

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: The Book of Esther – Message 2

2016 VISION: Faithful in little things!

Scriptures for Today: Esther 1:1-12 – The King’s Royal Feast & The Queen’s Refusal

Title of Today’s Message: A Regretful Rejection – A *privilege ends to be with the King!*

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we introduced the book of Esther and were reminded that God sees things much differently than men! We learned that in a time of dominance and wars for the Persian Empire, God chose _____ to focus on those things that seem to fascinate secular historians. Instead, we see God focus on _____. What a thought! Today, we will find incredible **doctrinal pictures** within Esther chapter 1 related to **prophetic** events that will occur during the **Tribulation Period**. Among them, the king will make a **seven-day** _____ to honor **all those present with the king in the court of the garden of the king’s palace**. And, in a stunning move, the Gentile queen will _____ to **COME** when she is called by the king to be included with the king in his very presence...

PREACHING NOTES

1. The king **makes two** _____ to shew forth his **glorious kingdom and majesty** many days.

- ✓ The 1st feast took place **in the third year** of Ahasuerus’ reign over a 180-day period (½ a year).

Daniel 12:1-7

*“And there shall be **a time of trouble**...it shall be for **a time, times, and a half**...”*

Daniel 12:11

*“And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be **a thousand two hundred and ninety days**.”*

Revelation 11:9, 11

*“And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies **three days and an half**, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.”*

Revelation 12:6, 14

*“And the woman fled into the wilderness...a thousand two hundred and threescore days... she is nourished for **a time, and times, and a half time**, from the face of the serpent.”*

NOTE

After seeing “*in those days*” in verse 2 last week and making a connection to the Tribulation Period, God continues the Tribulation Period context prophetically with a reference to the middle of the **seven-years** when Esther (Jewish bride) takes center stage instead of Vashti.

- ✓ The 2nd feast was for **7 days** for all people in the court of the garden of the king’s palace.

Revelation 19:9

*“And he saith unto me, Write, **Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb**. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”*

Matthew 22:1-14

“The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,”

Luke 12:37

*“Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching...**he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them**.”*

Luke 14:15-24

*“Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God...**A certain man made a great supper, and bade many**...Come...Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them...”*

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

*“Now if any man build upon this foundation **gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble**; Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it...revealed by fire...”*

Revelation 19:8

*“And to her was granted that **she should be arrayed in fine linen**, clean and white: for the **fine linen is the righteousness of the saints**.”*

NOTE

The king’s palace garden was often a huge area where there would be acres of beautiful surroundings. The FEAST in the court of the garden of the king’s palace is a picture of what will take place IN HEAVEN during the **seven-year** Tribulation Period – the Marriage Supper of the Lamb! In addition, the Judgment Seat of Christ for believers takes place following the Rapture of the church DURING the **seven-year** Tribulation Period. On that day, the King will honor those who served Him well. He will actually serve them according to Luke 12:37.

- ✓ At the 2nd feast, they were given **royal wine in abundance...according to the law.**

John 2:1-11

*"And the third day there was **a marriage** in Cana of Galilee...This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him."*

Matthew 26:28-29

*"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this **FRUIT OF THE VINE**, until **THAT DAY** when I drink it **NEW** with you in my Father's **KINGDOM.**"*

NOTE

This wine is heavenly wine (*miracle, John 2*) and will be drunk at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. It is interesting to note that Gentile kings, lost people and "*establishments*" of our day often mandate how much you drink at their parties. What a truth found in Mt 26:29!

2. The Gentile bride (Vashti) _____ to come to *the garden* to the very presence of the king.

- ✓ Vashti **the queen made a feast for the women** in the royal house which belonged to the king.

Luke 21:24

*"Jerusalem...trodden down of the Gentiles, **until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.**"*

Romans 11:25

*"For **I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery**, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in."*

NOTE

Here, Vashti the queen is NOT in the garden (Heaven), YET. She is in her own house ABOUT TO BE CALLED. She is a picture of Gentile nations (a **potential** Gentile bride) ready to be called up to the Rapture. But, SHE DOES NOT GO. So, she is replaced with a Jewish bride.

- ✓ At the **beginning of the Church Age**, God transitioned FROM the Jews TO the Gentiles.

Acts 2:41

*"And the same day there were added unto them **about three thousand souls.**"*

Acts 7:59

*"And **they stoned Stephen**, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."*

Acts 11:19-26

*"Now they which were scattered...And **the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.**"*

Romans 10:1

*"Brethren, **my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.**"*

NOTE

To know God is to know how much He loves Israel – His son! When we read Romans 9-11, we are reminded that God's desire is for ALL OF ISRAEL TO BE SAVED. They rejected Him.

- ✓ At the **end of the Church Age**, God will transition back FROM the Gentiles TO the Jews.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."*

Revelation 4:1

*"After this I looked, and, behold, **a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither...**"*

Romans 11:26

*"And **so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer...**"*

NOTE

What a glorious day it will be when we meet our Lord Jesus Christ in the air!! The Bible is very clear that THE TIME IS NOW for the Gentiles to trust Christ before it is too late!!

- ✓ In Esther, we see the transition occurs (*in part*) due to a **REFUSAL** of the King's commandment...

Revelation 3:19

*"As many as I love, I rebuke and **chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.**"*

Revelation 3:20

*"Behold, I stand **a the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**"*

NOTE

Gentile NATIONS – You do not want to be CALLED but **not COME** to the Marriage Supper! Gentile CHURCH – Obey the Word of your King – Repent and live for His glory! (Eph 3:1-10). We have an opportunity now in church history like no other people...it will soon be too late.