

The Providence of God – Part 2 | Esther 4:1-14 |

6/10/18

- Mordecai, Esther and the Jews learn of their approaching demise | Esther 4:1-7
 - **Read Esther 4:1-7**
 - Mordecai learns of the plan that Haman has put into place to kill all of the Jews, to commit genocide.
 - He goes into mourning by wearing the sackcloth, which was common in Bible times for someone to show that they are in great distress.
 - And of course he would be, as a royal command has been declared to have them killed.
 - All the Jewish people that received the news fasted and wept as well.
 - As the king's messengers were bringing this proclamation to all of the different provinces we can see that all of the Jews had the same reaction.
 - They also fasted which would normally involve prayer, even though it isn't mentioned explicitly.
 - Esther became aware and was afraid.
 - Queen Esther has now also learned of this command and was afraid and upset.
 - It's important that we remember that Esther is a Jew, so she would also be a target for this death sentence.
 - However, her husband the king has no idea that she is a Jew as this has not yet been revealed to him.
 - God's providence
 - **The fact that the king was not aware yet of his wife's ethnicity is clearly an act of providence by God.**
 - **The timing of when this is revealed to the king is critical.**
- Esther's greater purpose is revealed | Esther 4:8-14
 - **Read Esther 4:8-13**
 - **We have now come to where the great purpose of Esther has been revealed.**
 - We see what God's providence has been working towards, which was for Esther (a Jew) to be Queen so she could influence the king of Persia.
 - Esther is faced with a difficult decision.
 - Mordecai knowing the position that Esther hold being the wife to the king that she would certainly have some influence over the king.
 - He implores with her to speak to the king directly to see if she can perhaps talk the king out this genocide of the Jewish people.
 - Esther's fear
 - **Esther hearing the request from Mordecai doesn't immediately say YES I will go straight to the king, instead we see that she is fearful.**
 - Even though she was the Queen there was a law that if anyone went into the king's inner courtyard whom was not summoned, would be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter.
 - We see that Esther is fearful for likely a couple of reasons one being as she said that she has not been summoned to see the king in a long time so perhaps she thought that she had lost favor with him.
 - **The other being that she is just genuinely afraid because of the massive importance and affect that her decision was likely to make.**

- She realizes that she is being tasked with a job that the outcome would affect the lives of the entire Jewish people.
 - That is quite the responsibility that she is being asked to do.
 - **This is the responsibility that God has called her to.**
- Mordecai reminds Esther that she will not escape death if she ignores the problem and does nothing.
 - Mordecai gives Esther some much-needed truth that even though she is the Queen that this alone will not save her from death.
 - That if she does not take any action to attempt to change the king's mind that she will die along with the rest of the Jews.
- **When we are working within the providence of God, is it possible that He puts us in situations where we are required to make difficult decisions? Decisions where one may seem like the easy way out, but the other takes a significant step of faith?**
- Mordecai begins to realize God's purpose for Esther. | Esther 4:14
 - **Read Esther 4:14**
 - **This verse is one of the most significant out of all the book of Esther.**
 - At the end of verse 14 Mordecai makes a very profound statement that speaks to the providence of God.
 - I believe that Mordecai didn't think that this was all a coincidence that Esther was the Queen of Persia.
 - **Mordecai realized that God's hand was at work, that she had come into her royal position to be the one that is used to save the Jewish people.**
 - Mordecai understood that one way or another, they would be delivered. But it was obvious to him that God had chosen Esther as the vessel to act out His will.
 - Mordecai began to realize God's plan for Esther.
 - The reason why Esther won over Hegai, why Esther won over the king and why Esther became Queen.
 - **It wasn't for her to have a fairytale happy ending for her life, but it was to serve a divine and holy purpose for God.**
 - **She was called to save the Jews, to save the bloodline for the coming Messiah.**
 - **This was her purpose!**
 - The Scriptures are full of God's providence putting people in positions ahead of time to fulfill His will.
 - **For Esther, she had been queen for several years before her purpose was revealed.**
 - **Joseph was sold into slavery and eventually 2nd in command of Egypt, his purpose over many years was also to save the Israelites.**
 - Genesis 45:5-7
 - "And now don't be worried or angry with yourselves for selling me here, because God sent me ahead of you to preserve life."
 - Life's circumstances for the Christian
 - We as Christians certainly wish at times that God would just show us His full and complete plan for our lives.
 - But we know that God does not work this way, in fact He will usually just reveal a piece of it at a time to us.
 - But one thing that Scripture teaches us, is that God has a purpose for everything in our lives.

- That while we may not understand our particular circumstances in life, that in time they will make PERFECT since.
- **When Christians should also ask the same question. Perhaps God has put me in this place for such a time as this?**
- **Have you ever had the realization where suddenly your life circumstances, that at the time didn't make much since, suddenly made perfect since? Where you had great clarity into the reason why God put you where you are?**
- Mordecai's had faith for the deliverance of the Jews, even if Esther chose not to act.
 - Mordecai had to have known the previous proclamations made by God regarding the Jewish people.
 - **He was so sure of God' promises that even if Esther chose not to act, that liberation and deliverance will come from another place.**
 - That God would choose and use someone else to achieve His will.
 - God chooses people to do His work, to carry out His will.
 - However, if we are disobedient or choose not to do what God has called us to He can and will choose someone else.
 - God's will in relation to our choices
 - When we look at what Mordecai says here, and we look at the example that God has given us through all of Scripture, once thing can be certain.
 - **That if God wills something to be it will be.**
 - We can see where God has chosen people to essentially be his vessels to do the work He has called us too to act out His will.
 - However, we can also see from Scripture that while God may call us to perform this work that if we are disobedient and if we choose to go our own way that God can and will choose someone else.
 - **Just because we are disobedient it will not negate the will or providence of God.**
 - Saul is a prime example.
 - God had called Saul to be the first king of the Jews and if Saul would have been obedient to God He would have made Saul's lineage the line of Kings for Israel.
 - But because Saul was not obedient to God, it was taken away from him.
 - 1Samuel 13:13-14
 - "Samuel said to Saul, "You have been foolish. You have not kept the command which the LORD you God gave you. It was at this time that the LORD would have permanently established your reign over Israel, but now your reign will not endure. The LORD has found a man loyal to Him, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not done what the LORD commanded."
 - 1 Samuel 15:10-11
 - "Then the words of the LORD came to Samuel, "I regret that I made Saul king, for he has turned away from following Me and has not carried out My instructions."..."
 - Because of Saul's disobedience God removed his line as king and appointed David.

- **Can we expect any different? That if God has called us to a position to do His work but we disobey and turn away, that God may appoint someone else?**
- We must not neglect our great purpose that God has called us to.
 - God has called all Christians to a great purpose.
 - We all have tasks that God desires us to fulfill His will to do the work that He has called all Christians to.
 - God uses us to further His kingdom and to spread the Gospel.
 - How sad it is if we neglect what God has called us to and because of our disobedience He then chooses someone else to fulfill His holy will
- **Have you ever been called by God to do something, but you instead chose to ignore the call?**
- **If God chooses us to do something and we refuse will he call someone else?**