

Peripety

I. Announce:

- A. **Slide#1 Concert this Sun** - For King & Country.
 1. **General Admission** - \$15, doors open at 6:00 pm. **VIP Tickets** - \$20.
 2. Tickets will be available after all services this Sun. Available at door **but** increase \$3.
- B. **Slide#2 Israel 2014** - March 21- April 1.

II. Slide#3 Intro:

- A. **Peripety** - a sudden turn of events that **reverse** the expected or intended outcome.
 1. The **Tables Turn** in this chapter. A **Hinge**. A **Reversal**. A **Peripety**.
- B. This book would make a wonder movie! *“Suspense, drama, mystery, plot, good guy w/white hat, bad guy w/black hat, pretty lady, powerful King, ...etc.”*

III. Slide#4 A KINGS INSOMNIA (1-3)

- A. **Insomnia** - *Sleepless in Seattle/Susa*. [The king asks, *read me a bedtime story*. Ha]
 1. Sleeplessness can equal **God's providence**.
 2. It might be similar to us waking up & doing email? **Or**, reading over an old journal.
 - a) Yet its because **God wants to speak to us** about something.
- B. **Again, Providence** at its finest.
 1. **Slide#5 LXX** - *But the Lord withdrew sleep from the king that night*.
 2. **Behind the scenes: God** gave the king Insomnia; Led the Chronicler to the record about Mordecai; & also had Haman arrive at just the right time.
 - a) **Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep**. Ps.121:4
 3. Interesting, that while God was doing this all behind the scenes, Esther, Mordecai, & all the Jews had no clue this was going on.
 - a) **Today God is still working behind the scenes...on your behalf!**
 - b) **Slide#6 Stop** asking, **why aren't there more miracles today?** And **Start** asking, **how did God work in my seemingly ordinary events today?**
 4. **Slide#7,8** The word **God** doesn't appear in Esther, **but** it screams *a monotheistic worldview* in its 10 chapters.
 - a) The author is suggesting that beneath the surface of human decisions & action is an **unseen & uncontrollable power at work, which can neither be explained nor thwarted.**¹
 - (1) Remember in an **ancient polytheistic culture**, the gods controlled fate.

¹ Karen Jobes, The NIV Application Commentary, pg.158.

- (2) Human affairs could be turned upside down if 1 god overpowered another.
- (3) The author, by divine inspiration, is trying to explain how God rules.
- (4) God **had used** mighty miracles to deliver his people. **In Esther**, God uses **ordinary events** of life to bring about his covenant promises to his people.

(a) Or look at it this way...any deity worth his salt can do a miracle now & then. Our God is so great, so powerful, that He can work w/o miracles through ordinary events of billions of human lives through millennia of time to accomplish His eternal purposes & ancient promises.

God delivered an entire race of people in Persia because the king had a sleepless night, because a man would not bow to his superior, because a woman found herself taken to the bedroom of a ruthless man for a night of pleasure.² Karen Jobes

b) How did you come to meet your spouse? Why are you living in the place you are? What circumstances led to your current job? Wouldn't you agree...tiny miracles of God's providence direct your steps?

C. (3) **In saving the king's life, Mordecai saved his own.**

1. Ever think of all the male children under the age of 2 that **gave their lives, for the 2 year old** that would one day save there's?

2. Remember, Mordecai was overlooked! - He was not appreciated at the time, **but maybe** there was a reason for it?

a) **Not maybe...Absolutely!** There was a reason!

b) See, God not only **won't** but **can't** forget any good deed or **work & labor of love!**

D. **Slide#9** When things are **darkest** look for **rays of light** to come bursting forth.

1. There are many beauties in our sky that would never be seen if it were always light.

IV. **Slide#10 PINNACLE OF PRIDE (4-9)**

A. **Slide#11,12** Haman had to be **whistling** to work that morning.

1. **Think about it.** **Night before**, invited over to the King & Queen's for dinner. **Today** Mordecai's going to hang. **Tonight...**let me check my day planner, or yah, invited again to dinner with the King & Queen.

B. **Slide#13a** Haman hated **Mordecai!** **So much so**, he **got up early** to ask for his enemy's life!

C. **Slide#13b** Haman loved **Haman!** **So much so**, he was blinded to the fact that there could be anyone else, in the **entire kingdom**, who deserved being honored by the king...beside himself!

D. **Slide#14 (6b)** (Fenelon, 17th century archbishop, Devotional called "*Let Go*") "**Humility** is the source of all true greatness: **pride** is ever impatient, ready to be offended. He who thinks nothing is due him, never thinks himself ill-treated."

² ibid. Pg.159,160.

E. Haman shows us *how to trip over your own pride!*

V. Slide#15 HUMILIATING, BUT NOT HUMBLING (10-14)

- A. (10) If you listened closely I believe you could have heard *Haman's Jaw hit the floor!*
- B. Slide#16 *Let me set this up...* To show his appreciation of you the President of the U.S. says you can use *Marine One* for the day... *Where would you take it?*
1. *I'd have them* land on *our softball field* & run into my office... "*just picking something up.*" - *Then* I'd do lunch at Ruth Chris in San Diego & have them land it on the USS Midway. - *Wrap up with* a *White House lawn* landing.
 2. *But, lets see how Mordecai handles it.*
- C. Slide#17 (11) *How humiliating for Haman* - He had to **dress** him, **crown** him, **mount** him on the horse, & then **parade** him throughout the city!
1. I especially would have love to hear him proclaim (*mumbling*) "*Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!*"
 - a) *It must have been like gravel* in his mouth.
 - b) *Ironic* – The very man trying to hang Mordecai must now **honor** him.
 2. Slide#18 *The humble man* sees life through **eyeglasses**, that he looks through to give him **clear & correct vision** in order to see **others & their needs**.
 3. *The Proudful man* sees life through **a mirror**, that he looks into in which he **only sees himself**.
 - a) Was **Abram** looking through **eyeglasses** or into a **mirror** when he said to Lot *Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left?*
 - b) Was **Lot** looking through **eyeglasses** or into a **mirror** when he, *lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan?* Gen.13:9-11
 - c) *Today, which did you have before your eyes? Eyeglasses or a mirror?*
- D. Slide#19 As for Mordecai he saw Prov.27:2 lived out before his eyes, *Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.*
- E. It goes to show you... "You can seek recognition, or you can let recognition seek you!" :)
 1. Never forget... *God has your address!*
- F. (12) *Back to the king's gate* –
1. *1st we note*, if he's going back to the gate. *Then* that's where he was bright & early that morning. - *So*, Mordecai didn't stay in bed sick that day, *nor* hide in his closet.

2. **And interestingly enough**, he was obviously **able to sleep** that evening, **while** he heard the pounding of the hammers late into the night, **constructing his own gallows!** He then rose & went to work early the next morning. [like in Acts 12, **Peter sleeping** in prison, knowing the next day could have been his death. The angel had to strike him to wake him]
 3. **Also, He doesn't say**: "**Drop me off in the kings court, or on my street, nor on the other side of town**" - Instead, he says, "**just drop me off back where I was.**"
 - a) He can tell his friends & family later what had happened.
 - b) **Humility** returns to the kings gate, **Pride** wants to dance on the Kings Porch. (imagine Mordecai shouting... "**just returning your horse Mr.King**")
- G. (12b) Haman felt so low *I think he slid under the front door when he got home.*
1. Haman went from a "proud peacock w/tail feather extensions", to a "whipped dog w/ his tail between his legs"!
- H. (13) Oh, Haman forgot to ever mention to king Xerxes, nor his wife & friends he sought counsel from, the race to wipe out **the Jews**. [3:8 *There is a certain people...*]
1. Zeresh says, *oh husband of mine, that changes everything...you're going down!*
 2. Zeresh couldn't have paraphrased Gen.12:3 any better **I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you.**
 3. It's good for the U.S. to be "*friends of Israel*"...**Happy our administration is once again working with Israel. I pray we will remain that way!**
- I. **Slide#20** (14) Even after a **Rude Awakening from Providence & a Radical Warning** from his wife & wise friends, there was **still no repentance or turning back.**
1. "**Hatred had claimed squatters rights** in his soul".
- J. **Slide#21,22** "The mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceedingly fine!"
1. When you have **coffee ground** they'll ask, how fine/course? [actually 7 levels] **French Press**(coarse); **Drip**(medium) **Espresso**(fine); **Turkish**(very very fine) [Kosovo]
 - a) Haman is about to become *Turkish Grind* in the next chapter!
 2. (Old English couplet) "**Still as of old, man by himself is priced, For 30 pieces of silver Judas sold himself...not Christ!**"
 3. In life we see both the **good & bad** both *being ground!*
 - a) Gods mill grinds both the **Wheat & the Chaff!**
 - b) I'm sure if the **Wheat grain** could talk it would be screaming as its being let down the shoot into the grinder yelling, **why me?** **So why?** So it might be a blessing to **the one that grew it, &** for it to be a blessing and nourishment for **others!**
 - c) The **Chaff** is ground up **& yet** is only good for...*the fire!*
- K. **Here we had a condemned man (Mordecai) on death row.** On the day of his execution, unbuckled out of the chair in the 11th hour **& then released & treated like royalty!...Sounds like salvation!**

L. Haman had a rude awakening coming his way fast.

1. He found out *some things aren't always what they seem.*
2. He found out *all things work together for bad to those who don't love God, to those who are not the called according to His purpose.*
3. He found out **Pride** goes before destruction, And a **haughty spirit** before a fall.

M. You & I learn tonight...

1. **Because of our sin**, we are not living in the Garden of Eden, where the Lord walks & talks w/us in the coolness of the day. **Rather**, we live in the exile of history, in a world where God is **unseen**.
2. We learn that no matter how dark our day, our final destiny of glory w/Christ is **assured**. **And one day** we will see the **ultimate reversal** of circumstance will be ours.
3. **By contrast**, no matter how **prosperous** & how **powerful** those who are **not in Christ**, will ultimately also suffer a *reversal of fortune*, & in hindsight realize it was a web of their own making, just like Haman.

N. **Communion:**

1. **Bread:**
2. **Cup:**