

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THINK NOT WITH THYSELF THAT THOU SHALT ESCAPE

IN THE KING'S HOUSE...THEN SHALL THERE ENLARGEMENT AND DELIVERANCE ARISE TO THE JEWS FROM ANOTHER PLACE.

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR

SUNDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 27, 2022

SCRIPTURE READING: **ESTHER 4:13-17**

Esther 4:13-14, Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. 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?

1. BACKGROUND

- a. We cannot be absolutely 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 great 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 of 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 a very 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 very 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. 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.* **Hebrews 1:1-2**, *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2: Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*
 - 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 happening.
 - 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. **2 Corinthians 12:7**, *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. Psalms 37:28* For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. **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

- a. Please refer to the February 27, 2022 Message for the Introduction.

3. TWO POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

k. Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house.

1. **Esther 4:13-14**, *Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, **Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house**, more than all the Jews. **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?*
2. Whatever job God calls us to do, if we are in His perfect will, He has placed us there. We are there on a Divine appointment. **Ecclesiastes 9:10**, *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*
3. There is no option for leaving the place where God called us. We must never be complacent, but active accomplishing His will. We cannot say "I will shake the dust off my feet, and I will move to greener pastures."
4. **Too often children of God get outside of God's will when they take it upon themselves to go to Joppa rather than Nineveh.** We must bloom where we are planted.
5. God says in **2 Timothy 3:12**, *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*
6. Mordecai says that it is Esther's responsibility to take care of business and she needed to find a way in order to get the job done.
7. In other words, he tells Esther in essence, she needed to trust God and by His providence He would save the Jewish people. It happened the way God wanted it to. **Proverbs 3:5-6**, *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. **6**: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*
8. Esther, being a Jew, was in a position to do something which is probably the reason why she was on the throne.
9. We must be willing to take appointments that God has given us. We don't have to seek these appointments. If we try to find them, we might be pressing and be in God's permissive will and not in His perfect will. **Philippians 4:11**, *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*
10. If it is willed of God, it will be.

l. If I perish, I perish

1. **Esther 4:15-17**, *Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, **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**. **17**: So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.*
2. Esther understands now that she must be the noble woman.
3. She understands that her mission is to take a stand for her people.
4. She says nothing about prayer; although I do believe Esther had God's will in mind and she was a disciple of God.
5. Christ came to die for the sins of mankind. **Luke 5:32**, *I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*
6. When people are outside the will of God, prayer is the last thing they think about.

7. You will notice a pattern for those who are outside of God's will: At one point they were students of God's Word, at one point they were prayer warriors, at one point they were all about avoiding sin and concerned about God's will and God's ways; but when we get into Caesar's Palace, we find ways to circumvent the Word of God. **1 John 2:15, Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**
8. We make excuses that we are busy and we don't have time. We fail to do those things that need be done in our local church, and go other places and do other things. We must remember that God's priority system is Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts. **Acts 1:8, But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Matthew 6:33, But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**
9. I will admit that it is more fun to work in Judea and Samaria than it is in Jerusalem.
10. In Jerusalem is where the rubber meets the road. God has indicated we need to be about His business.
11. Esther gets a view of the entire mission and says **"if I perish, I perish."**
12. The Son of Man came to give His life a ransom for many so you and I can be saved and born again. **Mark 10:45, For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**
13. We thank God for His unspeakable gift! **2 Corinthians 9:15, Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.**

2. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour? If you do not know Him as personal Saviour, you need to come to the side of the crucified Christ.
- b. Not only do you need to come to His side, but you need to seek His perfect will for your life.
- c. Operating in the permissive will of God, or outside of His will, will bring no joy to the heart of the believer.
- d. **Nehemiah 8:10, Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**
- e. We are strengthened by not seeking other ways or means, but by coming to the side of the crucified Christ. **Ephesians 3:16, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**
- f. **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
- g. **Romans 3:10, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**
- h. **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.**
- i. Would you please stand?

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