battle in the heavenlies against the enemy, Satan. Those who give forth a false word from behind the pulpit, failing to give the strong Word of the Lord, failing to give the Truth to those who are hungry for more of the Lord Jesus Christ, to be strengthened for the battles that lie before them, will hear the Lord's voice in Ezekiel Three and 33. Satan has set up a stronghold "in the palace" against God's people and the work of God and His Kingdom. That stronghold is intended to bring destruction and death to all of God's people; it is intended to cause the demise of everyone, of anything holy, Godly.

In the second banquet of wine, Esther had the privilege and added strength of sharing the wine of the kingdom – the best quality of wine, the wine of the power of the Holy Spirit – with her king before attacking the enemy. Lord, help us to spend time in Your presence, feasting on the wine of the Spirit, being strengthened with Your power that we might be used to tear down the stronghold that Satan set up in an effort to destroy Your Church.

When Esther asked the king and Haman to come to a second banquet on the morrow, and the king consented, Haman became filled with pride (Est 5.9). He called his friends and wife together to tell them of his riches and of the favor of the king; he was especially proud that he was the only one invited to the banquet with the king.

But Mordecai had failed to bow to Haman, and this took the pleasure out of Haman's heart (Est 5.13). His wife and friends suggested a plan to hang Mordecai; in Haman's mind, this would solve the problem. However, Haman could not know that he would be preparing the instrument for his own death.

When the enemy is so prideful of himself and his position, to the point of endeavoring to elevate himself and to take God's people down, endeavoring to destroy God's people, he, himself, becomes blinded. He is a servant of the enemy, and, oh, hear the Word of the Lord. Esther 6.6-9 reveals Haman's pride believing the King is talking about him.

So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?

And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,

Let the royal apparel be brought which the king [*useth*] to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:

And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man [*withal*]

whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

Haman believed that the King was planning to honor him; Haman failed to realize of whom the King was talking: Mordecai. (Est 6.10-12)

God had a plan – one that would not only stop the work of the enemy, not only one that would end the threat against the Jews in that place and time, and thus magnifying God's servant, Mordecai. God's plan changed the direction of events and - all for His glory. It was a plan that would publicly reveal the power of God in Christ Jesus to all who might be on the side of the enemy, Satan. God set the stage for His plan to be carried out through the Queen; Esther's request would be granted.

The events which followed that night and the next day are powerful as one sees each step taken being directed against the enemy without his being aware. These events could be arranged only by the Lord God Almighty.

If we could only see how God is working on our behalf against the enemy, how He changes situations, or affects the thoughts one has, we would be able to trust God with our problems, and see His power at work. God is God and cannot be blinded by the enemy, cannot be taken down, cannot even be touched – neither can His people. Oh! People of God in Christ Jesus, we serve a living, risen Lord and Savior. Our God reigns!

Chapter Six

King Ahasuerus Honors Mordecai

Satan came against God's people, and his plan seemed to be working. The Jews were in distress, thinking God had deserted them, as they cried out to Him for deliverance. Haman had declared that all Jews were to be killed; the edict was sealed with the king's ring! But, Chapter Six shows that the Lord God was in control. Satan believes he is in control and is able to deceive his people, his followers, convince them that they will win. He believes he has the final authority.

However, the followers of Jesus Christ know of a certainty that it is the Lord God who has all authority, who has the final authority over all; but His people often walk through the fire. But, as they walk through the fire, the persecution, the trials, the hardships, Psalm 34 and Isaiah 43.1-3; Daniel 3.13-27 comes to one's mind to reassure the person(s) that our God reigns!

With God's people in danger of being annihilated, He put events into effect for their deliverance. On the night between Queen Esther's two banquets, the king was not able to sleep; therefore, he commanded that the Book of the Records of the Chronicles be brought and read before him (Est 6.1). *Has the Lord ever kept you awake? Has there been times in your restless sleep that the Lord brought something to your mind, your heart, that you need to address, something to which you failed to give proper attention?*

The Chronicles documented the actions of Mordecai's reporting the two chamberlains' plot to kill the king. The king asked what had been done to honor Mordecai. The answer? Nothing had been done! Why? Why was Mordecai not honored at the time of his report? God knew that the enemy was strong, and would have to be exposed in such a way as to take him down and defeat him. The timing was now perfect for the honor to take place. God's servant, Queen Esther, who had surrendered to His will, was now interceding for God's people – as

were all of the Jews to include Mordecai. Jesus taught us to pray one for another, not only in words and in actions - as we see when Jesus prayed for Peter, when Satan desired to destroy Him (Lk 22.31, 32), and as He prayed in John 17. Mordecai lived this teaching as He interceded for God's people at a time when Satan was so strong against them, desiring to destroy them (Est. 4).

Haman was in the court to ask the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had built for Mordecai's death. It was at this exact time that the king asked, "Who is in the court?" Only God could have arranged such timing.

Chapter Six, verse six, gives a good picture of Haman's pride as he learned of the King's desire to honor someone:

So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?

Read verses eight and nine. Haman's desire for himself.

Let the royal apparel be brought which the king [*useth*] to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:

And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man [*withal*] whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

This is a beautiful picture of the honor given to Mordecai – of the honor and praise given to Jesus, as He rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, and the praises of the people resounding as they

spread palm branches and their clothing before him (Lk 19.30-38; Jn 12.12-15). Verses ten and eleven must have been a shock to Haman; he did not dare disobey the King's order.

Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, [and] take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

The irony in verses six and ten, showing Haman's pride and then the king's order to Haman that he perform the honor upon his enemy, Mordecai, has turned the course of events in the opposite direction of the enemy's plot. This marked the beginning of Mordecai being exalted as Haman was on the road to his downfall.

And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered (Est 6.12).

Haman told his wife and friends all that had happened. It is inspiring to read and recognize the words of his wife and friends forewarning him:

And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every {thing} that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai [be] of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shall surely fall before him (Est 6.13).

While they spoke these words, the chamberlains arrived to take Haman to the second banquet of wine.

Haman thought he was going to drink of the wine of the kingdom with the king; but unknowingly to him or the chamberlains, he was being escorted to his death. Mordecai was indeed "of the seed of the Jews, before whom [Haman had] begun to fall."

It is easy for those of us who tend to see everything with our natural understanding to see events as something which "just happened." It must grieve God's heart to hear the word lucky coming from the mouth of one of His children. If our hearts are right in God's sight, if we are praying as we should, reading and studying His Word in an effort to be obedient to the Word, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can expect God's hand in all that happens to us (Rom 8.26-28). We must discern the Lord's hand in our lives versus the enemy trying to come into our lives in the "name of jesus." Awaken! Satan has his followers, his ministers as we read in II Corinthians 11.13-15.

God's plan would be *and will be* accomplished. Know of a surety that it is in the presence of the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus that the enemy is defeated! The Lord God has already won the victory in our lives. Awaken, and begin walking in the Lord's victory that was won in His crucifixion and resurrection. Walk in the faith knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ has already defeated the enemy. He teaches us to "Flee from the enemy."

Chapter Seven

Haman's Day of Reckoning

Haman Is Hanged

"So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen" (Est 7.1). The king came because he loved Esther, his bride, his Queen. Haman came thinking he was highly honored by Esther; he did not realize that this was his day of reckoning.

At this second banquet of wine, Esther gave the king her petition.

Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage (Est 7.3, 4).

Since Adam, all mankind has been born with a sinful nature, born to die in sin, ". . . to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish . . ." (Est 7.4) at the hands of our enemy, Satan – except for God's mercy, except for God's love reaching down to us through salvation provided by the death and resurrection of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and Who rose from the dead. When we receive salvation, we stand before God requesting that we be given life, that the decree written by Satan on our lives be reversed (Rom 8.2).

When the king asked, "Who is he and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?" Esther was not hesitant to name the enemy, to name him as "wicked Haman" (7.5,6).

Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?

And Esther said, The adversary and enemy [*is*] this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

Notice that Haman became afraid before the king and the queen. In the same way that the revelation of the truth struck fear in Haman's heart, so will the Word of Truth cause Satan to fear when it is spoken in the presence of the King, King Jesus. Satan knows that he cannot stand against the Lord God Almighty when we have confronted him in God's presence and in the Name of Jesus; Satan has no authority over God's people.

Do not expect Satan to give up quickly. Haman began to plead for his life with Esther. Haman knew that it would do him no good to plead with the king; he turned to God's servant, one who was a totally surrendered servant unto the Lord God Almighty, Esther. When the king returned, he found Haman fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Haman was pleading for his life, **but the king** recognized Haman's actions toward the Queen as seduction (Est 7.7,8). Had Esther allowed herself to be seduced by Haman, she would have become one with him; it would have given him life. Is this not what Satan is doing, seducing people to walk as one with him on the broad road to hell? Are not the people being seduced by Satan? Have they not become one with him? Have not they, therefore, given Satan life?

Is not this like Satan to try to deceive God's people into joining him by taking steps that look so innocent? All Esther needed to do was to have mercy on Haman – and he would have risen up with even more hatred, if that were possible. Remember, Satan is the father of lies. We need to take care when we hear, "But you are supposed to love everybody," lest we find ourselves "loving" Satan by failing to

condemn His evil nature (II Cor 11.13-15; Mat 7.15-23). The Bible, the Holy Word of God, gives forth this command:

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another (Jn 13.34, 35; 15.17; I Th 4.9; **1 P 1.22**; I Jn 3.11, 23; 4.7, 11, 12; II Jn 1.5).

The Word makes it clear we are to love one another, the body of Christ – not the followers of Satan, though we do need to pray for their souls, that they would turn from Satan, and turn to Jesus Christ, repenting of their sins.

Saints, do you realize that Satan has no life, cannot work in our lives, unless we choose to give him life (Ja 4.7)? The king saw what was in Haman's heart. In pleading for his life, Haman was asking Esther to allow him to become one with her, to be intimate with him; he wanted to become one with her that he might have life, that he would be perceived as one who was able to enter into the monarchy and obtain sanctioning by a beautiful queen who also was perceived to be very capable and wise. This would have given Haman the strength he desired to accomplish the death of those whom Esther loved and for whom she was willing to die.

Oh, but the Lord God Almighty saw and knew the wickedness of Haman; the Lord had already devised a plan to protect His people through the wickedness of Haman and the understanding of those in the court of the king who were willing to take a stand in the moment needed. Hear what the chamberlain says,

And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king,
Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the

king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon (Est 7.9).

The king immediately ordered Haman's death on the gallows that Haman had built for Mordecai's death. Haman had fallen into his own trap. I am reminded of the Psalmist's words in Psalm 141.10: "Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst that I withal escape."

Our identifying with Satan gives him life. At the least, it gives him a foothold in our lives; at the worst, it brings us to oneness with him.

May we saturate ourselves with the wine of the Holy Spirit by spending time in the presence of the Lord absorbing His nature, His holiness. May we read the Holy Bible daily that we might live a life of holiness, a godly life unto the Lord – not a goodly life for Satan. May we touch and receive His sceptre of life and receive the strength it imparts to us to withstand the ploys and deceptions of our enemy, Satan.

Chapter Eight

The Jews Are Authorized to Defend Themselves

When we have met the enemy in a particular situation and have defeated him, we have gained that territory for the Lord. It is then under our dominion; however, we do not hold onto it; we give it to the Lord for all things are under him, under his dominion, his authority and power.

There is a picture of this in Chapter Eight, verses one and two, where the king gave Esther the house of Haman; and she, in turn, gave it to another, to Mordecai. In Chapter Nine, verses 15 and 16, we see a similar action by the Jews after they fought and defeated the enemy; "they laid not their hands on the prey."

These, God's people, fought the enemy and defeated him, not to gain substance for themselves, but to gain territory for the kingdom of God, to remove the enemy from God's territory and God's people.

After the death of Haman, Esther lifted up Mordecai by telling the king what Mordecai was to her. Much is written in the scriptures about lifting up the Name of Jesus, magnifying God, and offering Him praise and worship. The king elevated Mordecai when he gave him his ring, thus giving him the same power and authority as the king, himself, had – the right to speak in the King's name (Est. 8.1, 2).

Jesus Christ operates in the power and authority of the Father. Read John 10:25-38.

Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me (Jn 10.25).

I and [my] Father are one (Jn 10.30).

Jesus was one with the Father; He did nothing that was contrary to the will of the Father.

We are called to be at one with the Lord Jesus Christ. Read Romans, Chapter Eight. We are to walk in the Spirit as the Spirit works in us to free us "from the law of sin and death" (Rom 8.2).

[*There is*] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Rom 8.1).

The entire chapter of Romans Eight deals with the actions and results of walking in the Spirit. As we continuously walk in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit brings us to the fulfillment of verse one in our lives. Colossians 1:26-28 reveals the mystery of "Christ in you, the hope of glory." What is this "glory"? It is that we might be presented "perfect in Christ Jesus." If we are surrendered to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to bring us into oneness with the Lord Jesus Christ, we will find the Holy Spirit working through us "in the Name of Jesus Christ" to accomplish His will for the Kingdom of God.

Many of God's people mistake the meaning of speaking in the Name of Jesus. They believe that simply saying, "In the Name of Jesus" is a magical formula to accomplish anything desired. However, to speak in the Name of Jesus is to speak with His power and authority, to accomplish what He would accomplish had He voiced the words Himself. This can be done only if we are His, living for Him with our lives laid before Him in obedience to His will. If we are in Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit is operating through us, the Word of the Lord will be spoken by the Holy Spirit accomplishing what the Spirit knows is the will of God. It will have nothing to do with our will or our works.

The Apostle Paul does not consider himself to have reached this place in Christ Jesus, but he strove to reach it. Read Philippians 3.7-14. In verses eight and nine, Paul writes, ". . . for whom I have

suffered the loss of all things . . . that I may win Christ, and be found in Him . . ."

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phi 3.13, 14).

If The Apostle Paul realized the he had not yet achieved that place of high calling in Christ Jesus, that he was still pressing toward it, fellow saints, neither do I believe that I have yet arrived – and no one else I know has. For certain, if one finds it necessary to announce that they have achieved perfection, I believe that is a sure sign that they have not.

If one should be so totally submitted to the work of the Holy Spirit as to find themselves always walking in the Spirit, they will be so busy giving honor, praise, and glory to the Lord Jesus, taking nothing for themselves. I believe this is expressed in Esther 8.2 and 9.10, 15, 16. Esther did not keep the house of Haman for herself; she put it in Mordecai's charge. The Jews, after conquering their enemy, took none of the prey for themselves. They were not covetous, did not desire material possessions for themselves. They loved God; they were thankful to Him and desired only to honor **Him**.

Haman had been hanged; he was defeated, but his edict against the Jews was still in effect. It had been sealed with the king's ring; it could not be reversed. In the next few verses, in Chapter Eight, verses 3-6, we find Esther again interceding for her people, the Jews. This time she fell before the king and sought him with tears that he reverse Haman's decree.

We have the king's answer to Esther in verses seven and eight. He had given the house of Haman to Esther; now he put the answer to this problem into their own hands.

Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal *[it]* with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse (Est 8.8).

" . . . as it liketh you . . ." The king knew that, although Haman's edict could not be reversed, Mordecai and Esther would declare a defense for the Jews that would bring victory – it would be in accordance with the law, and it would work. He could trust them.

Those of God's people who have surrendered to God, have experienced the glory of the Holy of Holies, and will find much of their ministry to be that of intercession. They will not stop with a simple mumble of request to the Lord – whenever they think of it, but they will fall on their knees before the Lord, and do battle against the enemy until the enemy's power is broken - and the Lord's will is accomplished.

Satan has power in the earth (Mt 7.21-23; II Cor 11.12-15; II Thes 2.3, 4, 7-10; Eph. 2.1, 2; Acts 26.15-18; Rev. 12.7-15). Saints, that is a power that has no choice but to succumb to the power of God; however, God often chooses for His power to work against Satan through the obedience and intercession of His people.

Through the interceding of Esther and the Jews, Esther and Mordecai now had the authority of the king to stand for the life of the Jews and defeat the enemy. We see the king (through the use of his ring), Mordecai, and Esther working together in unity on behalf of the Jews.

And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed *[it]* with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on

**horseback, [and] riders on mules, camels, [and]
young dromedaries:**

**Wherein the king granted the Jews which [were] in every
city to gather themselves together, and to stand for
their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish,
all the power of the people and province that would
assault them, [both] little ones and women, and [to
take] the spoil of them for a prey (Est 8.10, 11),**

Mordecai had written permission for the Jews to defend themselves and accomplish against their enemy exactly what Haman had commanded be carried out against the Jews.

Notice that in verse 11 is written, ". . . all the power of the people and province that would assault them . . ." From where did these people gain power? From Satan. The Jews were facing not only a people who hated them, but a people who were strengthened by the supernatural power of Satan – Satan who hated God's people and wanted to destroy them.

Mordecai's letters were sent to all the Jews as well as to the lieutenants, the deputies, and rulers of the provinces in all one hundred, twenty-seven provinces of King Ahasuerus.

REVIVAL BROKE OUT!

Chapter Nine

The Jews Destroy their Enemies

The Feast of Purim

God's people had heard from the Lord! Mordecai was exalted and crowned.

And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.

And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them (Est 8.15-17).

The Jews rejoiced, and the heathen were converted! Not only were some of the heathen converted to Judaism, but read Chapter Nine, verse three.

And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them
(Est 9.3).

Saints, when we experience the fear of the Lord and when we no longer seek material gain for ourselves, but seek to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ, to lift Him up and magnify Him, others will begin to fear the Lord and desire to live for Him. The enemy's power will be broken; the oppressed will be set free, and people will rise up in the life of righteousness that comes only through knowing and living for

the Lord Jesus Christ. We will experience a godly fear and reverence for the Lord as our hearts and attitudes are cleansed and changed in accordance with God's Word.

There was rejoicing in the camp; the word of Mordecai had gone forth, and his word was life to the people.

The Jews now faced a battle, but the Lord would be with them; God had begun the deliverance of His people. As the Jews gathered together to fight the enemy, the enemy trembled with fear (Est 9.2b, 3, 4).

... and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.

And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.

For Mordecai [was] great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.

Do these verses not remind us of the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the increase of His work throughout the world? The last of verse four "... for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater" is certainly representative of the increase of the glory of Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God. Only through Jesus Christ is there salvation! No, the enemy cannot stand against the Name of Jesus!

The Jews fought their enemy – and won (Est 9.5)!

Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them.

Notice their weapon, the sword. Saints, our sword is the Word of God (Eph 6.17). It conquers Satan just as surely as the natural

sword conquered the Jews' enemies. Let us not hesitate to use God's Word against the enemy, Satan.

In verses 6-12 , we see that in Shushan the Jews slew 500 men including the ten sons of Haman. When the king asked Esther what more would she request, she asked for a second day of battle for the City of Shushan (9.12, 13). When the towns in the provinces fought only on the 13th day of the month, why would she ask permission for Shushan to fight a second day (v 13)? I believe it was because the enemy had set up a stronghold in Shushan where Haman's sons and friends lived. The battle against the enemy's stronghold required more time and more power. Here they would fight and slay 300 more of the enemy, as well as hang Haman's ten sons on the gallows (vv 14,15). The bodies of those sons of Haman hanging on the gallows would tell the inhabitants of Shushan, that the enemy **was defeated**.

Saints, there are times when we will face the stronghold of the enemy, and the battle will be intense – but fight the "second day" if necessary. The victory is sure when we fight in the will of the Lord and with the power of the Holy Spirit.

On the 13th of Adar, the Jews in the one hundred, twenty-seven provinces slew 75,000 of the enemy (v 16). They had triumphed! The next day there was rest, feasting, and rejoicing in the provinces while Shushan fought and conquered the enemy on the 14th of Adar.

The Jews had good reason to rejoice; they had conquered the enemy, and Shushan had destroyed the enemy's stronghold, they had destroyed the enemy, Haman and his sons.

Imagine the relief, then the joy, as they realized the love of God and His protection which they had just experienced. Mordecai decreed that the Jews would remember the 14th and 15th days of Adar each year as the days when they rested from their enemies.

**As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies,
and the month which was turned unto them from**

sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that *[is]*, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them; (Est 9.22, 24)

But when *[Esther]* came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows (Est 9.25).

These days were called Purim after the name of *Pur*. The Jews took upon themselves to remember and keep these days through all generations that these days would never "fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from among their seed."

Mordecai sent letters throughout the kingdom, letters with words of peace and truth.

And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book (Est 9.32).

Chapter Ten

Mordecai's Greatness

Chapter Ten begins with a word concerning the acts and might of King Ahasuerus "and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him . . ."

Mordecai shows us how his life was surrendered to the Lord God to reach out to his people in his time, that the Lord God would be glorified in him and through him.

It is in light of these words concerning Mordecai that I am reminded of Luke's Gospel where we read about our Lord and Savior , Jesus Christ, and the multitude of people following as He rode the colt into Jerusalem; these believers rejoiced and praised God "with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;"

The people knew the Savior by His love for them, for all they had experienced of His greatness. It is through the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus that we desire to live and have our being as we endeavor to allow the Lord's love to flow through us to reach the people He places before us for His glory – even today.

There are those all through the Bible and all through the centuries who have given themselves unreservedly to the Lord, and He has used them in a mighty way much like the Savior taught with His life to the highest degree.

For Mordecai the Jew [*was*] next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed (Est 10.3).

And they brought [the colt] to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon.

And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way.
And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the
mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples
began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice
for all the mighty works that they had seen;
Saying, Blessed *[be]* the King that cometh in the name of
the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.
... I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the
stones would immediately cry out (Lk 19.35-38, 40).

Back Cover Text

Mrs. Bettie Lowery spoke three languages and taught two of them in Christian colleges, as well as Middle Hebrew History from the Old Testament (Joshua through Esther) to include the Old Testament Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi, the prophets during the era that is part of the Middle Hebrew History.

The Book of Esther is very significant to Mrs. Lowery, and she continues talking about Queen Esther and her love for the Lord God.

The Book of Esther lays before us Esther's life of courage and strength, and teaches us much about the faith we need to have in trusting the Lord God of Israel in these difficult and trying times in which we live. The Book of Esther teaches us, places before us, how we - in these days, may be called upon to put our trust in the Lord God. We may be called to step out in a deep and abiding faith as we take a stand for the Lord and His call upon our lives.

There is but one God, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Israel. The love that Esther had for the Lord God, as she stepped out in great courage, great faith, placing her life on the line, causes Mrs. Lowery to encourage us in reading of the Book of Esther - and then re-read it seeking what the Lord is leading us to do for His glory in these days that lie before us.

Dr. Carolyn Cole