



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS



Queen Esther
finds favour
with the King

ESTHER AND THE HATEMAN! PART II

LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF ESTHER! PART II The Book of Esther chapters 3-7

Warm Greetings!

Welcome to the second part
of the Lessons from the
Book of Esther!

Last time we covered chapters
one and two. We will try to get
further along and see what
the Lord shows us, and make
a godly summary of both the
overall and specific lessons!
We are again using the New
King James Version for this.

Haman's Conspiracy against the Jews

Chapter 3 After these
things King Ahasuerus
promoted Haman, the son of
Hammedatha the Agagite,
and advanced him and set
his seat above all the princes
who were with him. 2 And
all the king's servants who
were within the king's gate
bowed and paid homage to
Haman, for so the king had
commanded concerning him.
But Mordecai would not bow or
pay homage. 3 Then the king's

servants who were within the
king's gate said to Mordecai,
**"Why do you transgress the
king's command?"**

*Here we finally meet old
Hatemman himself, or Haman
the Agagite. He was the
prime Satrap of the empire
after his recent promotion.
Mordecai, being a Jew, would
not bow down to him. This
infuriated Haman.*

4 Now it happened, when they
spoke to him daily and he
would not listen to them, that
they told it to Haman, to see
whether Mordecai's words
would stand; for Mordecai
had told them that he was a
Jew. **5 When Haman saw that
Mordecai did not bow or pay
him homage, Haman was filled
with wrath. 6 But he disdained
to lay hands on Mordecai
alone, for they had told him
of the people of Mordecai.
Instead, Haman sought to
destroy all the Jews who were
throughout the whole kingdom
of Ahasuerus—the people
of Mordecai.**

*Haman being quite an evil
guy, not only hated Mordecai,
but because of the simple
perceived rebellion of not
bowing down to him, Hateman
Haman decided it would be a
good idea to destroy all Jews*

*across the vast Empire of
Persia; but he had to get the
king's positive agreement as
we see below.*

7 In the first month, which
is the month of Nisan, in the
twelfth year of King Ahasuerus,
they cast Pur (that is, the lot),
before Haman to determine the
day and the month, until it fell
on the twelfth month, which is
the month of Adar.

***Have you ever noticed how
much 'faith' ungodly people
put in superstitions? The
whole world is full of them!
Where there is no presence of
God available or understood
at least, the vacuum is filled
by the devil's myriad of
other beliefs.***

8 Then Haman said to King
Ahasuerus, "There is a certain
people scattered and dispersed
among the people in all the
provinces of your kingdom;
their laws are different from all
other people, and they do not
keep the king's laws. Therefore
it is not fitting for the king to
let them remain. 9 If it pleases
the king, let a decree be written
that they be destroyed, and I
will pay ten thousand talents of
silver into the hands of those
who do the work, to bring it into
the king's treasuries."

Excellent typical work from an experienced Satrap.

10 So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 1

1 And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people are given to you, to do with them as seems good to you."

being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day. 15 The couriers went out, hastened by the king's command; and the decree was proclaimed in [e]Shushan the [f] citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was [g]perplexed.

So there it is, another decree,

Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

This was a huge after-effect on both Mordecai and the Jews worldwide in the Persian Empire. Some sources say that Mordecai could have been a reasonably high level Satrap himself, although we are not totally sure.



Persian Satraps

12 Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded—to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring.

13 And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their [d]possessions. 14 A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province,

translated and put into Law quite quickly and sent out by camel express or whatever express they had back then. In the local capital though, the population was surprised, (and possibly even terrified) as we often are today by new government dictates.

Esther Agrees to Help the Jews Chapter 4

When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry. 2 He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. 3 And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the

In times of great danger, Mordecai's reaction is always the best reaction. Get desperate with God, repent of any personal or collective/corporate sins, and cry mightily to the Lord for help. This ALWAYS works great wonders and you will see and experience the Power of God in your school, business, family and so much more. Praise the Lord.

4 So Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was deeply distressed. Then she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept them. 5 Then Esther called Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs whom he had appointed to attend her, and she gave him a command concerning Mordecai, to learn what and why this was. 6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square that was in front of the king's gate. 7 And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries to destroy the Jews. 8 He also gave him a copy of the written decree for their destruction, which was given at Shushan, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her, and that he might command her to go in to the king to make

supplication to him and plead before him for her people. 9 So Hathach returned and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai: 11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days." 12 So they told Mordecai Esther's words.

13 And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: **"Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"** (***) see lessons below!)

Well, here we have finally come to that wonderfully famous verse that has applied to millions of believers on the Almighty God for thousands of years-- **"who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"**

15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai:

16 "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the

king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"

17 So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

Here we have the ultimate Uno-Reverse card, OBEDIENCE! Obedience to God can reverse all sins and situations over time. Throughout her childhood, Esther obeyed her Uncle's advice, finally at the crucial point of her life, she asked her uncle to obey her, which he gladly did; this is a good example in the Bible of relatives obeying each other ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD!

It is the Holy Spirit who has to lead us whether we are male or female, it is all dependent upon the Plan of God!

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT!?

There are ten chapters in the Book of Esther, **so in order to keep this series just to two editions I will summarise what happens next.** I think most of our readers know the book of Esther.

There are still 90 verses to cover in chapters 5 to 10! All looks hunk-dory for dear Mr Hateman; he is top dog now and, after boasting to his family about his increasing promotions and favours from the King, Mrs Hateman (Zeresh), suggests hanging Mordecai on gallows in the courtyard of their own house. 75 feet high, presumably so that the rest of the city can see Mordecai when he is killed.

Simultaneously Esther receives the courage through prayer and fasting to approach the King without being called for. He receives her, and she invites only him and Haman to a banquet. Haman is thrilled

when he hears. VIP Treatment and Exclusivity is what all greedy and unconscionable people wish for.

But the night before this banquet the king can't sleep, the Lord keeps him awake and leads him to the book of official records. He reads about Mordecai's great help in saving the King's life. Being a relatively righteous man, the king wishes to reward him, after his servants tell him, no reward has been given him.

Things begin to change in the spirit early the next day. Haman arrives and finds the king excited about rewarding an official. 'What should I do to reward them?' the King asks; Haman, suffocated by his own stupidity and pride, thinks the king is talking about him, so he suggests all kinds of ostentatious rewards and praise be given to him. Hateman is aghast when he discovers the very rewards he has just suggested, he must give to Mordecai on the King's behalf! Oh shame! He later returns home, crestfallen. The tide has begun to change. I believe this is all through fasting and prayer.



That same night the first of Esther's two banquets take place! Really it seems she is just getting up courage to really spill the truth out about her own Jewish heritage and accuse Haman. This all

happens when the King and Haman agree to come the next night to a bigger banquet. The end is near for Hateman, but he has no idea yet!

The next night the King asks Esther what **really** is her petition and situation she needs help with. She lets it all out, how **her** people are all going to be killed, young and old and women and children and that one single 'enemy' is behind it all. The king shouts; 'who is this'? Esther points directly across the table at Haman and calls him 'wicked'. Haman trembles in this only three person meeting. The king goes out with his guards to calm down from the shock.

Haman falls on the Queen's chaise lounge and begs for his life, when the King returns seeing Hateman touching the Queen, he erupts! His servant's present cover Hateman's face, it was all over in a matter of minutes. Another servant said, 'Oh look my Lord the King, behold the gallows Haman has prepared to hang Mordecai on in his house'.

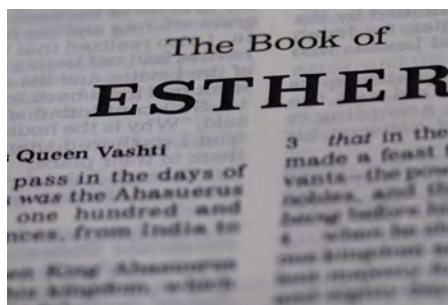
'Hang him on it', the king demands, execution happened immediately and the house was later gifted to Mordecai! What a reverse! Praise the Lord.

Of course from here, there were still governmental obstacles to overcome, which we see in the last three chapters, and to reverse the evil of Hateman, a new command must be drafted by court officials and sent out again by camel express to the far flung reaches of the Empire, from the King indicating that he was for the Jews. Eventually the Jews were 'saved' and rejoiced that God had delivered

them, from what was to be the first I believe, of one of several plans for their global extinction. They had heard the evil news before and they also had fasted and prayed for God to do the miracle.

I greatly encourage you to

deeply study the Book of Esther and learn the bitter sweet lessons and the life and death decisions people had to make! Praise the Lord.



LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF ESTHER!

GOSH! THERE ARE SO MANY! I believe the Book of Esther has easily a hundred messages and lessons we can take and apply to our lives today, seeing we live as Christians in remarkably similar times to her and the Persian world of that time.

Here are my favourite 12 or so (not in any particular order)!

- God is in control of all the empires and their rise and fall.
- Whatever happens to them inside their politics and intrigue can all be controlled through prayer and fasting by believers.
- That inside these nations and kingdoms there are both righteous men/women and wicked men/women at work, directly against

each other, as they are influenced by the Spirit world, good and bad.

- God always wins and defeats Satan, who was sure he was winning. This can only happen through prayer and obedience. This pattern repeats itself throughout human history.
- God's people have to take steps of faith to obey the Lord's leading, or the miracles and victories may never come.
- **"Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Think and pray about it yourself where you are and what you are doing today.**
- When terrible and unexpected-to-them judgement comes on the wicked, it is often over in a few minutes. Don't feel sorry for them.
- All evil situations can be reversed, and will be in time.
- God's people must each play their part inside these situations and use their talents, beauty, wisdom, dedication and other gifts etc. for the glory of God. Any pride or stubbornness on the part of God's people will hinder God's work.
- God brings His chosen individuals into positions of influence beforehand and knows what is going to happen and why He has placed them (you) there.
- God's kingdom has always needed 'Kings' and 'Queens' to

help it through very difficult times, both then and now.

- If you grow up learning to obey your godly elders, like Esther did, you will stand a better chance to obey God in the future, and be a mouldable vessel for Him.
- The wealth of the sinner is laid up for the Just.
- People who are seemingly 'nobodies' are very often indispensable in fulfilling the plans of God (Servants in this case)

God bless you. Let's learn all we can from such an amazing book and all of God's Word. Let the Holy Spirit open our eyes and cause our faith to grow mightily where we are! Amen.

Until Next week!,

Jerry for the WCF Team

COMING IN THE NEXT EDITIONS, GOD WILLING

TRUE PASTORS PART II

FAITHFUL IN THE LEAST!

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