

Esther

Part 4

Chapter 5&6

- Ester prepares herself in her royal robes and stood in the inner courts before the king.
- The king is pleased with her and holds out the gold scepter towards Esther. (Meaning she has found his good grace and won't die for approaching the king uninvited.)
- The King says to Esther "What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given to you"
- Esther replies, "let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him."
- At the Banquet the king asks Esther again and she says, "if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question."
- In the meantime Haman, furious at Mordecai, erects a pole reaching 75ft high with plans to ask the king to allow him to have Mordecai impaled on it for everyone to see.
- That same night the king can't sleep and has the Chronicles read to him where he is reminded of Mordecai's faithfulness to protect him from two assassins. King Xerxes then determines Mordecai ought to be honored and Haman, on his way to ask for Mordecai's life, is given the task of leading Mordecai through the city in the King's Royal Robe riding on the King's Horse through the city.
- Because of this Haman "rushed home, with his head covered in grief" and Haman knows he "cannot stand against him"

Esther 7

So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet, **2** and as they were drinking wine on the second day, the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

3 Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request. **4** For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king."

- Can you imagine the look on the king's face when he heard his Queen say **Vs. 4** "For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated."
- Haman knew he almost messed up the morning when he went to ask for Mordecai's life and now he knows he has really messed up. (Haman had no idea that the beautiful Queen Esther was a Jew.)
- God has arranged the position of Esther. He has purposefully put her there even as he placed Joseph in Egypt to save his people and be a provision for them .

Genesis 45 - Joseph before his brothers

5 And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

7 ...God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

Psalm 37:23 NLT

The Lord directs the steps of the godly.

He delights in every detail of their lives.

- Esther is humble and graceful when she says, “If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.”
- With the right heart and motive she confronts the major issue.

Vs. 5-10

5 King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?”

6 Esther said, “An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!”

Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. **7** The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden. But Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life.

8 Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining.

The king exclaimed, “Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?”

As soon as the word left the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face. **9** Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, “A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits stands by Haman’s house. He had it set up for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.”

The king said, “Impale him on it!” **10** So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king’s fury subsided.

Psalm 34:15-17 Good News Translation

15

The Lord watches over the righteous
and listens to their cries;

16

but he opposes those who do evil,
so that when they die, they are soon forgotten.

17

The righteous call to the Lord, and he listens;
he rescues them from all their troubles.

- God knows just how to turn this situation around and the turning has just begun.

There's an old song we used to sing at the Brownsville Revival

*I went to the enemy's camp and
I took back what he stole from me (x3)
I went to the enemy's camp and
I took back what he stole from me*

*He's under my feet (x6)
Satan is under my feet*

- When the king heard what Queen Ester said, he knew exactly what it was. Haman had deceived and misled the king when he authorized the declaration. Haman's evil heart and dishonesty ultimately cost him his life.

Note: Some may wonder why it's important to preach the whole Bible. It's important because we see this cycles of Disruption-Dilemma-God's Deliverance. God is faithful and fights for his people when they humble himself, seek him and walk in righteousness.

“The Lord watches over the righteous
and listens to their cries.
The righteous call to the Lord, and he listens;
he rescues them from all their troubles.”

Esther 8

1 That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. **2** The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman’s estate.

3 Esther again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews. **4** Then the king extended the gold scepter to Esther and she arose and stood before him.

5 “If it pleases the king,” she said, “and if he regards me with favor and thinks it the right thing to do, and if he is pleased with me, let an order be written overruling the dispatches that Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, devised and wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king’s provinces. **6** For how can I bear to see disaster fall on my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my family?”

7 King Xerxes replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, “Because Haman attacked the Jews, I have given his estate to Esther, and they have impaled him on the pole he set up. **8** Now write another decree in the king’s name in behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king’s signet ring—for no document written in the king’s name and sealed with his ring can be revoked.”

9 At once the royal secretaries were summoned—on the twenty-third day of the third month, the month of Sivan. They wrote out all Mordecai’s orders to the Jews, and to the satraps, governors and

nobles of the 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush. These orders were written in the script of each province and the language of each people and also to the Jews in their own script and language.

10 Mordecai wrote in the name of King Xerxes, sealed the dispatches with the king's signet ring, and sent them by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses especially bred for the king.

11 The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the armed men of any nationality or province who might attack them and their women and children, and to plunder the property of their enemies. **12** The day appointed for the Jews to do this in all the provinces of King Xerxes was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. **13** A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

14 The couriers, riding the royal horses, went out, spurred on by the king's command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa.

Vs. 8 Now write another decree in the king's name in behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king's signet ring—for no document written in the king's name and sealed with his ring can be revoked.”

- The king, knowing the old decree cannot be reversed, hands the pen to Esther and Mordecai and says; write a counter edict/decreed to Haman's however you think best. Seal it with my signet ring.
- Xerxes had the first known Auto Pen

This is what it said:

Vs. 11 The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the

armed men of any nationality or province who might attack them and their women and children, and to plunder the property of their enemies.

- This is the first known 2nd Amendment: This gave the Jews the right to keep and bear arms.

Notice how Mordecai's decree vary's from Haman's:

Esther 3:13

Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

- Though the end of Mordecai's decree allows the Jews to plunder the property of their enemies. We will notice in the next chapter the Jews refrain from taking any of the possessions of their enemies.
- They are not fighting for greed, they are simply fighting for the right to live.
- This new Decree doesn't remove the previous decree. It simply allows the Jews the right to fight back in the battle.
- This is true for us as Christian today. If God wanted he could remove the attacks of the enemy and I believe there are many times that he does. But God has a plan for us in the battle. God is raising his children to fight spiritual battles and stand strong.

Ephesians 6 NKJV

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to

stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; **18** praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...

Vs. 15-17

15 When Mordecai left the king's presence, he was wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa held a joyous celebration. **16** For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honor. **17** In every province and in every city to which the edict of the king came, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them.

Closing:

The Takeaway:

Esther was instrumentally used by God because she modeled: Humility, Prayerfulness, Courage and Preparation.

In the same way we can also be used by God when we model Humility, Prayerfulness, Courage and Preparation.

Spiritual Battles come for all those who serve the Lord, and when they do:

1. Stand therefore
2. Put on: The Belt of Truth
3. Put on: The Breastplate of Righteousness
4. Put on: The Preparation of the Gospel of Peace
5. Put on: The Helmet Salvation
6. Put on: The Sword of the Spirit
7. Praying always with all prayer and supplication

“so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”