

ESTHER, CHAPTERS 4-6 – “ESTHER AGREES TO HELP THE JEWS; ESTHER’S BANQUET; HAMAN’S PLOT AGAINST MORDECAI; THE KING HONORS MORDECAI”

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.

ESTHER AGREES TO HELP THE JEWS; VS. 1-17

Est 4:1 When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry.

Est 4:2 He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

Est 4:3 And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Est 4:4 So Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was deeply distressed. Then she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept them.

Est 4:5 Then Esther called Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs whom he had appointed to attend her, and she gave him a command concerning Mordecai, to learn what and why this was.

Est 4:6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square that was in front of the king's gate.

Est 4:7 And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries to destroy the Jews.

Est 4:8 He also gave him a copy of the written decree for their destruction, which was given at Shushan, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her, and that he might command her to go in to the king to make supplication to him and plead before him for her people.

Est 4:9 So Hathach returned and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

Est 4:10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai:

Est 4:11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days."

Est 4:12 So they told Mordecai Esther's words.

Est 4:13 And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews."

Est 4:14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

vs. 1-3 Understandably there is mourning and weeping, wailing and fasting concerning the decree to annihilate the Jews. But there's no mention of any praying. This is what happens when we're not where we should be, when we're in a backslidden condition. The price of not praying when I'm able to pray is not being able to pray when I need to pray. It's not that the Lord turns His back on me. It's just that I'm out of shape spiritually. Mordecai probably is feeling some responsibility because of his refusing to bow to Haman. His heart is broken!

v. 4 Mordecai was not interested in a cover-up. He needed a cure.

vs. 5-11 To save her honor, Vashti lost her crown. To save her people, Esther risked losing her head because the law of the land stated that whoever approached the king without an invitation risked being put to death. How thankful I am that our King welcomes us into His court at any time. "*Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy-laden,*" He says (Matthew 11:28). Therefore, we can come boldly unto His throne of grace. When? Anytime we have need (Hebrews 4:16). A thirty day absence period is not a good sign.

vs. 12-13 "If the Jews are destroyed, you will be, too," Mordecai said to Esther. And the same is true of us. As the body of Christ, we're linked together. We tend to associate only with those who are doing well. In reality, we ought to care equally about the person who is doing poorly because even the weakest among us affects the rest of us (1 Corinthians 12:22-25). Strong words for Esther—she needed to hear it!

v. 14 "Even if you choose not to step out, deliverance will come," Mordecai said to Esther. "But you'll miss a glorious opportunity. And you'll be destroyed in the process." If you're not interested in God's work, if you'd rather complain about your difficult situation or cruise in your easy one, God will still get His work done, but you'll perish, not physically, but the vibrancy of your walk, the joy of service, the opportunity and blessing of being used will be absent. "*Maybe you've come into this place as queen of Persia for such a time as this,*" Mordecai said to Esther. And the same is true of you, dear saint. You are where you are because God is in the shadows, steering the ship of your life. God is in control and He's placed you in your location for such a time as this because there are people for you to minister to, lives for you to touch, and work for you to do. Nothing is accidental to the child of God. Even if your situation seems difficult, the Lord has you right where He wants you to be. He has you right where you are "for such a time as this," for the sake of the kingdom.

Why are we alive in this period of time? Is it not God's sovereign plan? For His purposes? To live for Him for such a time as this? Maybe not for the purpose of 15 million people but maybe just for one person? You've been made for this hour!

INTRODUCTION – Even though the name of God is not mentioned in the Book of Esther, we continue to see that He is working all the time, even when we are not aware. We can see how He can turn the whole thing around in one hour!! When He does what He does, you can then look backwards and see His finger prints all along the way. Esther is a great example of this as well as being a great example of Romans 8:28. Haman's scheme to destroy all the Jews was given in chapter 3. We closed that chapter with the statement that the city of Shushan was perplexed. Haman is on top of the world, but he doesn't realize that he has signed his own death warrant in attempting to destroy the Jews. Esther does not yet realize what has happened.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS! - Chapter 4; Seventeen years before the story before us began, the Jews were given a golden opportunity by king Cyrus when he told them they were free to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple, restore the worship, and renew the nation. And yet amazingly only a handful of the Jews took up the offer to step up and move out. Although approximately 60,000 responded to the offer, the rest, millions of Jews, stayed in Babylon. Why? Perhaps some stayed because of fear and anxiety about leaving the homes they had lived in for seventy years. Others may have been overcome by lethargy at the thought of rebuilding the city. But for most, it was no doubt a question of prosperity. To leave that behind didn't make sense to the overwhelming majority. Even so, God didn't forsake them. One of the overarching themes, one of the real reasons for the Book of Esther is to let you know that if you're His child, God will never forget you. Your name is written in the palm of His hand.

ESTHER, CHAPTERS 4-6 – “ESTHER AGREES TO HELP THE JEWS; ESTHER’S BANQUET; HAMAN’S PLOT AGAINST MORDECAI; THE KING HONORS MORDECAI!”

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.

*Est 4:15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai:
Est 4:16 "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"*

Est 4:17 So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

ESTHER’S BANQUET; VS. 1-8

Est 5:1 Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house.

Est 5:2 So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.

Est 5:3 And the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!"

Est 5:4 So Esther answered, "If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

Est 5:5 Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, that he may do as Esther has said." So the king and Haman went to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

Est 5:6 At the banquet of wine the king said to Esther, "What is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"

vs. 15-16. The story is told that, after receiving some advice from Augustine, a young man asked him why he was telling him to stay away from this and to avoid that. “I have to live, don’t I?” “Do you?” Augustine is said to have replied. “I die daily,” Paul said (*1 Corinthians 15:31*). “If I perish, I perish,” Esther concluded. “If any man come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me,” Jesus declared (*Matthew 16:24*).

v. 17 “If I perish, I perish. If I go down, I go down. If it’s such a time for this that I exist, I’m going to go for it.” What are we afraid of? That someone won’t like us, that someone will make fun of us? So what? They’re doing that anyway! May we be those who share Esther’s commitment and clarity.

vs. 1-3 *Proverbs 21:1* says the king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord. As Esther is granted access to the king, we see again that God is behind the scenes, setting things up, working things out

v. 4 Esther risked her life to invite the king to dinner. Our King, on the other hand, laid down His life so that we might dine with Him forever (*Revelation 19:9*).

vs. 5-6 Notice that Esther was to make her request at the banquet of the wine. I have found that the place I can most freely make my request and pour out my heart is at the Lord’s Table as I hold the wine of His blood in my hand for it is there that I am reminded once again of how much He loves me. Esther does not choose to accuse Haman publicly. Also putting the king in an uncomfortable position. Tremendous wisdom! It now appears something much different for Haman than what will occur!

ESTHER, CHAPTERS 4-6 – “ESTHER AGREES TO HELP THE JEWS; ESTHER’S BANQUET; HAMAN’S PLOT AGAINST MORDECAI; THE KING HONORS MORDECAI”

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.

*Est 5:7 Then Esther answered and said, "My petition and request is this:
Est 5:8 If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, then let the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."*

HAMAN’S PLOT AGAINST MORDECAI; VS. 9-14

*Est 5:9 So Haman went out that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, and that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with indignation against Mordecai.
Est 5:10 Nevertheless Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and called for his friends and his wife Zeresh.
Est 5:11 Then Haman told them of his great riches, the multitude of his children, everything in which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and servants of the king.
Est 5:12 Moreover Haman said, "Besides, Queen Esther invited no one but me to come in with the king to the banquet that she prepared; and tomorrow I am again invited by her, along with the king.
Est 5:13 Yet all this awaits me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."
Est 5:14 Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Let a gallows be made, fifty cubits high, and in the morning suggest to the king that Mordecai be hanged on it; then go merrily with the king to the banquet." And the thing pleased Haman; so he had the gallows made.*

THE KING HONORS MORDECAI!” VS. 1-14

*Est 6:1 That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.
Est 6:2 And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.
Est 6:3 Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."
Est 6:4 So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.
Est 6:5 The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."*

vs. 7-8 What’s happening here? **Twice Esther is given the opportunity to say what’s on her heart, but it seems as if she hedges both times. More than likely, however, Esther sensed the timing to make her request was not right. There is a moment of the miraculous, a moment when the time is right to move in the authority and power of God. We have the power, for example, to pray for the sick and to see them restored. The power has been given to us, but we have to wait until the authority is also present. In other words, two components need to come together: power and permission. Many times we, as believers, mistakenly think we can randomly move in the arena of the miraculous. We have been given the power, yes, but we must wait for the authority, the timing that’s right. Esther seemingly understood this.**

v. 9 Haman thought he had hit the jackpot. After all, he had been invited to two private parties hosted by less than Esther, the queen. No wonder he left happy. *that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with indignation against Mordecai.* Haman had just been in the presence of the king and queen. He had a lot going for him. But he was immediately incensed because a “little man” named Mordecai didn’t acknowledge him. I believe you can take an accurate measure of someone’s character by the size of the things that bug him. What does it take to irritate you? We’re the bride of Christ. We’re welcomed into the presence of the King. Why, then, are we so quickly and easily bugged when someone doesn’t acknowledge us or when we experience a situation doesn’t go our way?

vs. 10-13. “Even though I am second in command, I can’t enjoy my riches or power because Mordecai won’t bow down to me,” Haman said. Haman has an “I” problem! Just think of Haman’s great honor and recognition and how all that is wiped out by one little person not bowing down to him!

v. 14 “Curse God and die,” Job’s wife advised him (Job 2:9). Job wisely resisted this advice and he was rewarded (Job 42:10). “Build a gallows tall enough to make a public spectacle of Mordecai,” Haman’s wife and friends said. And Haman foolishly listened—to his own peril. The gallows could be seen from perhaps the whole city!

vs. 1-2 Notice how easily God can just take away the ability to sleep of the strongest man in the world? God’s will, will be done! In all of this is the fingerprints of God! What are the odds that the historian would pick this very event? As Xerxes reads that Mordecai actually saved his life, it becomes clear to us why Esther didn’t sense permission to make her request before this.

vs. 3-5 In Before Haman could bring his request to hang Mordecai, the king had something else to talk to him about... What are the odds of Haman just showing up early for work? – to present his plan of hanging Mordecai.

Vs. 9 Malice: Isn’t it interesting how that something can get under our skin, and irritate us, and **we just seem to forget all of the glorious blessings that God’s given us, because we’ve allowed some little irritant to just be there, and it keeps us from enjoying all that God has done, and all that God has provided.** Oh, God, help us not to lose that joy because of some irritant.

Chap. 6:1 That night the king could not sleep. A God-inspired insomnia. I do believe that there is God-inspired insomnia. I believe that the Lord wakes me up on many occasions at night. And if I do wake up in the night, I just say, “Lord, is there someone in need, special need? Someone in trouble? And I use the time for intercessory prayer. And I think that God has awakened me; just maybe He wants some fellowship. And so, **I always use that time at night, rather than cursing my sleeplessness, to just spend it with God, and it becomes precious time well spent in intercessory prayer, and just worship and praise and memorizing Scripture.**

ESTHER, CHAPTERS 4-6 – “ESTHER AGREES TO HELP THE JEWS; ESTHER’S BANQUET; HAMAN’S PLOT AGAINST MORDECAI; THE KING HONORS MORDECAI!”

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.

<p><i>Est 6:6 So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "<u>Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?</u>"</i></p> <p><i>Est 6:7 And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor,</i></p> <p><i>Est 6:8 let <u>a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head.</u></i></p> <p><i>Est 6:9 Then let this robe and horse be delivered <u>to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'</u>"</i></p> <p><i>Est 6:10 Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits <u>within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken.</u>"</i></p> <p><i>Est 6:11 So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"</i></p> <p><i>Est 6:12 Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, <u>mourning and with his head covered.</u></i></p> <p><i>Est 6:13 When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, <u>is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him.</u>"</i></p> <p><i>Est 6:14 While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.</i></p>	<p>vs. 6-9 “ Wow, what an open door. The king is asking me, thinking it’s all going to happen to him. This is great!” thought Haman. “At this time tomorrow, I’ll be riding the king’s horse, wearing the king’s crown and robes, while people proclaim how wonderful I am.”</p> <p>v. 10 Wouldn’t you have loved to see the look on Haman’s face at this moment? He had to go into shock. Coming in to pitch the death of Mordecai, now the king tells Haman to honor Mordecai. Absolute humility for Haman!</p> <p>vs. 11-12 Haman knows he’s in big trouble.</p> <p>vs. 13-14 Whereas previously, Haman’s wife and friends told him to build a gallows to hang Mordecai, here they realize it was actually Haman who was going down. This is an omen that Mordecai is going to defeat you!</p> <p>Oh, how wonderful it is to be a child of God? To have the affairs of our life ordered and directed by the Lord. To know that our life is in His hands, and He loves us, is watching over, is keeping us, and that all things, <u>all things are working together for good</u>, your good, because you love God. And <u>you can live with that kind of confidence</u>. The purposes of God for my life are going to be fulfilled. <u>And what is God's purpose for my life? That I should dwell with Him in the glories of His eternal kingdom.</u> Oh, how glorious that is; <u>to know that God loves me, is watching out for me and is taking care of me.</u> But I want to be His instrument. I want to be sensitive. Who knows what God has in mind? Who knows what the future holds? We can <u>only find out as we yield ourselves</u> to serve Him, as we surrender daily our lives to be the instruments <u>through which He can accomplish His purposes</u>, and every day becomes an exciting adventure, because you just don't know what God has in mind for you today.</p>	<p>v. 10 Don’t you love it the way that God turns things around? And things that were designed really to hurt or to harm, God will turn around for good. I just love the way the Lord turns the tables on Satan so often. The Bible says, “<i>No weapon that is formed against you will prosper.</i>” This is the heritage of the children of the Lord. You're a child of God. The Lord watches over you, and though there may be evil devices that are planned against you, God will reverse it. God will turn it for good, even as with Joseph. Romans 8:28!</p> <p><u>He is Able to Deliver Thee!</u> - (William Ogden)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>'Tis the grandest theme through the ages rung; 'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal tongue; 'Tis the grandest theme that the world e'er sung, "Our God is able to deliver thee."</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refrain: <i>He is able to deliver thee, He is able to deliver thee; Though by sin oppressed, go to Him for rest; "Our God is able to deliver thee."</i> <i>'Tis the grandest theme in the earth or main; 'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal strain; 'Tis the grandest theme, tell the world again, "Our God is able to deliver thee."</i> <i>'Tis the grandest theme, let the tidings roll, To the guilty heart, to the sinful soul; Look to God in faith, He will make thee whole, "Our God is able to deliver thee."</i>
---	--	--