

SOVEREIGNTY IN SIN AND SUFFERING

Esther 2:1-18

From Pastor Phillip

On the surface, Esther 2 might sound like a fairy-tale. A beautiful Jewish lady is chosen by the rich King of Persia to be his Queen. However, on closer inspection, Esther 2 is a nightmare filled with great sin and suffering. We might wonder: “Is God still in control and does he still care for his people?” Answer: God is and he does. God’s sovereignty over sin and suffering means believers can experience security and peace no matter their circumstances.

I. God is Sovereign over Sin (vv.1-4)

- A. God is sovereign over others’ sin
- B. God is sovereign over our sin
- C. God is not the author of sin

II. God is Sovereign over Suffering (vv.5-18)

Esther was:

- A. Exiled (vv.5-6)
- B. Orphaned (v.7)
- C. Kidnapped (vv.8-11)
- D. Exploited (vv.12-18)

III. The Good News of God’s Sovereignty

- A. God’s sovereignty is a fortress
- B. God’s sovereignty is a pillow

TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

1. What was one thing about today’s sermon that surprised you? What was one thing that encouraged you?
2. What temptations must we guard against when we suffer as a result of someone else’s sin? How can we be faithful even in such difficult situations?
3. Esther and Mordecai were imperfect and perhaps even disobedient, but the Lord still used them instead of disregarding them. How do you feel about this? Is it any less true for us?
4. What attitudes can we typically have in the midst of suffering?
5. How are you encouraged when you reflect on the truth that God is sovereign over suffering? How should this truth influence our attitudes about suffering?
6. What signs of God’s sovereignty have you seen in your life?

FOR NEXT TIME— 1 Samuel 1, Ruth 1, Titus 2:3-5, *3 Portraits of Motherhood*