

Safe Harbor Baptist Church

12-14-2022 Wednesday night

Esther Sermon 7 “The God who works behind the scenes”

Pastor Josh Montgomery

***“The Celebration of the Jews”***

Text: Esther 9-10

Esther 1- The Character of Vashti.

Esther 2- The Choosing of Esther.

Esther 3- The Commitment of Mordecai

Esther 4- The Choice of Esther.

Esther 5 -The Courage of Esther.

Esther 6- The Confounding of Haman.

Esther 7-8- The Conquest of the Jew.

Esther 9-10- The Celebration of the Jews.

*Vs 1- Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)*

We certainly find a turning of the tide in Vs 1 of our text. This was the very day that Haman had set to execute all the Jews, in all of the provinces of Persia.

Notice the wording *“In the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them”*

Haman thought this would be the day that he would annihilate the Jews, but truth be told Haman did not live long enough to even see this day come forth!

The parenthetical statement in Vs 1 is encouraging as well. “*though it was turned to the contrary*” meaning there was a God working behind the scenes who turned things around!

Vs 2- *The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.*

There were still those who held the same prerogative and hatred for the Jew as Haman did. Thus on the day of the original decree, even though the King had written a new decree there were still those they were planning to carry out Haman’s plot.

But once again we see the providential hand of God working behind the scenes. The king allowed the Jews to defend themselves from the wicked plans and hands of these evil men.

The little phrase “no man could withstand them” that none could stand against them. The text goes on to tell us that the cause of this was fear!

Vs 3-4- *And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.*

*4 For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.*

The Jews did not have to stand alone on this day. The Kings men which consisted of lieutenants, deputies and officers stood along side the Jews in defense.

The reason for this is because they feared and respected Mordecai, the man that Haman wanted to kill!

Now the very same men that would have been commissioned by Haman to kill the Jews are now defending the Jews!

God is working behind the scenes!

Vs 5-10- *Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them.*

*6 And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men.*

*7 And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha,*

*8 And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha,*

*9 And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha,*

*10 The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand.*

A war breaks out between the Jews and the Haman sympathizers. Vs 5-10 tells us that the Jews smote all their enemies.

On a day that they would have been Victims, they were Victors!

Vs 10 also informs us that they smote the 10 sons of Haman.

3 times in this chapter we are informed that the Jews would not take of the spoil of their enemies.

The spoil was not their intentions, they were simply defending themselves!

Vs 11-14 *On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought before the king.*

*12 And the king said unto Esther the queen, The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? now what is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: or what is thy request further? and it shall be done.*

*13 Then said Esther, If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do to morrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.*

*14 And the king commanded it so to be done: and the decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons.*

500 men died in the palace alone! This is was a great victory for the Jews.

The king reports to Esther of the results of the palace wars, and then asked of there was anything else that she desired or wanted.

Esther's response is that the 10 sons of Haman be hung on the same gallows that Haman had built for the Jews, but later suffered on his exaction.

The king granted this request!

Vs 15- *For the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and slew three hundred men at Shushan; but on the prey they laid not their hand.*

As we continue in the text we find that on the next day another small war broke out in Shushan, and there 300 men died as the Jews prevailed!

Vs 16- *But the other Jews that were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey,*

Throughout all these other provinces there were wars and fighting's taking place. Of which once again the Jews were victorious with the death could going up to seventy five thousand!

Once again they did not take their land on their possessions, they just wanted to defend themselves and live!

Vs 17-19- *On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.*

*18 But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.*

*19 Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.*

After all the fighting had concluded they held a great feast!

It is interesting, the book of Esther begins with a feast, and now it is ending with a feast.

The first feast was based on Wickedness.

This feast was based on Winning!

It was a three day feast and celebration that included sending portions and gifts among themselves commemorating the occasion.

*Vs 20-23- And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far,*

*21 To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,*

*22 As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.*

God had preformed such a miraculous work that Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews informing them that every year on the same date that was to be the day of their destruction, they would have this feast to remember what God had did for them.

They would also take this day to consider and remember the poor. This would be an opportunity to be a blessing and help to others!

Vs 22 summarizes this entire book. Their sorrow was turned to Joy. Their mourning was turned to a good day!!

How did all of this take place? I mean the Jews death sentence had been signed, and it seemed that there was no earthly way that they would survive?

I'll tell you how, they had a God that was working behind the scenes providentially on their behalf!

*Vs 23-28- And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them;*

*24 Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them;*

*25 But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.*

*26 Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them,*

In Vs 23-26 we find a full summary of the book of Esther, specifically concerning the plot of Haman to destroy the Jews and how God used to Queen Esther to turn this back upon the head of Haman.

We also note that this yearly feast that the Jews would now observe was called "Purim" and it was named after the lot that Haman cast to discern which day he would execute the Jews!

*Vs 27-28 The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year;*

*28 And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed.*

This feast and the purpose of this feast was to be passed down from generation to generation through the family unit.

They were to remind their children how they were doomed under the hand and plot of Haman, but God used Queen Esther to deliver his people from wicked hands!

*Vs 29-32 Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim.*

*30 And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth,*

*31 To confirm these days of Purim in their times appointed, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry.*

*32 And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book.*

To finalize this feast, Queen Esther sent out letters with the Kings authority that the feast of Purim would be set aside for 3 days every year to commemorate the hand of God in deliverance.

The lesson of Purim is the Jewish people cannot be destroyed by making anti-semitism the law of the land.

Isaiah 54:17 *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.*

The Jews continued to pass down the feast of Purim throughout their generations, even to this day in Jerusalem they observe Purim.

While the modern-day celebration of Purim has turned into drinking and partying, they still hold to some of the traditional celebrations of the feast.

- Exchanging gifts of food and drink.
- Donating charity to the poor.
- Eating a celebratory meal.
- Public recitation of the Scroll of Esther. (it is said that during this reading that when the name of Haman is read that the people will “boo” and when the names of Mordecai and Esther are read the people will “cheer”
- Reciting additions to the daily prayers and the grace after meals.

After World War II, Julius Streicher, Hitler’s minister of propaganda was sentenced to be hanged as a war criminal. As he ascended the gallows, he was heard to say “Purim 1946, Purim 1946”. He had learned the lesson of Purim all too well!

Esther 10:1-3

*And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea.*

*2 And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?*

*3 For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.*

As this great book concludes we find that the king continued to rule and reign. But directly next to the king on one side was a Jew, Queen Esther, and on the other side was the Jew Mordecai!

Vs 1 tells us about the tax program that the king imposed. Why is this information given? Most Bible students claim that this was Mordecai's idea to help the finances of the kingdom.

Either way we find God's people continuing to be blessed and used by God in a wicked land!

How does this happen?

***"God is working behind the scenes!!!"***

Practical lessons from Esther 9-10

1. God can turn things around!

Esther 9:1

2. There are still battles to fight.

Esther 9:2-11

3. Finish the job.

Esther 9:12-15 (the sons of Haman were executed)

4. Celebrate and rejoice in God's providence.

Esther 9:16-26

5. Instruct your children in the faithfulness of God.

Esther 9:27-32

6. It pays to do what is right!

Esther 10:1-3

This book teaches us a great lesson on the battle of the flesh and the Spirit.

Haman (the flesh) wanted to destroy Mordecai (believer) but Mordecai would not bow and give in to Haman.

Haman devises a plan to destroy Mordecai.



Mordecai goes to a mediator (Esther) and Esther goes before the king on Mordecai's behalf and obtains favor of the king.

The last time we see Haman he is hanging from the gallows (tree) and Mordecai is ruling beside the king!