

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

LET A GALLOWS BE MADE OF FIFTY CUBITS HIGH,

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR

SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 31, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **ESTHER 5:12-14**

Esther 5:14, *Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, **Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high**, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.*

1. BACKGROUND

- a. We cannot be sure who the writer is of this book. We do know it was written between 485 and 435 BC, spanning a period of about ten years.
- b. I take the position that Mordecai could have been the writer, based on **Esther 4:14**, *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?*
- c. Mordecai is featured in this book in detail along with Esther.
- d. The book is unusual in the sense that the name of God is not mentioned at all. There are no divine titles that refer to God; however, a close analysis will show that the heathen king is mentioned 192 times.
- e. There also is no reference to prayer in this book. Since God was omitted there certainly would not be any mention of prayer.
- f. The **Book of Esther** is never quoted in the New Testament; there is not even a casual reference to it.
- g. The superstitions, the lucky days of the heathen and the pagan court, which was the world leader at that time, is also prevalent in this book.
- h. It is also a very unusual book in that it was named after a woman.
- i. There are only two books in the Bible named after women. The **Book of Esther** and the **Book of Ruth**. Esther was a Jewish woman who was married to a Gentile, Ruth, on the other hand was a Gentile woman married to a Jew.
- j. A close analysis of the **Book of Ruth** will show it teaches redemption or the romance of redemption, whereas the **Book of Esther** teaches the providence of God.
- k. Redemption taught in the Book of Ruth is a love story. Of course, we love God because He first loved us. **1 John 4:19**, *We love him, because he first loved us.*
- l. The **Book of Esther** reveals how God directs this material universe; by His providence.
 1. I have heard people say this world is out of control. I want to tell you it is not; it

- is moving according to God's time frame and His schedule.
2. In the **Book of Deuteronomy**, it shows us where God brought the Israelites into the Promised Land.
 3. He laid before them their entire history and revealed various aspects of their future. He told them about the Babylonian captivity, that Rome would eventually destroy Jerusalem and the people would be taken captive.
 4. When we analyze what has happened to God's chosen people; the Jews, it has happened exactly the way God said it would.
 5. **Deuteronomy 31:16-18**, gives us some very vital information, *And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them. 17: Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us? 18: And I will surely hide my face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods.*
- m. In the **Book of Esther**, we see that when these people turned to other gods and idolatry, God hid His face from them. This book gives us a record of this group of people who were certainly outside of God's will.
 - n. Regardless of God's chosen people, or a member of the Bride of Christ that is outside the will of God, God seems to stand in the shadows keeping watch over His own.
 - o. I say that because when the decree was given by Cyrus, God would have had all the people to return to the land.
 - p. There was a delegation led by Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah which numbered less than sixty thousand total of the two to three million people who had come out of Egypt.
 - q. This is an exceedingly small group that gets into God's will and returns to the land. Although the majority is not in God's will, we need to see that God still directs them.
 - r. There are various doctrines laid down in the Bible: the Preserved Word of God is a classic and should not and cannot be tampered with.
 1. In the Old Testament the doctrine of redemption is taught in the **Book of Exodus**.
 2. The love side of redemption is taught in the **Book of Ruth**.
 3. The **Book of Job** teaches repentance.
 4. The doctrine of resurrection is taught in the **Book of Jonah**.
 5. Great doctrines of the Christian faith occur in many of the Old Testament books.
 - s. The **Book of Esther** is all about **providence of God**. These people are in a foreign land, out of the will of God and find themselves strangers in the land and have forgotten God and the covenant He made with them.
 - t. **Psalms 137:6**, talks about their tongue cleaving to the roof of their mouth if they prefer not Jerusalem. *If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.*
 - u. They do not praise God, they do not study the Word of God and they have

forgotten that God was leading them although they were out of His will.

- v. They have rejected Him. There are born again believers today who are outside of the will of God seeking and searching and are unable to find peace and are for the most part most miserable.
- w. God never forsakes us. He is always in the wings. **Psalms 103:19**, *The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.*
- x. There is no question that God is in charge. **Ephesians 1:11**, *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*
- y. It is clear that God is still running the universe; it has not slipped away from Him and is not out of control. He is in the saddle and has the reins.
- z. There are three things we need to look at as we consider the background of this book.
 - 1. Creation – Everything was created by and for the Lord Jesus Christ. **John 1:3**, *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
 - a. There is no theory of evolution. Man was formed out of the dust of the ground and God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. **Genesis 2:7**, *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*
 - b. **Divine revelation is God's way of bringing things into existence.** The Lord Jesus Christ spoke the world into existence and the oracles of God was committed to the Jews. **Romans 3:1-2**, *What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? 2: Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the **oracles of God**.* **Hebrews 5:12**, *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the **oracles of God**; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 1Peter 4:11*, *If any man speak, let him speak as the **oracles of God**; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Acts 7:38*, *This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers; who received the lively oracles to give unto us:*
 - c. **Romans 10:17**, *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* We either believe in creation or we believe in speculation. There is no other theory.
 - 2. Preservation – God not only preserved the world and the universe; He has preserved His word as well. **Psalms 12:6-7**, *The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7: Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*
 - a. **Hebrews 1:3**, *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*
 - b. **Colossians 1:17**, *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

Hebrews 11:3, Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

- c. The Word of God is what holds the world together. His Word is so important that we must remember it should never be tampered with. **Revelation 22:18-19**, *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. Deuteronomy 4:2, Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*
3. Providence – This word is throughout the **Book of Esther** and means to provide.
- a. When Abraham was told to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah, the Word of God says God will provide Himself a lamb. **Genesis 22:7-8**, *And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? 8: And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.*
- b. God provides for believers whether we are in His will or not, just as He provided for Abraham. However, we must be aware that when we are out of the will of God we lose rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- c. Many years after Abraham, the Lamb of God came to take away the sin of the world. **John 1:29**, *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*
- d. Providence means that the hand of God is in the glove of human events. He is at the steering wheel even if you don't consider Him there; He is always in the backseat directing things that are to happen.
- e. He makes great doors to swing on little hinges.
- f. It was God who touched the heart of Pharaoh's daughter to take Moses in and protect him until he was ready to lead the children of Israel. **Exodus 2:5-8**, *And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. 6: And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. 7: Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? 8: And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.*
- g. There are several themes reflected in the **Book of Esther**.
- h. God may have bigger plans for our lives than we have for ourselves.
- i. **God may put us into positions of leadership or influence so we can more thoroughly accomplish His purpose.**

- j. God answers prayer and fasting by enabling us to overcome our human obstacles.
- k. God providentially provides for His own.
- l. God uses ordinary people who are in His will to accomplish extra ordinary things for Him.
- m. At times God may have to discipline us, but He will certainly never abandon 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.*

2. INTRODUCTION

Please refer to the Morning message May 31, 2020

3. THREE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

j. Tomorrow am I invited unto her also with the king.

1. **Esther 5:12**, *Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.*
2. He boasts about how close he is to the queen.
3. He does not know that the queen is having him to come to the second banquet so she can expose this awful decree that has gone out to annihilate all the Jews.
4. The time is not right. God must providentially take things into His own hands and trouble the king's sleep, and then He will move in a miraculous way. **Esther 6:1**, *On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.*

k. Yet all this availeth me nothing,

1. **Esther 5:13**, *Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.*
2. Haman could not get over the fact that he was irritated because of Mordecai.
3. Not only had this spoiled his entire day, but it was the main element of focus in his life. Resentment, bitterness and hatred will cause tremendous stress in the life of an individual.
4. Any time our focus is on our enemies or those who we think do not care about us, or little things that we might have in our mind, we have a problem. **Psalms 37:1**, *A Psalm of David. Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. Psalms 37:7, Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. 8. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. Proverbs 24:19, Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked; Matthew 5:44, But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*
5. This is the problem with most believers. God says it is the little foxes that spoil vine. **Song of Solomon 2:15**, *Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.*
6. How many times do people spend their time on small things that amount to nothing?

7. You would think that this man would get over it. But he is having difficult problems.
8. *Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.* – The next thing is to think evil.
9. Watch what happens next.

I. Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high,

1. **Esther 5:14**, *Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, **Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high**, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.*
2. This man is so indignant until he is thinking evil and devising an evil plan to destroy Mordecai and his people.
3. **Galatians 6:7**, *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*
4. These 70 feet high gallows to hang Mordecai is because of resentment, hatred, and bitterness in Haman's heart. Notice the providence of God as he turns a bad situation for Mordecai into good. However, Haman will be the victim. **Proverbs 26:26**, *Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the whole congregation.* **Romans 8:28** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
5. If there is hatred and bitterness in your heart, you need to get rid of it my friend. **Psalms 66:18**, *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*

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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