

The Providence of God – Part 3 | Esther 4:15-9 | 6/17/18

- Review
 - King Ahasuerus dismissed Queen Vashti which opened the door for Esther.
 - She proceeded to win over the king and became his queen. She never revealed her heritage that she was a Jew.
 - Mordecai uncovered a plot to kill the king and his deeds were recorded but he was never rewarded.
 - Haman hates Mordecai and the Jews because of their family history. Satan is using Haman to attempt to wipe out the line of the Messiah.
 - Haman successfully manipulates the king into allowing the annihilation of the Jews. Neither the king nor Haman knew that Esther was a Jew.
 - Mordecai begins to realize God's will and purpose for Esther. He tells her that perhaps she was called to save the Jews from their destruction.
- Esther comes to accept God's will for her life even if that means she would have to face death. | Esther 4:15-17
 - **Read Esther 4:15-17**
 - Mordecai's last message to Esther opened her eyes to God's purpose for her life.
 - The last message Mordecai said was "and who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"
 - She would have had time to think and ponder this message before responding and it must have really struck a chord in her heart.
 - She would have likely reflected on her life up until this point and realized why everything took place, that she had a God ordained purpose.
 - Esther has now accepted God's calling and purpose for her and she has accepted to go and speak to the king.
 - **Esther's fear was overcome by her trust in God's will for her life.**
 - Before this her responses to Mordecai was that of fear and uncertainty in her ability to go before the king.
 - She was scared for her life because she could die if the king did not approve of her entering the inner court without being summoned.
 - Now however, instead of being fearful she is determined
 - Esther committed to God's will, to go before the king to attempt to save the lives of her people.
 - **She was determined to do it REGARDLESS of the outcome.**
 - God is with Esther and she command everyone to fast
 - While the Scripture may not use God's name directly it is obvious that God was involved in every step of the way.
 - The only way Esther could have had the courage to quell her fears would be by the workings of God.
 - **God encouraged her to be strong, He gave her the ability to do the extremely difficult task of saving her people.**
 - **God called her and gave her the strength to complete it.**
 - Knowing the importance of her decision and the work to be done she requested that all the Jews fast.
 - And what does a Jew do when they fast? They pray!

- Prayers were made to God and He came through because Esther was being obedient to God.
 - **Esther knew that this was God’s will for her, yet she also understood the risks and importance.**
 - **So, Esther has this decision and her actions bathed in prayer.**
 - Christian’s today also face the same circumstances in their life.
 - The providence of God will move the puzzle pieces of our lives into certain places.
 - He will call us to do things that are hard and can seem very scary.
 - Prayer in these circumstances should also be the response from the Christian.
 - But God is also with us, He will give us the strength and ability to do His will.
 - Hebrews 13:20-21
 - “Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant, **equip you with everything good that you may do his will,** working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.
 - Philippians 2:13
 - “for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”
 - If God has called you, He WILL equip you.
 - **The question is will we so trust in the will of God that we too will obey and have the perspective on our circumstances as Esther did?**
 - **Have you had an Esther moment in your life where God has called or put you somewhere that was significantly out of your comfort zone or even scary? But when you realized it was truly Gods’ will you gave yourself over to Him, that you then had the desire to obey regardless of the outcome? How might you explain how this feels?**
- Esther’s obedience and the execution of Haman | Esther 5-7
 - Esther now obviously being obedient to the will of God sets out with a plan to save the Jewish people.
 - Esther wins the kings approval and proposes a banquet. | Esther 5:1-8
 - **Read Esther 5:1-8**
 - Esther came into the presence of the king and obviously, she won his favor as he extended the golden scepter.
 - And in fact, her presence took him back so that he proposed she could have anything that she asked for even half of the kingdom.
 - **She doesn’t right away ask for deliverance of the Jews we see that she has a plan.**
 - **Even with the king said I will give you half the kingdom she still didn’t immediately ask the king for deliverance.**
 - **God has His hands-on Esther and guiding her decisions.**
 - She instead invites the king and Haman to a banquet
 - So of course, the king and Haman agree, and they attend the first banquet where the king again gives her the same request
 - Again, she asks for them to come to a banquet the next day and has invited Haman once again.
 - **At this point this seems odd to the reader, why didn’t she go ahead and ask? Why did she plan 2 dinners?**
 - Haman is emboldened and builds the gallows intended for Mordecai. | Esther 5:9-14
 - **Read Esther 5:9-14**

- Haman at this point things couldn't get much better, not only did he think he had succeeded in killing all the Jews, but he was being personally invited to have dinner with the king and queen.
 - However, the providence of God is at work and we see that Mordecai again is infuriated by Mordecai because he didn't show any signs of fearing his coming demise.
 - Then as Haman is telling of his good fortunes to his family his anger rose again against Mordecai. So, his family suggests that he build the large gallows and have Mordecai hanged the next day.
 - Mordecai is honored by the king | Esther 6:1-13
 - **Esther 6:1-13**
 - God's providence unfolds when the king learns of Mordecai and his prior actions.
 - So earlier we saw how Mordecai had saved the life of the king and that it was recorded however he was never honored for this.
 - This may at the time have seen like an oversight but in reality, it was part of God's plan.
 - It was important that the events unfolded as they did.
 - The king being unable to sleep is read the report of what Mordecai did and the king asks what was done for him and when learning nothing was done he seeks to reward Mordecai.
 - **This reading took place 5 years after Mordecai's earlier deed of saving the king's life.**
 - Haman unknowingly suggested the greatest reward and honor for his bitter enemy Mordecai
 - So again, by an act of the providence by God, Haman just happened to be in the court of the king and he was coming to ask the king to kill Mordecai.
 - The king proceeded to ask Haman how to reward someone that pleased the king.
 - Of course, Haman thought that it was himself the king was speaking of, so he stated what he wanted done for himself.
 - How shocked he was when he learned that it was for Mordecai and not himself especially since he was just getting ready to ask the king permission to kill him!
 - **Kind of hard to ask the king to kill the man that pleases the king 😊**
 - Haman's family recognizes the fate of Haman.
 - They realized that if Mordecai was a Jew then Haman would fall before him.
 - Haman's evil plan is revealed | Esther 7:1-10
 - **Read Esther 7:1-10**
 - **Esther now sensing that the time was right has made her request to the king.**
 - Her request isn't for half the kingdom but instead she is requesting that her and her people (the Jews) be spared.
 - The king asks who would do this and when she states that it was Haman the king is furious.
 - It would seem that the king has now put everything together.
 - He has now learned of the ethnicity of his wife that she is a Jew and now looking back to the requests of Haman sees a different picture than the one that Haman had portrayed to Him.
 - That Haman had schemed to have the Jews unnecessarily eliminated.
 - So, as the king goes off to vent Haman is begging the (relaxed) queen for his life.

- And as he does this he seems to have fallen on the queen just as the king returns and we get the statement that was made.
 - **Then in the full glory of irony Haman is hung on the same gallows that he had built for Mordecai.**
 - God's prior promises are being fulfilled.
 - **Satan no matter how cunning or evil, cannot overcome God. In the end everything works for the purpose of God and HIS justice will prevail.**
 - Exodus 17:14
 - "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.
 - Psalms 9:15-16
 - "The nations have sunk in the pit that they made; in the net that they hid, their own foot has been caught. The LORD has made himself known; he has executed judgment; the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands."
 - **We at times have difficulty understanding God's timing, especially when we see evil people doing evil things in the world.**
 - **But we must always trust God and know that ultimately God's justice (not ours) will prevail.**
 - **The Bible tells us that the "wicked are snared in the work of their own hands", does this mean then that "justice" will always prevail? If so will we always see the results?**
- Esther's request to save the Jews | Esther 8:1-17
 - Now that Haman (Satan's puppet) has been executed, Esther now turns to the matter of addressing the proclamation that was sent out by Haman that set a certain day for the Jews to be exterminated.
 - **Esther 8:1-14**
 - Esther's requests a revocation but instead is allowed to write a new law or decree.
 - Esther makes the request to the King to have that previous decree revoked however the Kings law worked in such a way that anything written in the king's name could not be revoked.
 - So, the previous decree still stood however he has allowed Esther to write anything in this decree that she want to.
 - Mordecai writes a new law that allows the Jews to defend and attack their enemies on the same day as the decree from Haman.
 - Mordecai rises in power and the Jews are feared
 - **Esther 8:15-17**
 - After this decree was made there was great celebration by the Jews because now they were given the right to defend and attack their enemies on the same day that they were to be slaughtered.
 - **In addition, since it seemed certain to everyone that the king now favored the Jews** because of one his decree and also because of the status that was given to Mordecai the Jew.
 - Now those who may have been enemies are now sacred of the power that the Jews have and even claimed to be Jews out of fear.
- The victory of the Jews because of the providence of God. | Esther 9:1-16
 - **Esther 9:1-16**

- On the day that Haman and Satan had planned to exterminate the Jews (and the line for Jesus) the opposite happened.
 - Because of God's providence on that day the Jews overcame their enemies and overpowered them, they killed all who stood against them.
 - With God on their side the Jews could not be overcome.
 - They were even granted a 2nd day to continue wiping out the enemies of the Jewish people.
 - Important things to consider:
 - **The Jews did not plunder their enemies.**
 - Their enemies were primarily the Amalekites and God had told them in the beginning with Saul NOT to take anything from them. It seems they remembered this command.
 - **The Amalekites were destroyed fulfilling God's promise.**
 - God had told Saul to wipe out the Amalekites, but he disobeyed God.
 - God however promised they would be wiped out and He fulfilled that through this generation of Israelites.
 - Exodus 17:14
 - "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.
 - **For the Christian, we can be assured that with God on our side Satan will not ultimately prevail, even if for a time, it may seem that he has.**
- The establishment of Purim | Esther 9:20-28
 - ***Esther 9:20-28***
 - Because of the events that have unfolded here, where the Jews were hanging by a thread to be exterminated but instead were delivered.
 - They have established a holiday called Purim, which is still celebrated today.
 - On this day the Jewish people are reminded of how God's providence has saved them.
 - **The Jews celebrate Purim to remember what God had done for them. As Christians should we ALWAYS remember what God has done for us? Why at times do we seem to "forget" His promises and what He has done for us?**