

Esther 8

Jesus

Psalm 7:15 [Of the wicked] 16 His trouble shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing **shall come down on his own crown.**

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

- Mordecai honored instead of Haman
- King hears of Haman's plan to kill Jews
- Haman hung own backyard on gallows he built for Mordecai

Problem? Law of Medes/Persians to kill Jews can't be changed. Now what?

I. Plan to Save the Jews

1 **On that day** King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. 2 So the **king took off his signet ring**, which he had **taken from Haman**, and gave it to Mordecai...

- **Day Haman is executed...**
 1. **Queen Esther** Inherits Haman's house
 2. **Mordecai** Inherits Haman's title
- Everything Haman put his hope in given to his enemies

Proverbs 13:22 ... the **wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.**

Ecclesiastes 2:26 to the sinner [God] gives the work of gathering/collecting, that he may **give to him who is good before God.**

- King now knows both Esther/Mordechai are Jews
- **Mordecai man of God:** 2nd most powerful man Persia; i.e., in the world

Should Christians be involved in Government/Politics? God thinks so...

1. Joseph raised up by Pharaoh in Egypt Dungeon to Palace
2. Daniel raised up Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon Slave to a Prince...

Daniel 2:48 [Nebuchadnezzar]... **promoted Daniel** and gave him many great gifts; and he **made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon**, and chief administrator over **all the wise men of Babylon**. [Dan helps his fellow believers get a gov job] 49 Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon... [Then Darius the Mede]

- **Blood bought Christians in Government?**
 1. Mike Pence VP.
 2. Ted Cruz may argue Texas ballot fraud case before Supreme Court; etc.
- **Mordecai God's man now** 2nd most powerful man in world...

2b... and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.

- **Mordecai** 2nd most powerful **man**
- **Esther** 2nd most powerful *person* appoints Mordecai as butler over her new home...

3 Now Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored him with tears to **counteract the evil of Haman the Agagite**, and the scheme which he had devised against the Jews. 4 And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king, 5 and said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to **revoke** the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to annihilate the Jews who are in all the king's provinces. 6 For how can I endure to see the evil that will come to my people? Or **how can I endure to see the destruction of my countrymen?**"

How could I endure to see my people destroyed?

John 13:35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love for one another**.

What does the unsaved world see as they look in the window of a church?

- **Do they see their own reflection?**
 1. Fear?
 2. Competition?
 3. Pride?
 4. Posturing?
 5. Infighting?

2 Corinthians 12:20 ... I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish... lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbiting's, whisperings, conceits, tumults

Many people claim to "follow Christ" but what does that mean?
What separates Christians from the world is our **unselfish love** for one another...

1 John 4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, **he is a liar**; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

1 Peter 4:8 ...above all things have **fervent love** for one another...

Illogical/Counterintuitive Crazy Love for One Another

Philippians 2:3 [A love that where nothing [is] done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind [esteeming] **others better than [ourselves]**].

- Paul/Esther/Jesus had this sacrificial love for their brethren **about to perish...**

Romans 9:33 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh

- **Esther has this fervent/crazy love...**

How can I endure to see the destruction of my people?

Request: Revoke the Decree to Murder the Jews

- **Problem:** Law of Medes/Persians **cannot be revoked**

7 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "Indeed, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows because he tried to lay his hand on the Jews. 8 You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring; for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring **no one can revoke.**"

- **Cannot be revoked...must be counteracted**

1. King gives complete oversight to Mordecai/Esther
2. **Instructions:** Write another decree to offset decree to kill Jews

- King trusted them because they were faithful...

Proverbs 20:6 Most men will proclaim... his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?

Proverbs 28:20 A faithful man will abound with blessings.

9 So the king's scribes were called at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day; and it was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded, to the Jews, the satraps, the governors, and the princes of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, one hundred and twenty-seven provinces in all, to every province in its own script, to every people in their own language, and to the Jews in their own script and language. 10 And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, sealed it with the king's signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on horseback, riding on royal horses bred from swift steeds.

Time is growing short...

1. **Scribes called** Persian attorneys to get wording correct.
Amir/Amir/Amir
2. **Mortdecai takes lead** Concocts the plan led invisible God whose Name absent
3. **Recipients** Common Jews, Mayors, Governors 127 Provinces
4. **Seals it w/King's Ring** Irrevocable: Sent by King's race horse throughout world

What was in the new decree? How could Haman's plan be thwarted/counteracted?

11 By these letters the king permitted the Jews who were in every city to gather together and **protect their lives**—to destroy, kill, and annihilate all

the forces of any people or province that would assault them, both little children and women, and to **plunder their possessions**, 12 on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. 13 A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province and published for all people, so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies. 14 The couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Shushan the citadel.

- **Jews still think doomed:** Hear sound of horses galloping into town!

It is awesome when God breaks through/When we hear the sound of Royal Horses galloping in to our rescue...God intervening. God is always faithful as we wait on Him! [NJC]

Psalm 27:14 Wait on the Lord; Be of **good courage**, And **He shall strengthen** your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!

- **Enemy will attack:** 13th day Month **Adar**
- **Permission for Jews to fight back** w/out government interference

15 So Mordecai **went out** from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the **city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad**.

Mordecai Stepped out in the victory and authority given to him by the King
The world should see a Courageous/Victorious people as they look in the window of a church

John 16:33 ... in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, **I have overcome the world**.

1 John 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Fear is not a good look for a blood-bought saint and follower of the risen Christ. In order to overcome fear, you must take action in the heart/mind: Make God bigger than your fear. The same extent that you magnify God will be the extent you will minimize fear. [NJC]

Psalm 34:3 Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.

Psalm 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

- Who are you allowing to occupy the throne of your mind/heart? God or fear

1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—**our faith**.

- **Dressed for Victory:** Faith that God will prevail

Arrayed in Blue/White/Purple with GREAT Crown. Like Jiffy Pop-Popcorn

- His courage is infectious/contagious...as is fear
- His excitement intoxicating...as is fear

**What is it we want to spread? Have people catch? Infect people with...fear?
Or Courage, Excitement and Joy over what Jesus has done/is going to do?**

- City rejoiced and was glad **and it spread...** throughout Yelm, Lacey, Tacoma

16 The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor.

- These traits should exemplify Jesus blood-bought bride...
 1. Light/Revelation/lifting of heaviness
 2. Gladness
 3. Joy
 4. **Honor:** heb. *yek·är'* price, value, precious in the sight of God. Knowing who they were

Everything the world is searching for. Looking for love in all the wrong places.
Looking for life among dead stuff

Isaiah 8:19 ...when they say to you, "Seek those who are **mediums and wizards**, who whisper and mutter," **should not a people seek their God?** Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? 20 To the law and to the testimony [Word of God]! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because **there is no light in them.** 21 They will pass through it [the world] **hard-pressed and hungry**; and it shall happen, when they are hungry, that they will be enraged and curse their king and their God, and **look upward.** 22 Then they will look to the earth, and see trouble and darkness, gloom of anguish; and **they will be driven into darkness.**

Curse God/Curse World...no one left to curse/blame?

Definition of a radically discontent humanity. Why? A. We hold on to our sin

Isaiah 59:10 We grope for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if we had no eyes; We stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are as dead men in desolate places. 11 We all **growl like bears**, And **moan sadly like doves**; We look for justice, but there is none; For salvation, but it is far from us. 12 For our transgressions are multiplied before You, And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, And as for our iniquities, we know them

- **World looks for light in darkness/Life among dead stuff**
 1. New Age/Scientology/Eastern Religion
 2. Pills/Needles/Lines/Drinks/Tokes
 3. Perversion/Illicit Pleasure/Sinful behavior **just to feel something**

Nothing will satisfy...Driven into darkness by own lusts. Drinking salt water?

Luke 24:5 [Angels to women at tomb] ... Why do you seek the living among the dead?

- Just trying fill some hole...

Jeremiah 2:13 For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.

- **Only the Living Water** of Jesus Christ will satisfy completely/no regret...

Isaiah 9:1 [Only Hope] Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed... 2 The people who walked in darkness **Have seen a great light**; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined... **6 For unto us a Child is born**, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- God knows we're born looking for something to fill us/make us complete

John 6:35 ... **I am** the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me **shall never thirst**.

John 8:12 **I am** the light of the world. He who follows Me shall **not walk in darkness**, but have the light of life."

World is looking for life, light, gladness in all wrong places
Found only in relationship with Jesus **begins with repentance...**

Isaiah 1:18 [We plead] Come now, and let us reason together, Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."

- **World needs to repent**

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing may come** from the presence of the Lord,

Maybe some Churches/Pastors need to repent for a time of refreshing?
Repent of Fear/Compromise/Appeasement/Lack of faith/Laying their trip on congregation?

17 And in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews **had joy and gladness**, a feast and a holiday.

- **Everywhere the Kings Word** went by Mordecai [Picture of Holy Spirit] **there was...**
 1. Light
 2. Gladness
 3. Joy
 4. Honor
- **What does the world see as they look in the windows of churches today?**
 1. **Fear...**or Light, Gladness, Joy and Honor
 2. **Doom/Gloom...** or a Feast and Holiday to the Lord.

**The Church needs to bring the Kings Word to the People
Deliver the Kings Word with the power of the Holy Spirit...**

17b... Then many of the people of the land **became Jews**, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.

**The world saw God's people being God's people...and they were different
When the church is the church...people will notice/want what we have...Jesus**

SUMMARY Plan to Save the Jews: King gives the Jews permission to defend themselves from slaughter. Ready for victory trusting in a Big God.