

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: The Book of Esther – Message 7

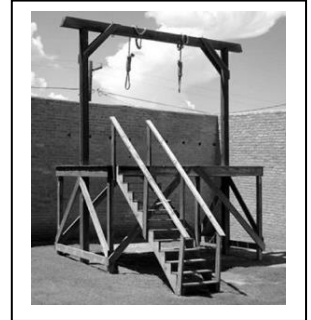
2016 VISION: Faithful in little things!

Scriptures for Today: Esther 5:1-14 – Esther's Banquet (God) & Haman's Gallows (Satan)

Title of Today's Message: Pride's "I" Problem – How to survive spiritual warfare!

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw Mordecai and all the Jews in **GREAT** mourning. When Esther heard of Haman's plot from Mordecai, she was faced with a life-changing **opportunity** and **decision** to **SPEAK** on behalf of God's people to save them from perishing. She had indeed come to the kingdom for **SUCH** a **TIME** as this! Today, we will witness the _____ of Esther as she **risks her life to speak** to the king on behalf of her people. We will also see Haman's _____ reach new peak levels as he relishes in his title and worship. And, we will be reminded that *"the eyes of man are _____ satisfied."* This is spiritual warfare at its finest which looks like chess. God moves – Satan counters. As God prepares to _____ the tables on the devil's plan to exterminate God's people, it will look as if Satan has won the battle. There are times in your life – during spiritual warfare – when it will feel as though you are headed to the gallows. **BUT DON'T _____!** In these times, *"Let GO... and Let GOD"* battle for you as you stay close to Him and trust in His precious Word.



PREACHING NOTES

1. As Esther's _____ brings her to **the inner court**, we find that **God is already at work**.

- ✓ Esther was as good as **DEAD** (*three days*) and her fleshly weakness brought God's strength...

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| Esther 5:1 | <i>"Now it came to pass on the third day..."</i> |
| Genesis 22:4 | <i>"Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off."</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:4 | <i>"And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures"</i> |
| 2 Corinthians 12:9 | <i>"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..."</i> |

NOTE It is no coincidence that Esther asked for a **3** day fast – God brings resurrection power on the third day! Dead things come to life on that day! God's grace is sufficient for us, and His strength is made perfect in our weakness. Weak is good – when it brings God's strength!

- ✓ God promised that He would go **BEFORE** and **BEHIND** His people as they trust and obey Him...

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| Proverbs 21:1 | <i>"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it..."</i> |
| Psalms 139:5 | <i>"Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me."</i> |
| 2 Chronicles 13:12 | <i>"And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain..."</i> |

NOTE Esther was standing on the promises of Almighty God! When she arrived at the inner court, she found God's grace and favour already there. In 2 Chronicles, King Abijah (Judah) went to war against king Jeroboam (Israel) and was outnumbered 2 to 1 with valiant men on both sides. Abijah trusted the LORD. Jeroboam forsook God. God fought for His team and won!

- ✓ Esther was very wise in her approach – **choosing to be wise and harmless...**

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| Matthew 10:16 | <i>"as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."</i> |
| Jude 9 | <i>"Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil...said, 'The Lord rebuke thee.'"</i> |

NOTE Esther found herself in the **MIDDLE** of spiritual warfare – a war between God and Satan! Wow! We too are in the same. We must be **WISE** and **DO BATTLE** on our knees in prayer!

2. As Haman's _____ brings him to the king and Esther, God prepares to **TURN** the tables!

- ✓ Haman's **pride** was EVIDENCED BY **the works of the flesh** – his **indignation** against Mordecai...

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| Daniel 3:13, 16-19 | "Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach..." |
| Matthew 2:16 | "Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth " |
| Job 5:2 | "For wrath killeth the foolish man , and envy slayeth the silly one." |
| James 1:19 | "my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, <u>slow to wrath</u> " |
| James 1:20 | "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. " |
| Proverbs 25:28 | "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" |
| Galatians 5:19 | "Now the works of the flesh are <u>MANIFEST, WHICH ARE THESE</u> ; Adultery, <u>fornication</u> , uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred , variance, emulations, wrath , <u>strife...and such like...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.</u> " |
| Galatians 5:22, 23 | "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance : against such there is no law." |

NOTE Haman's pride caused him to be full of wrath towards others for selfish reasons! The FRUIT of the Spirit includes "**temperance**" which is defined as "**habitual moderation in regard to the indulgence of the natural appetites and passions; restraint; patience; calmness.**" If you have an "**anger problem**", you have a sin problem. Hatred and wrath are works of the flesh.

- ✓ Haman's **pride** was EVIDENCED BY his **love for himself** – and his **glorifying in himself**...

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| Isaiah 14:11-15 | "O Lucifer...I will...I will...I will...I will...I will be like the most High." |
| Genesis 3:6 | "And WHEN THE WOMAN SAW that the tree was good for food , and that it was pleasant to the eyes , and a tree to be desired to make one wise , SHE TOOK of the fruit thereof..." |
| Deuteronomy 8:17 | "And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath GOTTEN ME THIS " |
| Proverbs 27:20 | "Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are NEVER SATISFIED. " |
| Galatians 6:14 | "But GOD FORBID that I should GLORY , save in THE CROSS of our Lord Jesus Christ..." |

NOTE The devil was kicked out of heaven because of PRIDE! If you refuse to MORTIFY your flesh and humble yourself daily, you had better beware! Woe to you if you do not FEAR God!

- ✓ Haman's **pride** was about to bring him to DESTRUCTION and a GREAT FALL...

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| Job 20:5 | " the triumphing of the wicked is short , and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment " |
| Proverbs 16:18 | " Pride goeth before destruction , and an haughty spirit before a fall. " |
| Hosea 5:5 | "the pride of Israel doth testify to his face : <u>therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity</u> " |
| 1 Timothy 3:6 | "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride <u>he fall into the condemnation of the devil.</u> " |
| 1 Peter 5:8 | "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil , <u>as a roaring lion</u> , walketh about, seeking whom he may devour " |

NOTE If you refuse to MORTIFY your flesh and humble yourself daily, you had better beware! Woe to you if you have no FEAR of God before your eyes! The end of sin is DEATH – fact!

- ✓ God was preparing to TURN THE CAPTIVITY of the Jews for His glory!

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| Isaiah 54:17 | " No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper ; and <u>every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.</u> This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD , and <u>their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.</u> " |
| Job 42:10 | "And the LORD turned the captivity of Job , <u>when he prayed for his friends...</u> " |
| 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 | "though we walk in the flesh, we do not WAR after the flesh...the weapons of our warfare " |

NOTE Prophetically, Mordecai and Job picture the Jews during the Tribulation Period. If you are in the midst of spiritual warfare right now, DO NOT QUIT! God promises to FIGHT for you! BE STRONG and OF GOOD COURAGE! Do not WAR *after the flesh* – fight the battle **in prayer!**