

*Behind
The Scenes*

God Is At Work....

Part IV

First Three Weeks...

Behind The Scenes, God Is Regulating What Is Allowed

Behind The Scenes, God Is Preparing You For What Is Next

Behind The Scenes, God Is Fighting Battles You Can't See

Behind The Scenes, God Is Producing Proven Character

Behind The Scenes, God Is Producing Humility In You

Key Passages

Esther 2:5-7 (NLT)

5 *At that time* there was a Jewish man in the fortress of Susa whose name was Mordecai son of Jair. He was from the tribe of Benjamin... 6 His family had been among those who, with King Jehoiachin of Judah, *had been exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar.*

7 *This man had a very beautiful and lovely young cousin, Hadassah, who was also called Esther. When her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her into his family and raised her as his own daughter.*

Esther 4:13-14 (NLT)

13 Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: “Don’t think for a moment that *because you’re in the palace* you will escape when all other Jews are killed.

14 *If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?”*

Esther 10:1-3 (NLT)

1 King Xerxes imposed a tribute throughout his empire, even to the distant coastlands.

2 His great achievements and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai, whom the king had promoted, are recorded in The Book of the History of the Kings of Media and Persia.

3 *Mordecai the Jew became the prime minister, with authority next to that of King Xerxes himself. He was very great among the Jews, who held him in high esteem, because he continued to work for the good of his people and to speak up for the welfare of all their descendants.*

Introduction

The Book of Esther teaches us that *God uses ordinary circumstances to accomplish an extraordinary purpose.*

The amazing thing about Esther is that *God's name is never mentioned.*
No prophet appears ~ No miracle is recorded ~ No supernatural sign is given.

Instead, the story unfolds in a Persian palace filled with *political intrigue*, lavish banquets, *drinking parties*, beauty contests, *power struggles*, sleepless nights, and *royal drama.*

In fact, if someone were casually reading Esther for the first time, they might wonder:
"WHERE IS GOD IN ALL OF THIS?"

The king is throwing *drunken parties* ~ Officials are *jockeying for power*
A young woman is selected because of her *physical beauty* ~ An ambitious politician is *plotting genocide*
And yet behind all of these seemingly *ordinary events*, God is quietly moving every piece into place.

That is the message of Esther.

God does not have to *announce His presence to exercise His providence.*

God does not have to *speak audibly* to be actively working.

God does not have to *perform a miracle* for His hand to be directing events.

Why Is This Important

How Many Times Have You Said.... GOD IS NOT IN THAT FOOLISHNESS

Introduction

Often, *We Miss God's Hand Because...*

We are looking for *the supernatural* while God is *working through the ordinary*.

We are waiting for a miracle while God is *arranging circumstances*.

We are *praying for a sign* while God is *opening and closing doors*.

We are looking for God *in the dramatic* while He is often moving *through the details of everyday life*.

The truth is, many of the greatest things God has done in your life *did not happen in a church service*.

The Book Of Esther teaches us that *God is just as active in the palace as He is in the sanctuary*.

He is just as present in the boardroom as He is in the prayer room.

He is just as involved *in everyday circumstances as He is in extraordinary miracles*.

And the message of Esther is this:

Even when God's name is absent, *GOD'S HAND IS ACTIVE*.

Even when God's voice is silent, *GOD'S PROVIDENCE IS SPEAKING*.

Even when life appears ordinary, *GOD IS WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES
IN ALL THINGS TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE*.

Behind The Scenes, God Is Regulating What Is Allowed

Esther 3:1-2 (NLT)

1 Some time later King Xerxes promoted Haman over all the other nobles, making him the most powerful official in the empire.

2 All the king's officials would bow down before Haman to show him respect whenever he passed by, But Mordecai refused to bow down or show him respect. 5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow down or show him respect, he was filled with rage.

6 He had learned of Mordecai's nationality, so he decided it was not enough to lay hands on Mordecai alone. Instead, he looked for a way to destroy all the Jews throughout the entire empire of Xerxes.

13 Dispatches were sent by swift messengers into all the provinces of the empire, giving the order that all Jews young and old, including women and children—must be killed, slaughtered, and annihilated on a single day. This was scheduled to happen on March 7 of the next year.

In Chapter 3, There is A Plot To Kill All The Jews

Haman is elevated to a powerful and prominent position, and his desire is to eliminate a race of people

The Plot Is In Place ~ The Date Has Been Selected ~ And The Desired Outcome Is Established

But While They Are Plotting God Was Already Positioning ~ Before Haman had a title, Esther had a crown. The enemy thought he was writing the final chapter. He was actually writing into a story God had already begun shaping in chapter 2 — before the threat in chapter 3 even existed.

GOD ALLOWED THE DECREE — BUT HE HAD ALREADY POSITIONED THE DELIVERER.

Behind The Scenes, God Is Regulating What Is Allowed

The Positioning Process Was More Practical Than Religious *Esther 1:2-4, 7-8, 10-12 (NLT)*

2 At that time Xerxes ruled his empire from his royal throne at the fortress of Susa.

3 In the third year of his reign, he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. He invited all the military officers of Persia and Media as well as the princes and nobles of the provinces. 4 The celebration lasted 180 days—a tremendous display of the opulent wealth of his empire and the pomp and splendor of his majesty.

7 Drinks were served in gold goblets of many designs, and there was an abundance of royal wine, reflecting the king's generosity. 8 By edict of the king, no limits were placed on the drinking, for the king had instructed all his palace officials to serve each man as much as he wanted.

10 On the seventh day of the feast, when King Xerxes was in high spirits because of the wine, he told the seven eunuchs who attended him 11 to bring Queen Vashti to him with the royal crown on her head. He wanted the nobles and all the other men to gaze on her beauty, for she was a very beautiful woman.

*12 But when they conveyed the king's order to Queen Vashti, SHE REFUSED TO COME.
This made the king furious, and he burned with anger.*

*God Orchestrates Removal That Made Room For Esther ~ Orchestration vs. Manipulation
He Uses A Drunk King, A Wounded Ego, and A Queen Who Refused To Be Humiliated*

*God Is Not Limited To Religious Means To Accomplish Divine Purpose
God Is Not Concerned About Optics....He Is Concerned About Outcome*

Behind The Scenes, God Is Regulating What Is Allowed

The Positioning Process Was More Practical Than Religious

Esther 2:2-4 (NLT)

2 So his personal attendants suggested, “*Let us search the empire to find beautiful young virgins for the king.*” 3 Let the king appoint agents in each province to bring these beautiful young women into the royal harem at the fortress of Susa.

4 After that, the young woman who most pleases the king will be made queen *instead of Vashti.*”

This advice was very appealing to the king, *SO HE PUT THE PLAN INTO EFFECT.*

God Did Not Use A Church Growth Conference or A Sunday School Seminar To Position Esther

He Used A Beauty Contest ~ The Design Was Natural ~ The Plan Was Supernatural

God Can Use The Broken Systems Of This World To Position Us For Purpose

Although She Had Beauty She Still Needed God's Favor

Esther 2:8-9 (NIV)

8 When the king's order had been proclaimed, many girls were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, 9 The girl pleased him and won his favor.

Esther 2:15 (NIV)

15 When the turn came for Esther to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.

Esther 2:17 (NIV)

17 Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So, he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Behind The Scenes, God Is Preparing For What Is Next

Before Esther Wears A Crown... She Wears Grief

Esther 2:5-7 (NLT)

5 At that time there was a Jewish man in the fortress of Susa whose name was Mordecai son of Jair.

6 His family had been among those who had been exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar.

7 This man had a very beautiful and lovely young cousin, Hadassah, who was also called Esther.

When her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her into his family and raised her as his own daughter.

*What Looks Like **A Season Of Constant Loss** Is Often The Hand Of God **Writing A Script For Your Success**
God Does Not Waste Broken Seasons... He Uses Them For Preparation*

*God Was Preparing Esther **In The Midst Of Grief**, By Establishing **A Strong Relationship With Mordecai**
*Esther 2:20 (NLT)**

20 Esther continued to keep her family background and nationality a secret.

She was still following Mordecai's directions, just as she did when she lived in his home.

Esther 4:13-14 (NLT)

13 Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. 14 If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die.

Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"

God Established A Bond Before He Opened A Door ~ God Sent The Person For The Purpose

Behind The Scenes, God Is Fighting Battles You Can't See

Esther 3:5-6 (NLT)

*5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow down or show him respect, he was filled with rage. 6 He had learned of Mordecai's nationality, so he decided it was not enough to lay hands on Mordecai alone. Instead, he looked for a way to **DESTROY ALL THE JEWS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE EMPIRE OF XERXES.***

*There is a moment in every great season of conflict, where you realize **THE BATTLE IS BIGGER THAN YOU THOUGHT!***

*What Looks Like **A Personal Battle** Between Haman and Mordecai **URNS OUT TO BE SPIRITUAL WARFARE***

*What Appears To Be **Political** Is Actually **Spiritual**
*This Is A Satanic Assault on The Bloodline of the Messiah**

*This Is Why God Works Behind The Scene To Keep His Covenant Promise
*He Was Protecting His Redemptive Plan**

*To Accomplish His Purpose God Has To Arrange Circumstances and **Orchestrate Events**
TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY'S PLAN*

Behind The Scenes, God Is Fighting Battles...

When God Is Fighting Unseen Battles, He Orchestrates Some....

“Just Happened Moments”

Esther 2:21-23 (NLT)

21 One day as Mordecai was on duty at the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, who were guards at the door of the king's private quarters—became angry at King Xerxes and plotted to assassinate him.

22 But Mordecai heard about the plot and gave the information to Queen Esther.

She then told the king about it and gave Mordecai credit for the report.

23 When an investigation was made and Mordecai's story was found to be true, the two men were impaled on a sharpened pole. This was all recorded in The Book of the History of King Xerxes' Reign.

Mordecai Just Happen To Overhear A Conversation

Esther 6:1-3 (NLT)

1 That night the king had trouble sleeping, so he ordered an attendant to bring the book of the history of his reign so it could be read to him. 2 In those records he discovered an account of how Mordecai had exposed the plot of Bigthana and Teresh. They had plotted to assassinate King Xerxes. 3 “What reward or recognition did we ever give Mordecai for this?” the king asked. His attendants replied, “Nothing has been done for him.”

*The King Just Happened To Not Be Able To Sleep
The Attendants Just Happened To Read The Story Of Mordecai*

Behind The Scenes, God Is Fighting Battles...

When God Is Fighting Unseen Battles, He Orchestrates Some....

“Just Happened Moments”

Esther 6:4-10 (NLT)

4 “Who is that in the outer court?” the king inquired. *As it happened*, Haman had just arrived in the outer court of the palace to ask the king to impale Mordecai on the pole he had prepared.

5 So the attendants replied to the king, “*Haman is out in the court.*” “*Bring him in,*” the king ordered.

6 So Haman came in, and the king said, “What should I do to honor a man who truly pleases me?”

Haman thought to himself, “Whom would the king wish to honor more than me?”

7 So he replied, “If the king wishes to honor someone, 8 he should bring out one of the king’s own royal robes, as well as a horse that the king himself has ridden—one with a royal emblem on its head.

9 Let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king’s most noble officials. And let him see that the man whom the king wishes to honor is dressed in the king’s robes and led through the city square on the king’s horse. Have the official shout as they go, ‘This is what the king does for someone he wishes to honor!’”

10 “Excellent!” the king said to Haman. “Quick! Take the robes and my horse, and do just as you have said **FOR MORDECAI THE JEW**, who sits at the gate of the palace. Leave out nothing you have suggested!”

Haman Just Happened To Come Into The Court At The Time

What He Meant For Evil ~ God Worked For Good

We Call It Coincidence ~ We Call It Luck ~ We Call It Being In The Right Place At The Right Time

But It Is Called ~ Divine Providence

Behind The Scenes, God Is Producing Something Inside

Esther 2:7 (NIV)

7 Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features...

Esther 2:17 (NLT)

17 And the king loved Esther more than any of the other young women.

He was so delighted with her that he set the royal crown on her head and declared her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther got the position of queen BECAUSE OF HER BEAUTY...

Her exterior opened the door...

The same door that beauty opened, BEAUTY ALONE could not keep her standing in...

There was a moment when ESTHER'S PURPOSE DEMANDED MORE than her appearance

Esther 4:13-17 (NLT)

13 Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. 14 If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die.

Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"

15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

16 "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day.

My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king.

IF I MUST DIE, I MUST DIE."

YOU CAN HAVE THE POSITION, AND STILL BE PASSIVE, AND NOT FULFILL YOUR PURPOSE

Behind The Scenes, God Is Producing Something Inside

Esther 4:16-17 (NLT)

16 "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. IF I MUST DIE, I MUST DIE."

ESTHER WAS BORN WITH BEAUTY ~ ESTHER'S COURAGE HAD TO BE CULTIVATED

God was building the courage on the inside, not for position, but for Purpose

She Did Not Go To The King On The Strength Of Her Beauty

She spent time praying and fasting for Internal Strength To Take Action

There Will Be A Moment When Position Is Challenged By Purpose

Esther 7:2-4 (NIV)

2 And as they were drinking wine on that 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, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, 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 for destruction and slaughter and annihilation. 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."

GOD IS NOT JUST INTERESTED IN GETTING YOU THE POSITION ~ THERE IS A BIGGER PURPOSE

In Conclusion....

When The Journey Gets Frustrating...Remind Yourself

Behind The Scenes, God Is Regulating What Is Allowed

Behind The Scenes, God Is Preparing You For What Is Next

Behind The Scenes, God Is Fighting Battles You Can't See

Behind The Scenes, God Is Producing Proven Character

Behind The Scenes, God Is Producing Humility In You

With God All Things Are Possible



Kingdom Construction Campaign

Above And Beyond ~ Sunday, July 5th