

# Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

## SHE OBTAINED FAVOUR IN HIS SIGHT:

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR

SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 31, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **ESTHER 5:1-11**

**Esther 5:2**, *And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that **she obtained favour in his sight**; and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.*

### 1. BACKGROUND

Refer to the Evening message May 31, 2020

### 2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Our text comes from the **Book of Esther chapter 5**; however, let us consider a couple of things to get a full understanding of what is about to happen.
- b. **Chapter 1** is the history of a pagan nation.
- c. It is an insert into the Word of God for a very definite purpose; it teaches providence.
- d. The story of this heathen kingdom and the involvement of the Jewish people which had the privilege of returning to their land but refused to do so, remaining outside the will of God.
- e. **Esther** picks up this story.
- f. The king has demanded that the queen come before him and she refuses. **Esther 1:10-12**, *On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, 11: To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on. 12: But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.*
- g. Her refusal causes the king to reject her. **Esther 1:19**, *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.***
- h. Therefore, this required a beauty contest to choose the next queen for the king. **Esther 2:2**, *Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:*
- i. Although it had been kept a secret, Esther was a Jew and because of her

beauty, the king selected her. **Esther 2:10** *Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.* **Esther 2:17**, *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.*

- j. There was a wicked person in the kingdom named Haman who wanted to annihilate the Jewish people. Scripture identifies Haman as an Amalekite. **Esther 3:6**, *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.*
- k. This is anti-Semitism in its first-class state.
- l. Haman was able to work it out with the king that an order would be issued to execute all Jews and exterminate them. **Esther 3:9**, *If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.*
- m. After this terrible decree had been signed, Mordecai, who was a Jew also, comes into the picture.
- n. To get a perfect understanding of this message, please read **Esther Chapter 4:1-17**. Read that passage first and then get into the meat of the message today. Today we will look at the providence Of God as to how He preserved the nation of Israel although they were outside of His will in a foreign country. This constitutes the permissive will of God for the nation.
- p. As we go into the **fifth chapter**, let us see what God would place into our heart as we study this great book.

### 3. NINE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

#### a. Esther put on her royal apparel,

- 1. **Esther 5:1**, *Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.*
- 2. Now we find that Mordecai has communicated to Esther information with respect to the awful decree.
- 3. If you recall **Esther 4:16**, *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.*
- 4. Esther was a beautiful Jewish girl. She had captured the attention of the king. **Esther 2:7** *And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.*
- 5. She was not supposed to approach the king at this time, as we know from previous studies. This was an urgent type situation.
- 6. We will see that she is going to find favour in his sight.

#### b. She obtained favour in his sight:

- 1. **Esther 5:2**, *And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the*

court, that **she obtained favour in his sight:** and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

2. The king had one of two choices when Esther appeared in his presence. He could hold out the golden sceptre and accept her, or she would immediately perish.
3. If you recall, when she came before the king earlier, she won the beauty contest to be the next queen.
4. No one knew at that time that Esther was a Jew.
5. She is now dressed in royal apparel and she has gotten the attention of the king.
6. He held out his golden sceptre and she was able to advance. The custom of that day was she would touch the golden sceptre.
7. It is amazing that this is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. Of course, we must emphasize that the law of the Medes and the Persians will be compared to the Law of God. It is amazing what the difference is.
8. Although this heathen king held out his golden sceptre to receive Esther, the Lord Jesus Christ hold out His sceptre to us. **Hebrews 1:8**, *But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.*
9. **Ezekiel 18:20**, *The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.* This emphasizes to us that salvation is of the soul and not of flesh as some would have us to believe.
10. This is God's law. *Whereas this king would hold out his golden sceptre; God holds out His sceptre to mankind today.*
11. There is no question that all have sinned. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* There is no question that we are dead in trespasses. **Ephesians 2:1**, *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;* There is no question that the soul that sins will die. **Ezekiel 18:20**, *The soul that sinneth, it shall die...*
12. God takes us and meets us where we are. We do not have to clean up our lives to come to Him. He died for the sins of mankind, a substitutionary death on the cross. He holds out His sceptre of grace for us. **Matthew 11:28**, *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* **John 1:12**, *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
13. We find now that Esther, on behalf of her people, is in the presence of the king.
14. She must make her petition known.

**c. What wilt thou, queen Esther?**

1. **Esther 5:3**, *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.*
2. He knows for the queen to be approaching in this manner, there must be some situation troubling Queen Esther.
3. Of course, he can see in her countenance, the trembling and great distress,

and the feeling of discomfort.

4. The statement, *it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom*, was not an idle expression. It was one that says he was willing to give the queen a blank check.
5. Notice Esther does not state what is bothering her currently but sets an appointment for a later gathering.

**d. Let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet...**

1. **Esther 5:4**, *And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.*
2. Of course what she wants to speak to him about is the decree to annihilate all the Jews, which she would be a part of that process.
3. That part was kept secret; no one knew that Esther was a Jew.
4. Esther was brave in her approach now that she understood God's providence.
5. God is going to move; He is orchestrating everything. This is probably one of the most remarkable passages that I have come across lately. It just completely captivated my attention, and I must share it with you.
6. She is in the presence of the king now. She does not have to fear that he would completely do away with her at this point.
7. Now she has something else to do. She must make a request.
8. One of these days, every sinner must stand before the Jesus Christ in judgment. If we have not accepted Christ as personal Saviour, it will be the Great White Throne Judgment. If we have accepted Him as personal Saviour we will stand before Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ.  
For the unsaved, **Revelation 20:11-12**, *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 : And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.* For the saved, **2 Corinthians 5:10**, *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*
9. The king held out his golden sceptre to Esther and Jesus Christ holds out that golden sceptre of grace to us. We must come to Him by faith. **Romans 3:22**, *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: **Hebrews 11:6**, *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**
10. None of us have the beauty that Esther was displaying. As a matter of fact, there is nothing worthy in us, but **Jesus Christ holds out that sceptre of grace and He is willing to save any person that will come to Him. John 1:12**, *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

**e. So the king and Haman came to the banquet...**

1. **Esther 5:5**, *Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther*

*had prepared.*

2. Now we find that Esther has invited them to the banquet. The king has been very generous, and he has also brought his prime minister with him.
3. We know that Haman had been promoted to prime minister.
4. They wanted to know what Queen Esther's request would be. She did not make it known at this time.
5. Notice the king's question.

**f. What is thy petition?**

1. **Esther 5:6**, *And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.*
2. Esther has them at this banquet, and she is very troubled, **but the timing is not right.**
3. We must understand that **God has His own timeframe in working things out in our lives.**
4. He tells us to be careful for nothing. **Philippians 4:6**, *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*
5. He also tells us He will never leave us. **Hebrews 13:5**, *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*
6. Some Christians are too anxious in trying to gain favour with God and taking thing in our own hands. Always remember that God has given us a blank check that He has signed. **Philippians 4:19**, *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
7. This cruel king is so gracious to Queen Esther. The question is why?
8. **Proverbs 21:1**, **The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.** **Although this king does not know the Lord, the Lord is controlling his actions just as He controlled the actions of Pharaoh to allow the children of Israel to escape out of Egypt.**

**g. Let the king and Haman come to the banquet...**

1. **Esther 5:7-8**, *Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is; **8: If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.***
2. It is amazing that they are already at a banquet, but she does not have the nerve to tell him what the problem is.
3. You might say that she needed to get to the bottom line and tell him what she needs. Remember what the Bible says in **Isaiah 40:31**, *But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*
4. Although this particular passage of Scripture in the **Book of Esther** in its entirety, does not speak about God or prayer, **Esther, realized that it was not God's timing for her to tell the king what her petition is to be. Therefore, she invites them back to another banquet the next day.**

**h. Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate,**

1. **Esther 5:9**, *Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.*
2. What a small man. He was prime minister but was puffed up with pride because Mordecai had not stood up or moved for him. He allows that to ruin his entire day.
3. I am reminded of **Proverbs 16:18**, ***Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.***
4. It is amazing this man allows this small issue to trouble him to the point that he wanted to hang Mordecai on the gallows and rid himself of all the Jews. **Proverbs 29:23**, ***A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.***
5. This is anti-Semitism in its greatest form.

**i. Nevertheless Haman refrained himself:**

1. **Esther 5:10-11**, *Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife. **11:** And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.*
2. When people are into themselves, they start bragging.
3. Notice the four things Haman is bragging about.
  - a. **the glory of his riches**
  - b. **the multitude of his children,**
  - c. **the king had promoted him,**
  - d. **he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.**
4. Notice how he brags about being close to Queen Esther.

**4. CONCLUSION**

- a. Do you know the Saviour?
- b. If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, today needs to be your day of salvation.
- c. The Bible says in **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- d. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- e. You need to realize salvation comes by faith alone. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves. **Ephesians 2:8-9**, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **9:** Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
- f. Do you believe? **Acts 16:31**, *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*
- g. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10:** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- h. Would you please stand?

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