

Study 6 Esther Notes – Letting God be in Control

Scripture references:

Esther Chapter 1 thru Chapter 8

Notes from the video:

- The story of Esther – Esther was an orphan who was chosen to be queen. Esther was being raised by Mordecai who took her as his own daughter after her mother and father died (2:7). The scripture tells us Esther was very beautiful (2:7) and that she was one of the maiden's chosen to be taken to the palace under the care of Hegai, who was over the maiden's being brought to the palace as king Ahauerus searched for a new queen (2:8). Esther is chosen by the king to be queen (2:17) as the king loved Esther above all the other women. Esther must try to save the Jewish people when a decree is issued by Haman to destroy the Jews. Mordecai reminds Esther just because she is in the palace this will not protect her from the death decree and that if she won't stand for her people, God will find someone who will. The main theme of the story is God is in control and He is with us. We have to trust in our powerful God.
- Esther did 5 things:
 1. She prayed – for 3 days Esther and the Jewish people prayed and fasted as Esther prepared to go speak to the king. (4:16)
 2. She was willing to perish – Esther came to the mindset that she would go see the king and that if she died then she died. (4:16)
 3. She prepared – In Esther 5:1-2, it tells us that she puts on her royal robes and plans to go and approach the king.
 4. She planned – Esther 5:3-6 tells us once the king allows Esther to speak, she invites the king and Haman to a feast.
 5. She was patient – Esther 5:7-8, tells us that in her spirit Esther feels she needs to wait before telling the king what has taken place. Esther does not plead the case of the Jewish people at the first feast, but waits and invites the king and Haman to a second feast. Esther waits on God's timing.
- God is in control all the time – In verse 5:14, we see Haman is being led astray by his friends and family, encouraging him to build gallows to hang Mordecai on. That same night though, the king cannot sleep and reads the history and is reminded that Mordecai saved his life (6:1-2). At the second dinner Esther makes her request know to

the king, the Jewish people are saved, and Haman is hung on the gallows he built for Mordecai. We have to give God space and time to work on the things we are waiting on.

- An Ephesians 3:20 moment – We have to understand there is a difference in knowing God is in control and trusting God to be in control. Our security has to be in God and we have to realize He is in control. Your trials, losses, and sufferings are meant to point you to God. No one is immune to storms and trials but these things remind us God is in control and these things here on earth are only temporary. It is God that goes beyond what we can even think or pray for. Not our will but God's will. God can do greater things if we will trust Him and through your weakness others will see God working in you.

Key thoughts

- God knows He is your greatest need, and when you have Him, you can have faith and courage in the midst of the storm.
- If God did not use people with weaknesses, He would have no one to use.
- From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible tells the story of our God who is in control.
- Esther is not the hero of her story, and we are not the heroes of ours. God is the hero of every story!