

INTRODUCTION: THE BOOK OF ESTHER

I. INFORMATION: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW (note: faith = *cognizance* ⇒ conviction ⇒ commitment)

- A. **ASSYRIA, BABYLON, PERSIA, GREECE, ROME** (Jer.50:17f; Dan.2:37f; c.10,11)
- B. **PERSIA: APEX & DECLINE** (Est.1:1; 478-473BC /Darius, *Marathon* ⇒ Xerxes=Ahasuerus (Ezr.4:5-7) *Thermopylae/Salamis*,etc.; see Herodotus)
- C. **THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN EXILE** (Est.2:5f; see 2Chr.36:10; Jehoiachin = Jeconiah(Coniah); 605/597/586BC)
- D. **DOOMED TO OBLITERATION BY THEIR INVETERATE ENEMIES** (Est.3:1f,etc.; see Dt.25:17f; 1Sam.15:1f; Ps.83:7)
- E. **TIMELY REDEMPTION BY THE INVISIBLE HAND OF GOD** (Est.9:22(3:13; 8:3f); Eph.1:11(i.e., Esther, Mordecai); see Gen.50:20; note: “God-less” book; Ps.13:1; 89:46,etc.)

II. PROCLAMATION: WHAT YOU SHOULD BELIEVE

- A. **GOD RULES OVER ALL THINGS & EVENTS** (Prov.16:33; 21:1; Eph.1:11; see Ps.97:1f; 99:1f; 135:5f)
- B. **THE KINGDOM WITHOUT SUCCESSION** (Dan.2:44f; 7:13(Mt.26:64); Lk.1:33; Acts 2:33f; Eph.1:20f; Col.1:15f; Rev.11:15)
- C. **THE RESURRECTION: THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ALL TURNING** (Est.9:1,22/25; see Gen.3:15(Rev.20:9); Ps.73:1f; Jn.16:20-22; 2Tm.1:10; Rev.21:5)
- D. **GOD USES BAD PEOPLE TO DO GOOD THINGS** (Est.2:5f; 3:2f; see Gen.12:13f; 26:7f; 27:6; Num.27:12f; 2Sam.11:2; Gal.2:11; yet see 2Tm.2:21)
- E. **YOU ARE GOD’S PEOPLE IN EXILE!** (Est.2:5f /Col.3:3; Phil.3:20; Heb.11;13; 1Pt.1:1; 2:11 /2Sam.7:27)
- F. **CHRISTIANS ARE NOT DOOMED IN THE CULTURE WARS** (Est.3:7f,13f; see 2Kngs18:17f; 19:20f,35; 2Th.2:8; Rev.20:9; see Ps.73:17f)
- G. **GOD WILL TURN YOUR SORROW INTO JOY** (Est.9:22; see 8:16,17; Jn.16:20-22; Ps.30:5,11; Rev.21:5)

III. EXHORTATION: WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- A. **STUDY YOUR BIBLE TO BUILD YOUR FAITH!** (Esther!; see Rom.10:17; 2Tm.3:14-17; Heb.5:12f; see Ps.119:97; Ezr.7:10; Eph.4:11f; 1Tm.4:11f; note: faith = *cognizance* ⇒ conviction ⇒ commitment)
- B. **BE PREPARED FOR THE OPPRESSIONS OF YOUR ENEMIES** (Est.2:5f; see 1Pt.2:11; 4:12f; Jn.16:33)
- C. **PETITION YOUR KING FOR DELIVERANCE** (Est.5:2; 8:4; see Jn.15:7,16; Phil.4:6,7; eg, 2Kngs.19:20ff)
- D. **TRUST GOD’S PROMISE OF TIMELY DELIVERANCE** (Est.4:14 /Ex.6:6; Jdgs.7:7; 2K20:6; 2Pt.3:3f)
- E. **VOTE FOR MORDECAI AND ESTHER** (Est.2:5f; see Gen.12:13f; 26:7f; 27:6; Num.27:12f; 2Sam.11:2; Gal.2:11; yet see 2Tm.2:21)
- F. **DO WHATEVER GOD HAS GIVEN YOU TO DO FOR HIS PEOPLE** (Est.4:14; see Mt.25:14f; 1Pt.4:10,11; Lk.3:12f; Eph.5:22f; 6:1f)