

ESTHER, CHAPTERS 1-3 – “THE KING DETHRONES QUEEN VASHTI; ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN; MORDECAI DISCOVERS A PLOT; HAMANS’ CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE JEWS?”

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

THE KING DETHRONES QUEEN VASHTI VS. 1-22;

Est 1:1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus (this was the Ahasuerus who reigned over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, from India to Ethiopia),

Est 1:2 in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the citadel,

Est 1:3 that in the third year of his reign he made a feast for all his officials and servants—the powers of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the princes of the provinces being before him—

Est 1:4 when he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the splendor of his excellent majesty for many days, one hundred and eighty days in all.

Est 1:5 And when these days were completed, the king made a feast lasting seven days for all the people who were present in Shushan the citadel, from great to small, in the court of the garden of the king's palace.

Est 1:6 There were white and blue linen curtains fastened with cords of fine linen and purple on silver rods and marble pillars; and the couches were of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of alabaster, turquoise, and white and black marble.

Est 1:7 And they served drinks in golden vessels, each vessel being different from the other, with royal wine in abundance, according to the generosity of the king.

Est 1:8 In accordance with the law, the drinking was not compulsory; for so the king had ordered all the officers of his household, that they should do according to each man's pleasure.

Est 1:9 Queen Vashti also made a feast for the women in the royal palace which belonged to King Ahasuerus.

Est 1:10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus,

Est 1:11 to bring Queen Vashti before the king, wearing her royal crown, in order to show her beauty to the people and the officials, for she was beautiful to behold.

Est 1:12 But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command brought by his eunuchs; therefore the king was furious, and his anger burned within him.

Est 1:13 Then the king said to the wise men who understood the times

(for this was the king's manner toward all who knew law and justice,

Est 1:14 those closest to him being Carshena, Shethar, Admatha,

Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who had access to the king's presence, and who ranked highest in the kingdom):

v. 1 *Ahasuerus* - Ahasuerus is not a name but a title, like Caesar, Emperor, or King. This king's name is **Xerxes**. His grandfather was **Cyrus** (*Is. 44:48, 45:10; Dan. 1:21, 6:28, 10:1; Ezra Chaps. 1,3,4,5,6*). His father was **Darius I**. Significant people in human history. A huge kingdom – 127 provinces, stretching from India to Africa – including Israel. Ruling over the Medo-Persian empire, now simply known as the Persian Empire. Artaxerxes, the king whom **Nehemiah served was the son of Ahasuerus (Xerxes)**.

v. 2-3 Ahasuerus is ready to mount the greatest military invasion in world history. He had gathered two million men from his empire to invade Greece. He would prove to be successful in this invasion, but it would take a great toll on his army and virtually destroy his navy. He would eventually be stopped at **Thalumus**, where a great upset took place. Had Xerxes been completely successful, world history would be radically different.

v. 4 For one hundred and eighty days – six months! Xerxes threw a party to show his riches and gain support for his upcoming invasion by building a coalition of leaders from all over the empire. *Cf. Eph. 2:7 – “that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”*

vs. 5 & 6 The party was eventually opened to **include all** of the people to come and join for 7 days. There were hangings of beautiful colors and beds to lodge the guests.

vs. 7-11 In the middle of Ahasuerus' (Xerxes I) party, he, probably being drunk, ordered his queen, Vashti, whose name means “beauty,” to appear. This command implied immorality, for at the very least she was to unveil her face, which was taboo. The only logical explanation for Xerxes' command is that he had been drinking. Drink is often a catalyst for carnality. One man wisely said, “When wine enters, wisdom exists.” (one of 6 people in this country are alcoholics)

v. 12 Vashti's refusal to come was a radical move, for in that day a woman didn't say no to her husband, let alone to the king. Choosing dignity over the command of her husband, the king. Usually women were veiled. He became furious with anger. Three big problems -- Publicly challenges 3 things; authority of a man, of her husband, of a king! He's humiliated before those he's trying to lead, to follow him in defeating the Greeks.

vs. 13-18 We're in trouble now,” the princes, the most powerful men in the empire, said to Xerxes. “When word gets out that Vashti disobeyed you, how will we handle our own wives?”

Background to Esther Written in approximately 485 B.C., the Book of Esther falls chronologically between the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah, following the seventy-year period the Jews were held captive in Babylon. When they were given the opportunity to return to their homeland, only 60,000 of two million returned. They had evidently grown comfortable in the Babylonian empire. They had built houses. They had established businesses. They had learned to sing the song of Babylon. This is most likely the reason there is no mention of God in the Book of Esther. Indeed, there is no mention of heaven, hell, prayer, or faith, either. Does this mean God wasn't on the scene? No. **Esther is the story of the providence of God, the faithfulness of our Father even in light of the faithlessness of His people. Even though His people are faithless, He still cares about them passionately and is committed to them unquestionably.** One of the reasons I love this book so much is because there are times when I, too, feel faithless and weak. And yet, **even when I am faithless, God is faithful** (2 Timothy 2:13). Even when we relegate Him to the backstage of our lives, He is still there, behind the scenes, for He has promised never to leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). God is the unseen Rudder of the ship of state here in this glorious Book of Esther, not seen, yet still very much in control. We begin in the city of Shushan, the capital of Persia

Praying in Faith – George Muller a man of prayer and man of faith. A definite prayer of importunity follows:

In November, 1844, I began to pray for the conversion of five individuals. I prayed every day without a single intermission, whether sick or in health, on the land or on the sea, and whatever the pressure of my engagements might be.

Eighteen months elapsed before the first five was converted. I thanked God and prayed on for the others.

Five years elapsed, and then the second was converted. I thanked God for the second, and prayed on for the other three.

Day by day I continued to pray for them, and six years passed before the third was converted. I thanked God for the three and went on praying for the other two.

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Est 1:15 "What shall we do to Queen Vashti, according to law, because she did not obey the command of King Ahasuerus brought to her by the eunuchs?"

Est 1:16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes:

"Queen Vashti has not only wronged the king, but also all the princes, and all the people who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

Est 1:17 For the queen's behavior will become known to all women, so that they will despise their husbands in their eyes, when they report, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought in before him, but she did not come.'

Est 1:18 This very day the noble ladies of Persia and Media will say to all the king's officials that they have heard of the behavior of the queen. Thus there will be excessive contempt and wrath.

Est 1:19 If it pleases the king, let a royal decree go out from him, and let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it will not be altered, that Vashti shall come no more before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.

Est 1:20 When the king's decree which he will make is proclaimed throughout all his empire (for it is great), all wives will honor their husbands, both great and small."

Est 1:21 And the reply pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of Memucan.

Est 1:22 Then he sent letters to all the king's provinces, to each province in its own script, and to every people in their own language, that each man should be master in his own house, and speak in the language of his own people.

ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN; VS. 1-18

Est 2:1 After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus subsided, he remembered Vashti, what she had done, and what had been decreed against her.

Est 2:2 Then the king's servants who attended him said: "Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king;

Est 2:3 and let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather all the beautiful young virgins to Shushan the citadel, into the women's quarters, under the custody of Hegai the king's eunuch, custodian of the women. And let beauty preparations be given them.

Est 2:4 Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This thing pleased the king, and he did so.

Est 2:5 In Shushan the citadel there was a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite.

vs. 19- 22 “did not obey the command of the King” - For her insubordination, Vashti would no longer be queen. When this decree was published throughout the empire, the princes were sure that no wife would dare disobey her husband. Letters went out—the law of the Medes and Persians—which was irrevocable that every wife must totally submit to her husband in every situation. Wives are to submit to their husbands, and yet your submission to your husband is always secondary to your submission to the Word of the Lord.

v. 1 There’s a three-year gap between chapters 1 and 2, during which time Xerxes launched his invasion. He returned a battered, beaten man without even a wife to console him

vs. 2-4 It was decided that there was to be a beauty contest to find a new queen. Bring in the beautiful virgins from all over the 127 provinces and they’ll be prepared from what is expected from a queen.

v. 5 Mordecai means “little man,” but this particular little man would prove to be of giant stature in the history of God’s people.

These two remained unconverted.

"The man to whom God in the riches of His grace has given tens of thousands of answers to prayer in the self-same hour or day in which they were offered has been praying day by day for nearly 36 years for the conversion of these individuals, and yet they remain unconverted. But **I hope in God, I pray on, and look yet for the answer.** They are not converted yet, but they will be."

This was the faith that carried him through every straitened place. He met emergencies by asking and in due time God supplied whatever the need might be.

Those prayers? **You ask. In 1897, those two men, sons of a friend of Mr. Muller's youth, were not converted, after he had entreated God in their behalf for 52 years daily. But after his death God brought them in the fold.**

TIMELINE: (600 B.C. to the birth of Christ)

605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar begins to reign in Babylon

605 B.C. Some Judeans are taken captive

586 B.C. Jerusalem falls to Babylon

539 B.C. Cyrus of Persia conquers Babylon

538 B.C. The return of the Jews to Judea begins (Zerubbabel)

538-458 B.C. The Book of Ezra

520 B.C. Temple rebuilding resumes after 14-yr lapse (Haggai & Zechariah)

515 B.C. The temple is completed

483-473 B.C. Book of Esther (between Ezra chap. 6 & 7)

458 B.C. Ezra comes from Babylon, leads a group of returnees (2nd return of Jews from Babylon)

444 B.C. Artaxerxes allows Nehemiah to rebuild walls of Jerusalem, leads a group of returnees

444-425 B.C. The Book of Nehemiah

443 B.C. Jerusalem's wall is reconstructed

432 B.C. Nehemiah leaves Jerusalem, returns to Babylon

425 B.C. Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem for his 2nd time

420 B.C. Malachi's ministry

167 B.C. Antiochus Epiphanes desecrates temple

166 B.C. Judas Maccabee revolts

164 B.C. Hanukkah celebrated

63 B.C. Roman Pompey takes Jerusalem; Julius Caesar was elected *Pontifex Maximus*

37-4 B.C. Herod the Great

4 B.C.? Jesus the Christ is born!

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Est 2:6 Kish had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been captured with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

Est 2:7 And Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

Est 2:8 So it was, when the king's command and decree were heard, and when many young women were gathered at Shushan the citadel, under the custody of Hegai, that Esther also was taken to the king's palace, into the care of Hegai the custodian of the women.

Est 2:9 Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favor; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women.

Est 2:10 Esther had not revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal it.

Est 2:11 And every day Mordecai paced in front of the court of the women's quarters, to learn of Esther's welfare and what was happening to her.

MORDECAI DISCOVERS A PLOT; VS. 19-23;

Est 2:12 Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months' preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women.

Est 2:13 Thus prepared, each young woman went to the king, and she was given whatever she desired to take with her from the women's quarters to the king's palace.

Est 2:14 In the evening she went, and in the morning she returned to the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who kept the concubines. She would not go in to the king again unless the king delighted in her and called for her by name.

Est 2:15 Now when the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his daughter, to go in to the king, she requested nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the custodian of the women, advised. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.

Est 2:16 So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

Est 2:17 The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

vs. 6-7 Esther 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. Hadassah means “myrtle tree.” Hadassah’s name was changed to Esther, which means “star” **This beautiful star, Esther**, was raised by her older cousin after her parents died. Her beauty was legendary.

v. 8 According to Josephus and tradition, Mordecai was determined to hide Esther. But this was impossible because her beauty was so well known. This was not a voluntary situation. They were “gathered”.

v. 9 Why did Hegai, the keeper of the women, favor Esther? Because God was working behind the scenes, controlling the situation.

v. 10 Per Mordecai’s instruction, Esther didn’t reveal that she was Jew.

v. 11 Mordecai followed Esther’s progress day by day. More importantly, so did the Lord.

v. 12 The women spent **twelve months** preparing themselves in order to make a good impression on the king. Do we do the same for our King? *Myrrh* - Used in the embalming process, myrrh speaks of death. It was one of the gifts brought to Jesus by the wise men because it spoke prophetically of the fact that He would die in order to fulfill God’s grand plan of redemption. How willing are we to saturate ourselves with the oil of myrrh, to die to ourselves, to lose our own lives in order to find our lives in our King? *perfumes* - The sweet odors, or spices, speak of a pleasant fragrance. Throughout Scripture, that which the Lord finds to be a sweet savor is always associated with sacrifice (*Genesis 8:21; Exodus 29:25; Leviticus 1:9*). How can we present a sweet savor to the Lord? By placing our flesh, our self, our ambitions, our own agenda, on the altar. How many of us can truly say that our passion and our priority is not to be used by the Lord, but simply to be a sweet-smelling fragrance to Him. The most important ministry of all is not ministry for the Lord, but ministry to Him, and it’s one we all can do.

Vs. 13-14 after twelve months of a beauty treatment of oils and perfume, the women would appear before the king one at a time. The one who pleased him would be the new queen. He not only picking a queen, but he’s enlarging his harem. Now they were the king’s! They’ll miss everything generally, a person, could long for. This of course was not good, but all things work together for good!

Vs. 15-16 Esther won the beauty contest. God is working!

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Est 2:18 Then the king made a great feast, the Feast of Esther, for all his officials and servants; and he proclaimed a holiday in the provinces and gave gifts according to the generosity of a king.
Est 2:19 When virgins were gathered together a second time, Mordecai sat within the king's gate.
Est 2:20 Now Esther had not revealed her family and her people, just as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai as when she was brought up by him.
Est 2:21 In those days, while Mordecai sat within the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, doorkeepers, became furious and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.
Est 2:22 So the matter became known to Mordecai, who told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name.
Est 2:23 And when an inquiry was made into the matter, it was confirmed, and both were hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

HAMANS’ CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE JEWS VS. 1-15

Est 3:1 After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him.
Est 3:2 And all the king's servants who were within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.
Est 3:3 Then the king's servants who were within the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?"
Est 3:4 Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told it to Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew.
Est 3:5 When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath.
Est 3:6 But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai.
Est 3:7 In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, the lot), before Haman to determine the day and the month, until it fell on the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.
Est 3:8 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain.

v. 17-18 Esther was chosen as queen because God was working in the shadows, not seen directly, but controlling the situation absolutely.
vs. 19-21 In his continued effort to watch over his niece, Mordecai overheard an assassination plot against Ahasuerus. This is no more a coincidence than Paul’s nephew hearing of the attempt of a band of Jews to take Paul’s life (Acts 23). God had bigger plans for Paul so He spared his life through his nephew. God had big plans for His people, so, as we will see, He spared their lives through Mordecai.
v. 22-23 Mordecai reported the assassination plot. Yet, although the culprits were hung, Mordecai wasn’t rewarded or even acknowledged. Maybe he thought, “That’s not fair! Here I do something wonderful, something noble, and I don’t get any thanks. God must surely have forgotten me.” If he did indeed think this, it was only because he couldn’t have foreseen God’s impeccably perfect timing. God had something better in mind! To survive! God is active in human lives, even when we can’t see it! Our vision is so small. He is always worth the wait! We must walk by faith and not by sight! Whenever He says no to something in our lives, **because His love for us is so great! it is always because He will later say “yes”, to something greater!**

v. 1 Esther is now queen. Mordecai has rescued the king’s life. And now another thread is woven into the fabric of this story, that of Haman, the Hitler of the Old Testament, appears. Haman was a descendent of Agag, king of the Amalekites. The Amalekites were always warring against the Israelites and represent the flesh that continually wars against our souls. The Lord told Saul to destroy every single one because the flesh must be destroyed unequivocally. Saul killed most of them, but we read in 1 Samuel 15 that he spared Agag. “What damage can one Amalekite do?” Saul must have reasoned. Enter Haman, the result of a failure to deal decisively with the flesh. Oh, Lord, You don’t mean for me to give up every one of those sins, do You? I can save one Agag, can’t I? Lord, isn’t that kind of legalistic, kind of stringent? Let’s be reasonable.” “They that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts,” Paul said to the Galatians (5:24). “Reckon yourselves to be dead unto sin,” he instructed the Romans (6:11). We follow Paul’s admonitions—sometimes. But there’s that one thing, that one activity, that one person we think isn’t that big a deal. Our Father, however, wants every aspect of the flesh destroyed not because He’s legalistic but because He sees the Haman’s that will inevitably come, bringing much harm and sorrow with them.
vs. 2-6 Haman’s got everything going for him, but there’s one Jew who won’t bow to him- It’s probably too close to worship for Mordecai. Incensed, he becomes obsessed with destroying **not only Mordecai, but all of the Jews. Haman’s pride is so great – wants 15 million Jews destroyed! Hating the whole group for the disappointment of only one of them!**
v. 7 By “drawing straws,” the day the Jews would be annihilated was determined, a day in the month equivalent to our March, **giving 12 months.**

Chap. 3:1

The term "Agagite" is a term for "the king" used by the Amalekites, the descendants of Amalek, who was the grandson of Esau. Esau's son Eliphaz bear a son whom he named Amalek, and he was thus the grandson of Esau. Esau in the Scriptures is a man after the flesh, living after the flesh, who despises the things of the Spirit. He despised his birthright. He is the only man I can think of in Scripture of whom it is declared that God hated him. But he hated God and the things of God. And he has become a type of those after the flesh. And through **Amalek**, the man after the flesh, he becomes a type of the fleshly side of us, or the man of the flesh; Amalek and the Amalekites.
Haman, the Agagite, the enemy of Gods people, the one who hated the people of God; **a type of the flesh.**
Mordecai on the other hand, **becomes a type of God's people, the spiritual man; a type of the spirit**, and thus there is **the warfare; the flesh against the spirit, the spirit against the flesh.**

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Est 3:9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasures."
Est 3:10 So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.
Est 3:11 And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people are given to you, to do with them as seems good to you."
Est 3:12 Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded—to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring.
Est 3:13 And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions.
Est 3:14 A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day.
Est 3:15 The couriers went out, hastened by the king's command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

vs. 8-9 Ten thousand talents of silver is equivalent to thirty million dollars. Where would Haman get this money? No doubt from the spoils of the Jews themselves (3:13), which shows how successful they had become in Babylon. **Here is a great illustration of malice. 2nd greatest person in the world, has now allowed his malice toward one man, to destroy it all!**
vs. 10-11 Throughout history, there has been a concerted effort to destroy God’s people. Pharaoh tried to annihilate them in Egypt. Haman tried to annihilate them in Persia. Herod tried to annihilate them in the days of Christ. Hitler tried to annihilate them in our own day. Why? After failing to destroy the nation that was to give birth to Christ when He came as a babe to Bethlehem, is Satan now attempting to destroy the place where He will rule in His Second Coming? I believe so. I believe if a skeptic truly studies Jewish history, he’ll become a believer, for not only will he see the repeated attempts to destroy God’s people, but also His miraculous power to preserve them.
vs. 12-14 March thirteenth was to be the day of annihilation.
v. 15 decree - The order to destroy the Jews having been sent, the king and Haman sat down to drink, which is where the problems began in the first place (1:7–12). *Perplexed* - but the city Shushan was perplexed. It is little wonder that the entire city was perplexed. The Jews who didn’t go to Jerusalem when they had the opportunity realized they were destined for destruction. Even the Persians in the city would have been fearful of armed mobs with license to not only kill but to keep the spoils for themselves. God, however, was neither perplexed nor afraid. He was still on the throne, still in complete control. The Jews in Shushan wouldn’t hear His prophets like the Jews in Jerusalem would. They wouldn’t celebrate feasts like those in Jerusalem would. They wouldn’t experience the glory and joy at the completion of the wall or temple. But even though they would miss out on those glorious events, God would not turn His back on even His weak-faithed children. “Oh, no! I’m not going to make it,” we cry. God, however, says, “I’m in control. I know your frame, that you are dust (Psalm 103:14). And even when you’re faltering and lacking faith, I will never turn My back on you. I will never leave or forsake you. I will be at work providing and protecting in ways that will simply amaze you.” As Esther’s story continues, we will see the faithfulness of God breaking through—how good He will be to these Jews in Babylon, and how good He is to you and me, too.

STANDING ON THE PROMISES OF GOD!

*Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
 Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
 Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
 Standing on the promises of God.*
 Refrain:
*Standing, standing,
 Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
 Standing, standing,
 I’m standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
 When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
 By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
 Standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises I now can see
 Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;
 Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,
 Standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
 Bound to Him eternally by love’s strong cord,
 Overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword,
 Standing on the promises of God.*

ESTHER, CHAPTERS 1-3 – “THE KING DETHRONES QUEEN VASHTI; ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN; MORDECAI DISCOVERS A PLOT; HAMAN’S CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE JEWS?”

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

- *Rom 8:28 And we know that all things(not that all things are good, but God, because of His great love for us, can overrule, can orchestrate, even when it’s not obvious at the moment, to the end that) work together –(naturally and supernaturally, even though we are unaware as it’s not obvious at the moment) for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*
- Esther is a great example of this verse!
- Between Ezra Chapter 6 & 7
- Ezra Nehemiah give historical review of return to Jerusalem - Rebuild temple and the wall
- A glimpse of the lives the Jews who chose not to come back. Meanwhile back at the ranch
- No mention of God, by name, in the Books Esther and the Song of Solomon
- Exactly by the Holy Spirit’s design, illustrate main point = God is at work even when it’s not obvious at the moment. He’s always at work – in human history, in individual history, for Esther, the Jews, the world. God is always working!
- Christians have their eyes open – sometime very painfully. We see the world marching right down the line, down the road to judgment, but a secular world does not really see it!
- No such thing as luck for the child of God! Good providence; good divine intervention
- Esther had no idea why she got pulled out of a peaceful life to become queen of the most powerful worldly king.
- How could she know that through circumstances she will put her life at risk to save herself and her Jewish people? And to bring judgment on all her enemies. Yet that’s what He was doing
- We’re so close to what’s happening, this minute, this day, this week, this month, this year
- I somehow think God is impatient as I am to accomplish His purposes, on my schedule, to have things done “right now” on my immediate schedule.
- I fail to give God what He is due! I then don’t want to give God time to work. Then usually later, I see how He was and is working and it clicks – 6 weeks, 6 months, or 6 years.. I would have stopped You numerous time during that time and it would have been disastrous. Through Him all thing work together for good. He is always working, whether I’m aware of it or not. He is always active! Sometimes without us even being aware. But He’s always working – sometimes naturally and sometimes supernaturally! But we often don’t realize it at the moment! Not until later. That’s a great, great, truth – to grab ahold of - to think it another 2 feet in my life. God is in control. It doesn’t mean that you and others are not making decisions, even bad decisions. He’s not the cause of everything that happens, but He has the ability to step into everything and cause it to work together for good. If though it looks so bad now! One day it will become obvious that he was working.

George Muller a man of prayer and man of faith. A definite prayer of importunity follows:

In November, 1844, I began to pray for the conversion of five individuals. I prayed every day without a single intermission, whether sick or in health, on the land or on the sea, and whatever the pressure of my engagements might be.

Eighteen months elapsed before the first five was converted. I thanked God and prayed on for the others.

Five years elapsed, and then the second was converted. I thanked God for the second, and prayed on for the other three.

Day by day I continued to pray for them, and six years passed before the third was converted. I thanked God for the three and went on praying for the other two.

These two remained unconverted.

"The man to whom God in the riches of his grace has given tens of thousands of answers to prayer in the self-same hour or day in which they were offered has been praying day by day for nearly 36 years for the conversion of these individuals, and yet they remain unconverted. But I hope in God, I pray on, and look yet for the answer. They are not converted yet, but they will be."

This was the faith that carried him through every straitened place. He met emergencies by asking and in due time God supplied whatever the need might be.

Those prayers? You ask. In 1897, those two men, sons of a friend of Mr. Muller’s youth, were not converted, after he had entreated God in their behalf for 52 years daily.

But after his death God brought them in the fold.

George Muller

Sometime we won’t know until after our death how God was completely working