

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: The Book of Esther – Message 8

2016 VISION: Faithful in little things!

Scriptures for Today: Esther 6:1-14 – Mordecai’s Deeds Made Known; God goes to work

Title of Today’s Message: Prayer Affects God – *The effectual prayers of the righteous avail much!*

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we witnessed the **COURAGE** of Esther as she **risks her life to speak** to the king on behalf of her people. We saw Haman’s **PRIDE** clearly manifested in the works of his flesh. And, we were reminded of the reality of spiritual warfare. Today, we will be blessed to see **God at work** in the affairs of people. We will learn of the king’s “*coincidental*” insomnia – for on *the third night* of prayer and fasting, he will not be able to ____! He will ask for the meticulous book of records wherein will be found a missed opportunity for honour to have been rightfully given. The king will find that a certain ____ has not been rewarded for ____ his life. In a twist of plot, Haman will be asked for the course of action to most honour him. As we come to the end of this chapter, Haman’s wife and friends will predict his ____ at the hands of God’s people. And *while they are yet talking*, the chamberlains will come to take Haman to Esther’s banquet where his sin will soon be discovered.

“The whole force of Bible statement is to increase our faith in the doctrine that prayer affects God, secures favors with God, which can be secured in no other way, and which will not be bestowed by God if we do not pray.” –Bounds/Ravenhill

PREACHING NOTES

1. After **reading the book of records**, the king is **moved** to want to _____ Mordecai **the Jew**.

✓ **On that night could not the king sleep...**

Esther 4:16	<i>“Go, gather together <u>all the Jews</u> that are present in Shushan, and fast ye...three days”</i>
2 Chronicles 7:14	<i>“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”</i>
Isaiah 58:9	<i>“Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am”</i>
Genesis 22:14	<i>“And <u>Abraham called the name</u> of that place Jehovah-jireh...” (The LORD my Provider)</i>
Proverbs 21:1	<i>“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD...”</i>
Daniel 2:1	<i>“...the reign of Nebuchadnezzar...<u>his spirit was troubled</u>, and his sleep brake from him.”</i>
Daniel 6:18	<i>“Then <u>the king went to his palace...</u>and his sleep went from him.”</i>

NOTE Do not miss the connection between the fasting and prayer of God’s people and the stirring of the king’s heart *on that night* of the third day! God is at work, and the king cannot sleep! Why do we worry so? Why are we anxious? Do we not pray to the same God? Yes – He is!

✓ **By God’s providence, the place of the reading was the timely reminder of Mordecai’s acts.**

Ruth 2:3	<i>“And she went... and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz”</i>
2 Chronicles 20:15	<i>“Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s.”</i>
2 Samuel 5:24	<i>“And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.”</i>
Matthews 10:30	<i>“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”</i>

NOTE In light of the fact that the next morning Haman would be waiting in the outer court to ask for the hanging of Mordecai, I would say that God’s timing was PERFECT! It always is!!

- ✓ Haman gave the king advice for **how to best reward the man whom he delighteth to honour.**

Esther 6:6	<i>"Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight...more than to myself?"</i>
Isaiah 14:11-15	<i>"I will...I will...I will...I will...I will be like the most High."</i>
Luke 14:11	<i>"whosoever <u>exalteth himself</u> shall be abased; and <u>he that humbleth himself</u> shall be exalted."</i>
John 12:26	<i>"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."</i>
Revelation 1:5-6	<i>"And from Jesus Christ...<u>Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father</u>"</i>
Revelation 19:8	<i>"And <u>to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.</u>"</i>
Revelation 19:14	<i>"And the armies which were in heaven <u>followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen</u>"</i>

NOTE Haman is a picture of the Antichrist in the Tribulation Period who will desire worship from all. However, God will foil his plans just as He did Haman's and will make haste to honour the Jews who trust in Christ! As for our personal application, does it seem to you a small thing that God would desire to bestow such honour as this upon us? What love is this!!

2. After Mordecai is honoured, Haman hastens to his house were his _____ is predicted!

- ✓ And Mordecai **came again to the king's gate...**

Psalms 131:1-3	<i>"LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty; neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child. Let Israel hope in the LORD from henceforth and for ever."</i>
Acts 20:19	<i>"Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews;"</i>
James 4:6	<i>"Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but given grace unto the humble."</i>

NOTE In this passage, we have a great reminder from Mordecai and insight into his humility. After being greatly honoured by the king, we find him humbly returning to the king's gate!

- ✓ But Haman **hasted to his house mourning and having his head covered.**

Luke 1:52	<i>"He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree."</i>
Job 20:5	<i>"the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?"</i>
Revelation 12:12	<i>"for the devil is come down unto you...because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."</i>
Proverbs 30:8-9	<i>"Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD?"</i>

NOTE We see in Haman's response a glimpse of the devil's expected end and what will befall him in the Tribulation Period. He covers his head like a criminal when caught in the act of sin!

- ✓ Haman was warned that **if he had begun to fall to God's people (Jews), he would not prevail!**

Daniel 5:1-31	<i>"In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand...In that night was Belshazzar...slain."</i>
Isaiah 30:13	<i>"Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant."</i>
1 Thessalonians 5:1-3	<i>"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."</i>
Luke 17:27	<i>"until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all."</i>

NOTE God's enemy will not prevail against Him! If you are on God's side, you will win. If you are opposed to Almighty God, your calamity and ruin will come to pass just as sure as Haman's.