

Message #14**Esther 8:1-14**

There are two great theological themes that show up time and time again in the Bible—God’s sovereignty and human responsibility. God will always work out His sovereign will just as He has promised; but God’s people are humanly responsible to do their part in conformity with the will and Word of God.

There have always been those who have used the sovereignty of God as a crutch for an unbiblical passivity.

Both Esther and Mordecai recognized that once God had sovereignly elevated them to favorable positions of power, they were humanly responsible to stand up for God and for God’s people.

GOD’S PEOPLE CAN MOST ASSUREDLY KNOW THAT GOD WILL SOVEREIGNLY CARE FOR THEM AND PROTECT THEM NO MATTER HOW BAD THINGS MAY APPEAR TO BE; BUT GOD’S PEOPLE HAVE A HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY TO DO WHAT THEY CAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD’S SOVEREIGN WILL AND WORD.

PART #1 – God sovereignly works by giving Mordecai a promotion. **8:1-2**

Way #1 - The king gave Esther Haman’s house. **8:1a**

According to Persian law, when a certain type of criminal was executed, his property, possessions and wealth became the state’s property. Even the relatives became wards of the state. Carey Moore writes: “Since Haman was a traitor, his entire estate automatically reverted to the crown” (*Esther*, p. 77).

Way #2 - The king gave Mordecai his ring. **8:1b-2a**

She had already informed the king of Mordecai’s loyalty to the king (2:22), now she was informing him of Mordecai’s relationship to her.

It made an impact for Mordecai was given the signet ring, which ultimately meant he was now the number two man in the Persian Empire (10:3).

Way #3 - Esther gave Mordecai Haman’s house. **8:2b**

As soon as she was given authority over Haman’s house, she gave it to Mordecai.

One decision of the king and Mordecai and Esther’s status were changed forever.

PART #2 – God sovereignly works through Esther’s passion. **8:3**

Although Esther knew she was in a favorable position with the king and she knew Mordecai was in a favorable position with the king, she still had a passion to see her people saved.

Oh how we need a passion like Esther that is willing to fall down before the King of Kings and weep for the salvation of our family, our friends, our classmates and our coworkers.

PART #3 – God sovereignly works through the king’s permission. **8:4**

The king again extended the “scepter of grace” to Esther, which enabled her to stand before him. Esther had done everything she knew to please the king—she made herself beautiful (5:1), she put on banquets (5:4, 8), and she told the truth (7:5-7).

Wise is the believer who does everything he knows how to do to please the King. It is a pleasing life that will prompt the King to extend us the grace to make our requests to Him.

If our lives please God, God will permit us to ask Him things and He will do them, just as John wrote: “and whatever we ask we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight” (I John 3:22).

PART #4 – God sovereignly works through Esther’s petitions. **8:5-6**

Her request is very unique, for she requests that the king “revoke” the decree issued by Haman. The Hebrew word “revoke” means that Esther is asking the king to make void the edict of Haman and return and restore the Jews to their non-threatened, non-condemned state (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, pp. 807-808).

In the Persian world once an edict was issued, it was impossible to change it.

Again we cannot help but notice the burden of Esther for Israel. She had beauty, safety, position and power, yet she still had a burden for her people and could not “endure” to see her people destroyed. That word “endure” means Esther literally would not be able or capable of prevailing or overcoming if her people were destroyed (*Ibid.*, p. 348). In other words, if the edict were carried out, Esther is informing the king she would never be the same; she would never be able to get over it no matter what her status.

PART #5 – God sovereignly works through ordained power. **8:7-8**

The Hebrew pronoun “you” of **verse 8** is extremely important. First, it is in the text as the first word of the verse emphasizing its importance. Second, it is plural, meaning the king is authorizing both Mordecai and Esther to write a new edict.

The king could not revoke an old edict, but he could authorize a new edict. He is saying Mordecai and Esther, it is within your power to change things. Ahasuerus could not reverse the old edict, but Mordecai and Esther could issue a new one.

PART #6 – God sovereignly works through Mordecai’s plan. **8:9-14**

Mordecai took full charge of this matter. The king’s scribes were called to issue a new edict exactly two months and ten days after the first edict (cp. 3:12/**8:9**).

Mordecai’s new edict would be sent to every province just like the old one. Mordecai’s new edict was signed with the king’s name and with his signet ring (**8:10**). Copies were sent by couriers riding on “royal” horses (**8:10, 14**), which would have been the best, the fastest and strongest horses in all the known world.

Mordecai’s new edict gave the Jews the right to go on the offensive. They could defend their lives and destroy their enemies.

In the end, over 75,000 would die (9:6, 16). God sovereignly intervened and protected His people and His people took their responsibilities seriously—they did their part—and the enemy was defeated.

There are many lessons to be learned from this text:

- 1) God promotes His people to key positions of power and responsibility.
- 2) God’s people have a responsibility in view of their positional promotions.
- 3) God will answer requests of those who please Him.
- 4) God’s people are responsible to do their part in accordance with the sovereign will and Word of God.
- 5) One judicial decree of God can change one’s destiny forever.