

Calling All Heroes!

Our Text: **Esther 8:1-6** *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. So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.*

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. And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king, 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. 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?"

Esther 8:15 *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.*

As we remember from our last study, one big problem was out of the way . . .
HAMAN WAS DEAD!!!

But sadly, **HIS EDICT OF EXTERMINATING THE JEWS WAS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE!!!**

Isn't this the truth? Long after wicked people are gone, the consequences of their evil words and deeds still live on. **Even today, innocent people are suffering because of guilty people who are lying in their graves!**

Just think about Roe v. Wade . . . January of this year (2021) made the 48th anniversary of this murderous law against the unborn in 1973:

The decision involved the case of a woman named Norma McCorvey—known in her lawsuit under the pseudonym "Jane Roe"—who in 1969 became pregnant with her third child. McCorvey wanted an abortion, but she lived in Texas, where abortion was illegal except when necessary to save the mother's life. She was referred to lawyers Sarah Weddington and Linda Coffee, who filed a lawsuit on her behalf in U.S. federal court against her local district attorney, Henry Wade, alleging that Texas's abortion laws were unconstitutional. A three-judge panel of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas heard the case and ruled in her favor. Texas then appealed this ruling directly to the U.S. Supreme Court, which agreed to hear the case.

In January 1973, the Supreme Court issued a 7–2 decision ruling that the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides a "right to privacy" that protects a pregnant woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion. But it also ruled that this right is not absolute, and must be balanced against

the government's interests in protecting women's health and protecting prenatal life. The Court resolved this balancing test by tying state regulation of abortion to the three trimesters of pregnancy: during the first trimester, governments could not prohibit abortions at all; during the second trimester, governments could require reasonable health regulations; during the third trimester, abortions could be prohibited entirely so long as the laws contained exceptions for cases when they were necessary to save the life or health of the mother.

And since that grievous ruling, **62,939,830 BABIES HAVE BEEN MURDERED UNDER SANCTION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT!!!** *(To put this into context these babies would be equivalent to 21.31% of the US population today!)*

Now, back to the Book of Esther . . . Unless someone intervened, within nine months the Persians would attack the Jews and wipe them off the face of the earth!

- There were about fifteen million Jews among the estimated one hundred million people in the empire.
- ***(That is about 24% of the amount of aborted babies, AND IF GOD CARES ABOUT THE JEWS DOES HE NOT CARE ABOUT THE BABIES?!)***
- Therefore, the odds were definitely against God's people.

Of course, God's people have always been a minority . . . **BUT ONE PERSON WITH GOD IS THE MAJORITY!!!**

The Lord had brought Esther and Mordecai to the kingdom "***for such a time as this***", and now they were prepared to act!

Let's dive in here . . .

Calling Person 1 . . . Mordecai!

Esther 8:1-2 *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. So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.*

Esther 8:15 *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.*

According to the ancient historians, whenever a traitor was executed, the throne appropriated his property. Had Ahasuerus confiscated Haman's property for himself, he would have acquired a great deal of wealth, but he chose to give Haman's estate to Esther.

This was more than an act of generosity . . . This gift was probably the king's way of atoning for his foolish decisions that had brought so much pain to Esther and her people. Although we don't know what Esther did with all of that wealth, it's possible that she later shared some of it with the Jews so they could prepare themselves for the coming crisis.

Now, Ahasuerus knew that both Esther and Mordecai were Jews . . . But here he was to learn that they were also cousins! **What a trip! Why? Because now Ahasuerus and Mordecai were relatives by marriage!**

Remember who the king originally gave that ring to?

Esther 3:3 *So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.*

Now since Haman's hand was cold and dead, Ahasuerus had taken his ring back, and here he decides to put it on Mordecai's hand, **WHICH MADE MORDECAI THE PRIME MINISTER!**

So now let's look at King Ahasuerus' circle of influence:

- He was married to a Jewish queen.
- And he had a Jewish prime minister in the palace.
- In fact, the Jews in the empire were in a better political position than ever before.
- Esther then gave the management of Haman's vast estate into the hands of Mordecai, who had first opposed Haman and refused to bow down.
- ***IS THERE ANY DOUBT THAT GOD HAD HIS HAND IN ALL OF THIS?!***

Were it not for Mordecai's courage and encouragement of Esther, Haman would still be in a position of power . . . **BUT THIS MADE IT CLEAR THAT GOD IS IN ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGN CONTROL!!!**

He always is in control, but sometimes we just need to be patient as He works His plans in His timing, and He will take care of the wicked:

Psalms 37:34–36 *Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, And spreading himself like a native green tree. Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more; Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found.*

The king also made sure that Mordecai had a uniform worthy of his office, and it's described in very 15:

Esther 8:15 *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.*

No longer did Mordecai wear old, borrowed robes, but he now wore new robes prepared especially for him in the official royal colors that were blue and white:

Esther 1:6 ***There were white and blue linen curtains*** fastened with cords of fine linen and purple on silver rods and marble pillars; and the couches were of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of alabaster, ***turquoise, and white*** and black marble.

Many scholars believe that the “**golden crown**” was probably in the form of a large turban (*since they were a Persian province*) that identified Mordecai as an important man of great authority.

Everything that Haman had craftily acquired from the king by his scheming,
MORDECAI RECEIVED AS GIFTS!!!

At the beginning of this story, Esther and Mordecai were hardly exemplary in the way they practiced their religious faith, but now we get the impression that things have changed.

- Both of them have affirmed their Jewish nationality.
- And both were calling all the Jews in the empire to prayer and fasting.
- In one sense, they spearheaded a Jewish “**revival**”!

We have to be real though . . . God doesn’t always give this kind of a “*fairytale ending*” to everybody’s story.

- Today, not all faithful Christians are promoted and given special honors.
- Some of us get fired because of their stand for Christ!
- God hasn’t promised that we’ll be promoted and made rich . . .
- **But He has assured us that He’s in control of all circumstances and that He will write the last chapter of the story. After all, if God doesn’t promote us here on earth, He certainly will when we get to glory!**

Calling Person 2 . . . Esther!

Esther 8:3-6 *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. And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king, 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. 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?”*

Wealth, prestige, and personal security could never satisfy Esther. (*Nor should it ever satisfy us.*) **As long as her people were still in danger, there was still work to be done!**

I like how Warren Wiersbe said it, “**How unlike some believers today who ignore the needs of a lost world while they search for new ways to spend money and have fun! They think that attending church and bringing their offerings fulfill their Christian responsibilities and give them the freedom to do whatever they**

please with the rest of their time and money. We need more people like Esther, whose burden for condemned people was greater than any other thing in her life.

Jacob Stam once prayed, ***“Lord, the only thing most of us know about sacrifice is how to spell the word.”***

MAY WE NEVER FORGET THAT!!!

The hymn, So Send I You, has been called the greatest missionary hymn of the twentieth century. The hymn has been labelled by many evangelical leaders as the finest missionary hymn of the twentieth century. It was first published in 1954 after having been written sixteen years earlier by a Canadian school teacher, Margaret Clarkson.

“Margaret Clarkson, who was born in 1915, was a teacher in a gold-mining camp in northern Ontario, Canada. It was a lonely life for this woman, but she also knew that this is where God wanted her to serve Him. She had a great desire to be a missionary on a foreign field but because of her health was unable to go. One day she was reading again the verse John 20:21, “Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” While meditating on this verse she wrote the words to a hymn that has become a favorite during missionary conferences, “So Send I You.”

“In 1935 teaching jobs were so scarce that I had to take my first job as a teacher in a lumber camp some 1400 miles from home, out in the Rainy River District of northwestern Ontario. From there I moved to the gold mining camp of Kirkland Lake, 450 miles north of Toronto. In all, I spent seven years in the north. I experienced loneliness of every kind; mental, cultural, but particularly spiritual, for in all of those seven years I never found real Christian fellowship – churches were modern and born-again Christians almost non-existent.

I was studying the Word one night and meditating on the loneliness of my situation and came in my reading to John 20, and the words ‘So send I you’. Because of a physical disability I knew that I could never go to the mission field, but God seemed to tell me that night that this was my mission field, and this was where He had sent me. I was then twenty-three, in my third year of teaching. I had written and published verse all of my life, so it was natural to put my thoughts into verse.”

So Send I You

*So send I you to labor unrewarded,
To serve unpaid, unloved, unsought, unknown,
To bear rebuke, to suffer scorn and scoffing-
So send I you to toil for Me alone.*

*So send I you to bind the bruised and broken,
O'er wand'ring souls to work, to weep, to wake,
To bear the burdens of a world aweary-
So send I you to suffer for My sake.*

*So send I you to loneliness and longing,
With heart ahung'ring for the loved and known,
Forsaking home and kindred, friend and dear one-
So send I you to know My love alone.*

*So send I you to leave your life's ambition,
To die to dear desire, self-will resign,
To labor long, and love where men revile you-
So send I you to lose your life in Mine.*

*So send I you to hearts made hard by hatred,
To eyes made blind because they will not see,
To spend, tho' it be blood, to spend and spare not-
So send I you to taste of Calvary.*

Now Esther couldn't do everything, but she could do something, and what she could do, she did! (And so can we!) What did she do? SHE APPROACHED THE THRONE OF THE KING!!!

She simply asked him to reverse the edict that Haman had implemented!

- It was her interceding at the throne that saved the people of Israel from slaughter.
- She was asking nothing for herself, except that the king save her people and deliver her from the heavy burden on her heart.

Paul's heart for his people disclosed this same truth when he prayed:

Romans 9:1-3 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

- On Mount Carmel, Elijah prayed for disobedient Israel. (*1 Kings 18*)
- In the palace, Nehemiah prayed for the Jews in Jerusalem. (*Nehemiah 1*)
- Ezra wept and prayed and asked God to help His sinful people. (*Ezra 9*)
- Daniel humbled himself and fasted and prayed that he might understand what God's plan was for Israel. (*Daniel 9*).

Isaiah 62:6-7 I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Psalms 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

“There can be no peace in this world until there is peace in Jerusalem, and there can be no peace in Jerusalem unless God’s people obey this command and pray, “Thy kingdom come.””

I want to end with a quote from Evangelist R. A. Torrey, ***“It was a master stroke of the Devil when he got the church and the ministry so generally to lay aside the mighty weapon of prayer. The Devil is perfectly willing that the church should multiply its organizations and its deftly-contrived machinery for the conquest of the world for Christ, if it will only give up praying.”***

Let’s pray . . .