

Message #15**Esther 8:15-17**

This section of Esther is powerful and practical. It gives us a glimpse as to what happens in any organization when God sovereignly intervenes and puts His leader in the position He has ordained. There are things that happen that are positive and things that happen that are negative. We may be certain that when God puts His leader where He wants him, many things will begin to happen.

WHEN GOD SOVEREIGNLY ELEVATES HIS FAITHFUL PEOPLE TO KEY POSITIONS OF POWER, THERE WILL BE MANY POSITIVE RESULTS.

POSITIVE RESULT #1 – The elevated results for Mordecai. 8:15a

When God moved Mordecai into his new position, there was no more wearing of sackcloth and ashes (4:1); he was now clothed with a new look of royalty. Mordecai's status was forever changed in one judicial decree of the king. He now had a royal robe, a royal crown and a rich garment. He had gone from rags to riches based on one reversed edict of the king.

Dr. H. A. Ironside made a remarkable observation and application to the N.T. age, when he observed that Mordecai was wearing a royal robe that was blue and white. Ironside said blue is the color of heaven and white is the color of righteousness. Together these two colors combine to give us a picture of the righteousness that is needed to get to heaven. In order to get to heaven one must be adorned by the King in righteousness that is whiter than snow. Such righteousness is only found in Jesus Christ and only when Jesus Christ is in our life will we ever have entrance to heaven (Ironside, p. 95).

POSITIVE RESULT #2 – The emotional results in Susa. 8:15b

Susa was mostly a Gentile city comprised of Persian nationals. There can be no doubt that the majority of the people in Susa saw things clearly; they saw the evil of Haman and they appreciated Mordecai. Even though Mordecai was not from their city, but was in fact an outsider and foreigner from Israel, the people welcomed him as one of their own. In fact, when they saw Haman was dead and Mordecai was elevated, they, as Joyce Baldwin writes, "...rejoiced in full support" (Baldwin, p. 98).

One cannot help but see the remarkable fulfillment of Proverbs 11:10 which says, "When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish, there is glad shouting."

Most in Susa were not sad because Haman was executed and Mordecai was elevated; they were glad and there was great rejoicing.

We see that people were rejoicing because of a promotion and a subtraction. Mordecai had been promoted and Haman had been hanged.

God is a sovereign God. He sovereignly ordains promotions and additions and He sovereignly ordains eliminations and subtractions.

POSITIVE RESULT #3 – The ethnic results for Israel. **8:16-17a**

Group #1 - The reaction of the Jews of Susa . **8:16**

This was a great day for the Jews of Susa. Their worries, their threats and their fears were finally gone.

The Jews were now viewed with honor instead of contempt. This was one moment in history when Israel was seen and esteemed as the nation of God by a foreign power who was dominating the world.

Group #2 - The reaction of the Jews in the empire . **8:17a**

It had been a long, long time since Israel had something for which they could throw a party.

There is no question that when God's people realize their enemies have been destroyed and that they have been preserved and protected, it is cause for rejoicing.

The greatest persecutions in the history of the world have not been aimed at women or blacks or even Christians; it is persecution that has been aimed against the Jew.

POSITIVE RESULT #4 – The evangelistic results in the world. **8:17b**

As a result of Mordecai being elevated and as a result of the edict being reversed and the Jews celebrating, many of the people “became Jews.” This means many came to believe on the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and actually began to follow the Jewish religion.

The words “peoples of the land” are O.T. words that refer to non-Jewish Gentiles of heathen background (Deut. 28:10; Joshua 4:24; I Kings 8:53; I Chron. 5:25; II Chron. 6:33; Ezra 10:2; Neh. 10:31; Ezek. 31:12).

When these Gentiles saw that a Jew was promoted to the number two position in the kingdom and realized one of their own nationals, Haman, who hated the Jews, had been eliminated and executed, it caused many to “fear” the God who had done all of this. There was a sudden realization that the Jew was very special and, as a result, many wanted to be right with the Jew and the God who was protecting the Jew.

We will never influence the world until we are willing to demonstrate a positive confidence in God and His Word that does not bend. If we give into pressure or if we buckle when things get difficult, we lost our effectiveness to make a great impact.

If we know the Word and will of God and are standing and defending it, it can and will make a difference. It does make a statement to others. Many people were coming to faith because one man, Mordecai, finally realized he had blown it and finally stood for God, and he would not bow down to any except God (3:2). It was this decision that eventually led to the evangelization of the entire Persian world.

When you are at school and your peers entice you to do something you know God doesn't want you to do, when you are on your job and your co-workers are enticing you to enter in to something you know is wrong, when you are in a relationship and one member tries to sway you to give in to evil—stand your ground. Remember we will make the greatest impact for God by not giving in, but by standing for God and His Word, just like Mordecai.

Positive and powerful things happened when one man stood for God and powerful and positive things will happen if we will do the same.