<u>OBSERVATION</u> <u>INTERPRETATION</u> <u>APPLICATION</u>

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HAMAN HANGED INSTEAD OF MORDECAI; (7:1-10)

- Est 7:1 So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther.
- Est 7:2 And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"
- Est 7:3 Then Queen Esther answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.
- Est 7:4 For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss."
- Est 7:5 So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?" Est 7:6 And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!" So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.
- Est 7:7 Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king.
- Est 7:8 When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, "Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house?" As the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.
- Est 7:9 Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman." Then the king said, "Hang him on it!"
- Est 7:10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided.

ESTHER SAVES THE JEWS; (8:1-17)

- Est 8:1 On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her.
- Est 8:2 So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman
- Est 8:3 Now Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored him with tears to counteract the evil of Haman the Agagite, and the scheme which he had devised against the Jews.
- Est 8:4 And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king,
- Est 8:5 and said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to annihilate the Jews who are in all the king's provinces.

- vs. 1-4 At last, Esther made the king aware of the plight of both herself and her people. Queen Esther is begging for her very life and for the life of her people. So, this is the first time now the king realized that she's a Jewess; but it is also the realization that he is the one who has sold them out, in a sense, for he accepted the bribe from Haman to write the decree that would eradicate these people. And so, it's just like a ton of bricks falling on him. vs. 5-8. I Evidently, Haman was so afraid, he fell atop Esther, right as the king walked in. they covered Haman's face. In those days, a Persian king would never look into the eyes of a man about to die. In other words, Haman received the death sentence on the spot.
- vs. 9-10 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, stands in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon... In Proverbs 26:27, we read: "Whoso digs a pit shall fall therein; and he that rolls a stone, it will return upon him." That's exactly what happened to Haman, for it was he himself who had ordered the construction of the gallows. "Don't be deceived," Paul writes. "What a man sows, that shall he reap" (see Galatians 6:7). So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified. Our God has an incredible way of taking what Satan means for evil in our lives and turning it around for good. (Joseph - cf. Genesis 50:20). That's a promise for you, as well. "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, says the LORD." (Isaiah 54:17). Any attempt of Haman to come against you and destroy you will not prosper. It might seem like it's going to. The gallows might be built. The noose might be readied. And you might think it's all over for you. But if you're a child of His, God will miraculously and faithfully turn it for good. Adolph Hitler destroyed six million Jews, and yet what did God do? He turned it for good to create what otherwise never would have happened: World sentiment to allow the establishment of a nation called Israel. I think of Satan putting Jesus Christ on the gallows of the Cross thinking that he had won. But God turned the tables, for it was Satan who was defeated that day. Only God can do that.
- $\underline{\mathbf{v.}}$ 1 Esther finally revealed to the king that Mordecai was the one who raised her.
- v. 2 Haman used to be second in the kingdom. His ring of authority was now given to Mordecai. Mordecai was not promoted to the number 2 man in the Persian kingdom.
- <u>v. 3</u> The **death decree against the Jews was still in effect** because the law of the Medes and the Persians was irrevocable. Haman's death had done nothing to solve the problem of the bad law enacted to eliminate the Jews.

INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 7-10: In the book of Esther, there are places where things look pretty desperate, pretty sad; but God had positioned the people in those right places, in order that He might manifest His power, and His work

In the previous chapter, Esther had gone in before Ahasuerus, with great hesitancy, but the king raised the scepter. She went up and touched it, and he said, "Ask me what you want to the half of the kingdom." And Esther said, "I want you and Haman to come to a dinner that I will prepare for you." And so, the king and Haman went to the dinner, and the king after the dinner said, "Oh, ask whatever you want, and I'll give it to you to the half of the kingdom." Esther wisely put it off to; "tomorrow," she said, "I'd like you to come to dinner again, and then I'll tell you all that's in my heart." And so, it was arranged that Haman and the king should return the next day for the dinner that Esther would prepare, for the banquet that she would prepare for them. That night we see the Lord bringing about supernatural insomnia for the king. He asked that the records be brought in and read to him. During the reading the subject of how Mordecai had warned the king of the assassination plot, and how that Mordecai had not been rewarded. And so the king planned to reward him. And in the morning, he asked Haman what the king should do to a man that he wants to bestow great honor upon, and Haman, thinking, I can write my own ticket for this honor that the king wants to give me! Haman told the king that he should put him in the royal robes, let him ride on a royal horse, and put the crown upon his head, and let him go through the streets, and let them cry before him, one of the noblemen, let him cry, "This is the man whom the king delights to honor." And the king said, "Great, do that to Mordecai." And so, he was, of course, unbelievably chagrined. He went home afterwards. It was a humiliating experience, and he went home and told his family what had gone on, and he was warned at that time, "If Moredecai.....is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall.. The hand writing's on the wall for you. v. 2 – second day - The Lord on that next day so exalted Mordecai, that it no double gave her courage. I mean, she could see, "Hey, the Lord is already beginning to work," and it was probably a real encouragement to her, as far as letting now her case be known before the king. Things are starting to turn our direction. The Lord is already at work, and she can see the hand of the Lord already at work.

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Est 8:6 For how can I endure to see the evil that will come to my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my countrymen?"

Est 8:7 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "Indeed, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows because he tried to lay his hand on the Jews.

Est 8:8 You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring; for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke."

Est 8:9 So the king's scribes were called at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day; and it was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded, to the Jews, the satraps, the governors, and the princes of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, one hundred and twenty-seven provinces in all, to every province in its own script, to every people in their own language, and to the Jews in their own script and language.

Est 8:10 And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, sealed it with the king's signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on horseback, riding on royal horses bred from swift steeds.

Est 8:11 By these letters the king permitted the Jews who were in every city to gather together and protect their lives—to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces of any people or province that would assault them, both little children and women, and to plunder their possessions,

Est 8:12 on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. Est 8:13 A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province and published for all people, so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

Est 8:14 The couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Shushan the citadel.

Est 8:15 So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. Est 8:16 The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor. Est 8:17 And in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday. Then many of the people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.

THE JEWS DESTORY THEIR TORMENTORS; (9:1-17)

Est 9:1 Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, the time came for the king's command and his decree to be executed. On the day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, the opposite occurred, in that the Jews themselves overpowered those who hated them.

vs. 4-6 The Persian government was a constitutional monarchy. That is, the king had to obey the laws of the land. One of the laws was the law of the Medes and Persians which said once a law was established, it couldn't be reversed—not even by the king himself. That's why King Darius couldn't keep Daniel out of the lions' den even though he did everything he could to do so (Daniel 6:14).

<u>vs. 7-8</u> The king said to Mordecai, "You've got my ring. We can't reverse the first decree, but **you can make another one**." So the ball was in Mordecai's court. The king will leave it to the Jewish people – **Mordecai to come up with the best solution** they knew how.

v. 9-13 Mordecai's decree stated that, although the death decree still stood, the Jews had a right to band together and defend themselves, nine months before the date of execution- the right of self defense. We have a decree issued against us that reads: "The soul that sins shall surely die" (Ezekiel 18:20). But there has been a second decree issued. That is, once we recognize that we are sinners, we can have eternal life through Jesus Christ. The wages of sin is still death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23). Because we're sinners, we have to die, but because we're saved, we are born again. That's the wonderful news of the gospel.

v. 14-17 Hearing the second decree, joy, gladness, and celebration erupted within the Jewish community, and yet there would still be a battle on the thirteenth of March. The second decree didn't keep them from the heat of the battle. But it gave them great hope in the battle. And that's the way it is for us. The Lord doesn't promise to keep us from the battle, from the difficulty, from the trial. But He gives us great hope in the battle, the difficulty, the trial because He gives us the promise of His presence (Hebrews 13:5). When the war is raging, the fire burning, and the storm brewing, we've all discovered that the Lord is with us in a most profound and special way. many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them. Even in the face of coming battles, there was joy and gladness and many became Jews as a result. Why would the Lord have us go through battles and hard times? One reason is for others to see the reality of Jesus in us and be drawn to Him. Now we see in v. 15 that the people of Shushan rejoiced and was glad! Many Gentiles will now put their faith in the God of the Bible!

vs. 1-2 No wonder fear gripped the hearts of the would-be attackers as they saw the Jews standing together with hope, standing together in the spirit of expectation. God behind the scenes was very much there. Although they weren't in Jerusalem where they could have been, where they should have been, God shows His mercy, faithfulness, and grace. Even though they weren't in the best place, God would still be faithful to His people. He is not done with His people!

v. 9 "Hang him on it"! Many times, God will turn the tables upon the enemies of his people, how God watches over those who trust in Him. And sometimes those very instruments that we are sure are going to be our destruction turn out to be the destruction of our enemy as God watches over us. So often just sort of turns things around, just when you think, "Well, there's no way out. Look, there are the gallows there waiting for me," and then God just turns the whole circumstances of our lives around, and God delivers His people. T think of the cross of Jesus Christ; how that the enemies of Jesus felt that they had triumphed when they hung Him on the cross. When they nailed Him there, when they watched Him die, I'm certain that the enemies of Christ thought that they had triumphed, and went to their homes to celebrate with sort of a smug kind of a satisfaction, "We've finally gotten rid of this fellow who was a threat to our position." Satan, I believe, felt that he had triumphed. But that cross in which the enemy thought that they had triumphed over our Lord, became His place of victory over the enemy. It is by the cross of Jesus Christ that we have been redeemed unto God. It is by the cross of Jesus Christ that we have been delivered from sin. It is by the cross of Jesus Christ that He actually defeated those forces and powers that are against us. Colossians chapter two tells us that He defeated those principalities and powers that were against us as He triumphed over them in His cross, and made an open display of His victory. God turned the tables, just like in the story of Haman and Mordecai; it was just turned. And the cross which they thought was their victory, became their place of defeat; and Satan was defeated at Calvary.

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- Est 9:2 The Jews gathered together in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could withstand them, because fear of them fell upon all people
- Est 9:3 And all the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and all those doing the king's work, helped the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.
- Est 9:4 For Mordecai was great in the king's palace, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai became increasingly prominent.
- Est 9:5 Thus the Jews defeated all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, with slaughter and destruction, and did what they pleased with those who hated them.
- Est 9:6 And in Shushan the citadel the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men.
- Est 9:7 Also Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha,
- Est 9:8 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha,
- Est 9:9 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vajezatha-
- Est 9:10 the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews—they killed; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.
- Est 9:11 On that day the number of those who were killed in Shushan the citadel was brought to the king.
- Est 9:12 And the king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the citadel, and the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what is your petition? It shall be granted to you. Or what is your further request? It shall be done."
- Est 9:13 Then Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Shushan to do again tomorrow according to today's decree, and <u>let</u> Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows."
- Est 9:14 So the king commanded this to be done; the decree was issued in Shushan, and they hanged Haman's ten sons.
- Est 9:15 And the Jews who were in Shushan gathered together again on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and killed three hundred men at Shushan; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.
- Est 9:16 The remainder of the Jews in the king's provinces gathered together and protected their lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of their enemies; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder. Est 9:17 This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. And on the fourteenth of the month they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

THE FEAST OF PURIM; (9:18-32)

- Est 9:18 But the Jews who were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day, as well as on the fourteenth; and on the fifteenth of the month they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.
- Est 9:19 Therefore the Jews of the villages who dwelt in the unwalled towns celebrated the fourteenth day of the month of Adar with gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and for sending presents to one another.

- vs. 3-5 In How are our enemies—Satan himself, demonic powers—defeated? With **the stroke of the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God**. As we read in Judges concerning Eglon, as the sword went in, the dirt came out (3:22). How shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed to the Word (Psalm 119:9). As the sword goes in, the dirt goes out and our enemy is defeated. God is working in all of this!
- vs. 7-10 In the capital city alone, five hundred of the enemy went down.
- v. 10 It's not just Haman who goes down, but his sons die, too. If we choose to indulge our flesh, to plunge into sin, so often we will have calculated what we think will be the cost. The problem is, the cost will never be what we calculated. It will always be greater than what we anticipated. Sin affects others in heartbreaking ways. ... but they did not lay a hand on the plunder. According to Esther 8:11, the Jews could have taken spoil. But they didn't. They weren't fighting for material goods. They fought simply to save their lives, only self defense!
- <u>vs. 11-13</u> Esther asked that the Jews be given an additional day to defend themselves against any who wanted to do them in. She also asked that Haman's ten sons be hanged from the gallows as a visual reminder of what happens to those who attack God's people.
- **vs. 14-17** The day of battle came and they were victorious. Some 75,000 were killed outside of the capital city and three hundred inside. The enemy was soundly defeated. All self defense no plunder taken.
- <u>vs. 18-26</u> This day must be celebrated every year," Mordecai declared. And indeed it is, for to this day, the Feast of Purim, named after the lots that were cast by Haman to determine the day the Jews would be destroyed, is celebrated from March thirteenth to fifteenth. On the thirteenth day, the Jews fast, in commemoration of the battle that would take place. On the fourteenth, people in the outlying villages celebrate. On the fifteenth, celebration breaks out in Jerusalem. The kids dress up in costumes, some as Esther, some as Mordecai, and some as Haman. They pass out candy and cookies, give gifts, and read the story of Esther.

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Est 9:20 And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews, near and far, who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, Est 9:21 to establish among them that they should celebrate yearly the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar,

Est 9:22 as the days on which the Jews had rest from their enemies, as the month which was turned from sorrow to joy for them, and from mourning to a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, of sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor.

Est 9:23 So the Jews accepted the custom which they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them,

Est 9:24 because Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to annihilate them, and had cast Pur (that is, the lot), to consume them and destroy them;

Est 9:25 but when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letter that this wicked plot which Haman had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

Est 9:26 So they called these days Purim, after the name Pur. Therefore, because of all the words of this letter, what they had seen concerning this matter, and what had happened to them,

Est 9:27 the Jews established and imposed it upon themselves and their descendants and all who would join them, that without fail they should celebrate these two days every year, according to the written instructions and according to the prescribed time,

Est 9:28 that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city, that these days of Purim should not fail to be observed among the Jews, and that the memory of them should not perish among their descendants.

Est 9:29 Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim. Est 9:30 And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews, to the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth.

Est 9:31 to confirm these days of Purim at their appointed time, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had prescribed for them, and as they had decreed for themselves and their descendants concerning matters of their fasting and lamenting.

Est 9:32 So the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim, and it was written in the book.

MORDECAI'S ADVANCEMENT (10:1-3)

Est 10:1 And King Ahasuerus imposed tribute on the land and on the islands of the sea.

Est 10:2 Now all the acts of his power and his might, and the account of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? Est 10:3 For Mordecai the Jew was second to King Ahasuerus, and was great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen.

 $\underline{\text{vs. }27\text{-}32}$ The Feast of Purim was established, a glorious, wonderful celebration.

<u>vs. 1-2</u> The implication is that the kingdom expanded under Mordecai's leadership as prime minister.

v. 3 Mordecai, a type of the Spirit, sought prosperity and peace for the people of God. Haman, a type of the flesh, ended up hung up and done in because God was ever on the scene, watching over, blessing, protecting, and providing for His people. The story ends with the people of God experiencing peace and prosperity, with Mordecai in the place of prominence and power and with Haman hanging. The path to peace and prosperity remains the same today: with the Spirit as prime minister, directing the affairs of the state of your soul, and with the flesh, like Haman, crucified and reckoned dead (Romans 6:11). This is always the way to peace and prosperity: where the Spirit is the prime minister, directing the affairs of the state of your soul, the flesh, like Haman. crucified, and reckoned dead. Romans 8:16 says to be carnally minded is death but to be Spiritually minded is life and peace. The Jews were destined for annihilation, but ended up with a brand new celebration. Haman was top dog. but ended up a dead duck. Mordecai was on death row, but now is prime time. God, in a most amazing way to an undeserving people turned the tables. Will He do that for me? Will He do that for you? If we humble ourselves and cry out to Him, the story of Esther tells us the answer is a resounding YES!

No man is really qualified to govern others, unless he himself is governed. I think that any man who tries to govern others without the awareness of himself being under authority, or being governed, is a danger to society. And that is why I believe that no man can be president or king and exercise that authority or power rightfully, unless that man is conscious of his responsibility to God. That's an absolute requirement for any man who's going to rule, to realize that he is not the end. He also is responsible unto God for how he rules.

It's that man who isn't under authority that becomes a tyrant, that abuses his position. Only a man who is ruled can rule.

Soviet Jew quote: What will be the outcome of USSR stepping up anti-Semantic policy? "Oh, probably a feast!"
Pharaoh tried to wipe out the Jews – result was Passover
Haman tried – result was Purim;
Antioch Epiphanes tried – result was Hanukah
God is so amazing how He does things – and the same for our lives!

So, the Book of Esther, seeing the work of the Lord even when there was no awareness of His work. He is always working! Always Active! So whatever the problem, give it to Him be obedient to Him, in prayer and His Word, everyday! And wait in peace on Him! He will take care of you!

How in a day, He brings the wicked enemy, Haman down, and how He raised up a righteous Mordecai!

Just like when Jesus in a moment, came into my heart and because of His great grace, transformed in a moment, my life into being the riches, blessed, most righteous in His righteousness. Oh Hallelujah!

Why worry? Time is short? Why waste time in worry? Not one of Your promises will ever prove to be untrue!

Trust and rest in His providence!!!

<u>Cf. Deu 33:27a</u> The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms;

<u>Isa 55:8-9</u> "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. [9] "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

<u>LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS – Joslin Grove</u> <u>Choral Group</u>

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, Leaning on the everlasting arms; What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, Leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, Leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Leaning on the everlasting arms; I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, Leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain