

## **The Esther Woman**

Study By: Christina R. Bishara

**The Lord placed it on my heart to strengthen and encourage women for their walk in Him and to be a bride made ready for Christ. This is one of the topics that He has been teaching me. I pray that it will be a blessing to you!**

**For questions or copies please contact us through: [www.BaraInternational.org](http://www.BaraInternational.org)**

Please contact for permission to reprint this study. Printing or copying for Bible study usage is permitted so long as it is printed in its entirety. Unless otherwise identified, Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version and are marked KJV.

©2019 Christina Bishara. All Rights Reserved.

## **Table of Contents:**

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Esther Chapter One.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Esther Chapter Two (part one).....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Esther Chapter Two (part two).....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Esther Chapter Three.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Esther Chapter Four.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Esther Chapter Five.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Esther Chapter Six.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Esther Chapter Seven.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Esther Chapter Eight.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Esther Chapter Nine.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Esther Chapter Ten &amp; Conclusion.....</b>	<b>48</b>

## Introduction

Esther is a powerful book from the Bible for us to study especially in the times and seasons that we are in. It's even more applicable to a group of remnant women whom God is calling to sanctify themselves and become set apart for the Lord's work. While the book of Esther has many lessons for us to glean from, we will primarily focus on the message for us as women learning to walk Holy before God, walking properly in authority and walking in freedom from iniquities. This is a time for us to learn what Godly freedom is, how our jurisdiction looks and what humble leadership looks like in the life of a Godly woman.

The story of Esther is quite dramatic and deeply impacting. It is a reflection of many whose lives, who have been shattered by loss, hardship, trying circumstances, surrounded by enemies, slandered, put down and ultimately facing the loss of their life. No matter where you are at in your life, you will find part of your story here and find God's plan for running through it victoriously. This study is for those are ready to pursue God on a new level and leave the past ways behind. It is for those who are tired of the enemies' devastation on their lives and their families and are ready to fight for righteousness.

I pray that as we look at this story we may see how we react and respond to the commands of God in our hearts and in our actions. May it help us to become women who are honorable to the ways of the Lord. When we break the commands of the Lord we find reoccurring devastations in our lives and families. May the Lord deliver us from every root of pride, iniquity and rebellion to His Word. Many times the iniquities we have been walking in are in ignorance. Ask Lord to remove your self lenses, that you may see yourselves through His eyes. May He help us to sever off any ways that don't please Him, so that judgment does not come forth in our own life. We will learn through this study that we want to be women that sow good seeds and also to uproot seeds of sin before they cause devastation.

*Galatians 6:7-9*

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

Our fruit will quickly reveal the seed. If we are in a position where the fruit of our disobedience (even if it could be through lack of understanding) is our affecting our lives and families, don't be disheartened. We can begin to still clean the garden within by uprooting the bad plants and seeds through the process of repentance. Remember what we sow will reap a harvest in our life that will affect us in every area. We truly want good fruit in order to have restoration in all areas. If you feel

convicted as we go through each passage of scripture – address this situation by coming before the Lord.

*1 John 1:9*

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

When we confess our sin and turn from it we will not only experience forgiveness but His cleansing power that helps us to say no to continuing to walk in ways that don't please Him.

*Titus 2:11-14 (KJV)*

*11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

*12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

*13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

*14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

There will be no easy transition into the story, rather chapter one will start dealing immediately with the topic of rebellion in our lives and the lessons will simply get more intense from there forward. We must prepare our hearts and approach His Word with a humble heart to receive much instruction and healing, so that we can walk worthily in the path He has set before us. Praise the Lord for His great love in teaching us and His tender mercies as we learn His ways.

*Psalms 1 (KJV)*

*1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

*3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

*4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.*

*5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.*

*6 For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.*

*Lord Jesus, I pray your hedge of protection over each reader that is about to study Your Word in the book of Esther. I plead the blood of Jesus over them and pray that You would open their hearts and minds to hear from You. Let Your Word come alive and bring freedom and healing. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.*

## Esther Chapter One

*Esther 1 (KJV)*

**1** Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)

**2** That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace,

**3** In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him:

**4** When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days.

**5** And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;

**6** Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.

**7** And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king.

**8** And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.

**9** Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus.

**10** On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,

**11** To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.

**12** But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

**13** Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:

**14** And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom;)

**15** What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?

**16** And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.

**17** For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall

*despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.*

**18** *Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.*

**19** *If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.*

**20** *And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.*

**21** *And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan:*

**22** *For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.*

In this first chapter, we see the story begin with a big feast. It was a banquet of great proportion that revealed the wealth, riches and the glory of the King. I like the similitude this can portray of the riches and glory of King Jesus and how much more vast His Kingdom is. All people were invited to the banquet and today our Lord Jesus invites everyone to His banquet, not just the wealthy or well connected.

*Luke 14:23 (KJV)*

*And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

We will also see during this time, that Queen Vashti also hosted her own banquet for the women in the palace. It would be normal for the customs of the time for the men and women's groups to be held separately. It is also not said what the intent or motive of Queen Vashti's heart was when she denied the Kings request to appear in His court. While the heart motive was not stated, we do see the consequences thereof of her choice. I want to pause for a moment and point out a few things we should pay attention to. Firstly, we know that her name was old Persian meaning "beautiful". Without casting shade on the motive of her heart or on her thought process behind her decision, let's simply evaluate her actions and see how we can learn from them.

In this case, we see an analogy of what happens today with Christ and His bride. We see a parallel story where the "Bride" has become enamored with her own beauty and deeply aware of her authority and power in the Kingdom domain. Whether her motive is right or wrong is not what we are questioning. Rather, what is displayed even unintentionally is an arrogance or pride in thinking that she is greater than the King and His commands. She clearly felt the strength to voice her choice and that

voicing violated protocol. She reveals her feelings, by her confidence that her defiance would be allowed and not penalized. Her beauty and position did not give her the right to disobey the King's command, usurping His authority. The King's authority was not to be violated and so it is today in the Body of Christ, the King Jesus' authority is the Supreme Rule. Whether we understand or not, we must be a people obedient to the Lordship of Christ.

*Luke 6:46 (KJV)*

*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and **do not** the things which I say?*

*Proverbs 16:18 (KJV)*

*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

*1 Samuel 15:22-23*

*And Samuel, said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burn offerings and sacrifices, as in **obeying the voice of the Lord**? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken then the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou has rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*

This is a good reminder for us to follow the ways of God and not make decisions that violate God's laws out of our own pride. Later in our study, we will examine what happens when Esther was compelled to violate the law, but in humility and righteousness. It will be an interesting correlation to examine. But back to Queen Vashti's rebellion of disobeying the King that cost her, her crown and she was cast out. This was done lest other women think they too could violate their roles and over ride their authorities. She is banished and letters are sent out through out the kingdom that establish each man's authority in His own home lest the rebellion grow. What a powerful and intense reminder to us as women to walk in our roles and jurisdictions rightly lest we find ourselves cast out and disqualified.

*Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV)*

*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

If we refuse to heed the commandments of God, He will cast us away. May we walk worthy of our calling and conform ourselves to the image of Christ. As Godly Christian woman, we need to be sure we are honoring and obeying the Lord's ways. He is our Father and His ways are the final laws in our life. The only way to walk in His ways is by spending time with the Father in prayer and worship and staying strong studying the Word of God. Queen Vashti is an example to us of what happens in a Kingdom in a time of judgment.

### *1 Peter 4:17 (KJV)*

*For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*

As the Church today is now going to be cleansed by the Lord, we want to be sure to not follow in Queen Vahti's steps, that we may not be made a public example of also in our sin. For so long, we have seen the philosophies of the world and the feminist movement brought into the church. It has no rightful place there or in our lives. We must root it out and separate ourselves from what is unholy in our own actions.

### *Revelation 18:4 (KJV)*

*<sup>4</sup> And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

In these the last days, many people will hear only what pleases them and feels easy to follow:

### *2 Timothy 4:3-4 (KJV)*

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

Often times, people will think, I have seen this particular leader and how God uses them and they say a certain Biblical Scripture doesn't mean what it says. Because some influential leader told them a Scripture is not applicable or is not relevant to our culture today, they feel that do not need to follow it either. This is a wrong way to think about how to gage sin. Each person stands or falls before God on their own standing. How much more anointing could that leader walk in if they were in full obedience to Jesus? You don't know what they may or may not have revelation on. But you must obey the Word of God regardless.

### *Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)*

*<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*

We must judge ourselves not by our church, our favorite teaching leader, mentor etc. but rather by the standard of Jesus Christ and His Word. We cannot approach the Lord any longer with willful sin in us. We must soften our hearts and repent quickly and walk in His ways.



*Hebrews 3:14-15 (KJV)*

*<sup>14</sup> For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;*

*<sup>15</sup> While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.*

Remember if we sow rebellion into the garden of our hearts, we will reap a great harvest of the judgment of God in many areas of our lives and families affecting us in most every way.

*Galatians 6:7-8 (KJV)*

*<sup>7</sup> Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

*<sup>8</sup> For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

Has the Lord brought to mind any areas of rebellion that are manifesting judgment in your life right now? In order to root this out, you must examine yourself to see where the rebellion might be rooted and how it has been exhibited in your mentality, actions and words.

*Psalms 32:5 (KJV)*

*<sup>5</sup> I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.*

Take ownership of your actions and pour your heart out in repentance before God. Sin is destructive, let's take a moment to reflect and get right with the Lord! May God bless you in your walk with Jesus!

*Revelation 22:14 (KJV)*

*<sup>14</sup> Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

## Esther Chapter Two (Part One)

*Esther 2:1-12 (KJV)*

*2 After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.*

*2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:*

*3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them:*

*4 And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.*

*5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;*

*6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.*

*7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.*

*8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.*

*9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.*

*10 Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.*

*11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.*

*12 Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;)*

As we dive into this section of our study, let's ask the Lord to open our hearts to understand His Word. Heavenly Father, thank you for your Holy Word, please help it to come alive in us and bring forth good fruit that would bring You Glory. We love You and Your Truth! In Jesus name, Amen!

Right now, as we jump into this segment of chapter two of Esther, we find that the King is now seeking counsel from his servants after contemplation of the departure of Vashti. He agrees to their plan to gather together all the beautiful virgins and find a new queen to reign in the place of ousted Vashti. What an intense and terrifying process for the young women who would be forcibly gathered for this search and uprooted from their families. A lot of times in life, we can find ourselves in situations that we had not planned for with circumstances beyond our control. In the days ahead, we will be put to the test and faced with trying circumstances that will force us to cry out to the Lord for His direction, protection and favor in order to walk victoriously through them for His glory.

### ***Psalm 91 (KJV)***

*91 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*

*2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.*

*3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.*

*4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.*

*5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;*

*6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.*

*7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.*

*8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.*

*9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;*

*<sup>10</sup> There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.*

*<sup>11</sup> For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.*

*<sup>12</sup> They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

*<sup>13</sup> Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.*

*<sup>14</sup> Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.*

*<sup>15</sup> He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.*

*<sup>16</sup> With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.*

Praise the Lord for His hand of protection and strength in our trials! As we keep reading in Esther, we see that there was a certain Jew named Mordecai who had raised Hadassah (Esther) as his own daughter after the death of her parents. Already we see his character and love displayed in taking her as his own child, especially when she would have only been a cousin to him. In the midst of your story, your hardships, your losses and devastations even in it the Lord, in His love, shows His care for you. Whether through His people or His angels, God has His hand carrying His people through their crisis for His Glory. After much loss in her life, Esther is now thrust into a pagan selection process. We see in verse nine how the Lord still granted her favor though in the midst of this trial. May He grant you favor in the midst of your coming testing as well!

We also see in verse ten that Esther had great discretion in not sharing her people or kindred with anyone. She showed she was filled with obedience and integrity to obey Mordecai's instruction in this. How do we respond in times of trial? Do we hold fast to God's Word and remain steadfast in what we know to do in the face of pressure? I pray that we will be able to answer that with a strong "yes."

Moving forward through verse eleven, we again are drawn to view the care of Mordecai to check on Esther and make sure He knew how she was and where she would be held. He was so fatherly in his daily care and love for her. Remember your Heavenly Father cares deeply about you in your times of trials and growth periods also. In the book Job it says that He visits you EVERY morning! How great our Father's love is for us!

*Job 7:17-18 (KJV)*

*<sup>17</sup> What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?*

*<sup>18</sup> And that thou shouldest visit him every morning, and try him every moment?*

May we all not neglect to meet Him daily and put Him first in our life that we may stand in the day of testing! For many right now, a great testing stands at the door just like it did for Esther. It is so important to enter this season under the care and favor of the Father. You must be ready to stand in obedience to His commands with discretion, honor and care in what may appear to be overwhelming circumstances. As you do you will see the preparation begin that will cause you to be cleansed and ready for the next step just as Esther went through the next twelve months of preparation. She was preparing with six months of oil of myrrh and six months with sweet odors causing purification. She had to be purified to walk through the next step. May we be purified internally and externally also as we prepare for this season.

Something interesting about the oil of myrrh is it comes from the Arabic word meaning "bitter." It was fragrant, cleansing and purifying. The Lord took Esther from bitter loss circumstances of life and anointed her, bringing her in to a fragrant and cleansing time. This time was for her to heal and prepare for the job that lay ahead. She died to herself and her sorrows and was given a new grace, strength to walk in a Higher way- the Royal way.

Spend sometime in prayer today, asking the Lord to prepare you for His testing. Ask Him to help you walk in integrity, obedience and discretion. Ask for His strength to not shirk back in the face of the fire and to meet with Him daily to receive His fatherly care. Ask Him to anoint you for His service, to cleanse and purify your heart so that you may find His favor in your service for Him in this new season. Ask the Lord to free you from all hurts, bitterness and brokenness and to cleanse you within and without so you can be healed and whole.

**YOU are called and chosen for THIS time – let us not fail to prepare to walk victoriously!**

## Esther Chapter Two (Part Two)

*Esther 2:13-23 (KJV)*

*<sup>13</sup> Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house.*

*<sup>14</sup> In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name.*

*<sup>15</sup> Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.*

*<sup>16</sup> So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.*

*<sup>17</sup> And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.*

*<sup>18</sup> Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.*

*<sup>19</sup> And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate.*

*<sup>20</sup> Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.*

*<sup>21</sup> In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hands on the king Ahasuerus.*

*<sup>22</sup> And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name.*

*<sup>23</sup> And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.*

After the purification process was complete for Esther, the next step was for her to meet with the King. In like manner, we are to move through purification into a vessel ready to meet our soon returning King.

### ***Malachi 3:1-3 (KJV)***

*3 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.*

*2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:*

*3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.*

We can't meet with the Lord without a pure heart. He doesn't approve of sinful ways. In fact, the sinful ways are what He says keep us from entering into the Kingdom of God.

### ***Galatians 5:19-21 (KJV)***

*19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*

*20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*

*21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

It is important to recognize if any of these forms of sin are in our lives, so that we can turn away from them.

### ***Galatians 5:1 (KJV)***

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

Repentance from sin is essential. Many times people will struggle to see their sin because they are searching their own heart to clean it themselves. But the Bible tells us that we need to ask the Lord to search us.

### ***Jeremiah 17:9-10 (KJV)***

*<sup>9</sup> The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

*<sup>10</sup> I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

### ***Psalm 139:23-24 (KJV)***

*<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:*

*<sup>24</sup> And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Remember when the Lord shows you an area of sin in your heart, be sure to repent of every area that the enemy has deceived you in. Repentance means to turn away from those sins and from the sources of those sins. If you find yourself in a place where you are not hearing the Lord, remember sin can keep us from hearing the Lord.

### ***Isaiah 59:2 (KJV)***

*<sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

As we focus back in on the story of Esther into verses fourteen and fifteen of chapter two, we see her preparing to now go in to meet the King. We see that she takes the wisdom of her overseer and takes only what he recommends her to take.

### ***Esther 2:15 (KJV)***

*<sup>15</sup> Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, **she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed.** And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.*

We see in this a beautiful example of how as a Believer, we need to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit and God's Word to know the way to walk righteously in order to be prepared to stand before the presence of our King. In this way, we will have the favor of God in our life and in our choices.

### ***Galatians 5:25 (KJV)***

*<sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

With the favor of God on her life, trust in her heart and obedience in her actions, we see Esther now take the first step into the Royal assignment of her life as she becomes the new queen. There is a joyous celebration over his new bride and a great celebration and feasts follow. In like manner, there is great rejoicing when we



meet with our King and walk in oneness with Him. How blessed and wonderful – may our hearts long to be with Him!

### ***Revelation 19:9 (KJV)***

*<sup>9</sup> And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

In the midst of this all, we still see the faithful character of Mordecai watching over Queen Esther and quietly being aware of her surroundings. In spite of her new authority and role in the Kingdom, she did not use this role as reason to act high-minded or lofty. Rather, the Scripture tells how she was still obedient to Mordecai and full of discretion in regards to her people. As those who are the Bride of Christ, we must walk in continual humility, grace, kindness, discretion and obedience.

### ***1 Corinthians 4:7 (KJV)***

*<sup>7</sup> For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?*

Lastly, we find that God also was preparing a path for Mordecai by allowing him to be in certain place to hear the plot that was being made against the King. His help in protecting the King would be a decision that would later be found to cause Mordecai honor and favor later on. There are many things that God has arranged in your life, situations that you have or will deal with that don't seem to have anything to do where you are headed and yet God in His time and plans has ordained it as a help for you in the future.

May God help us to honor him in our sanctification process and become cleansed and purified vessels for His glory.

*Lord, thank you for your Word. Help us to honor you and bring you Glory. Cleanse our hearts of all wickedness and lead us into ways that please You. Father, please help us to accomplish the purpose for which you have placed us on this earth. Anoint us for your work in these last days and let our hearts stay humble and obedient to You. In Jesus name, Amen.*

### ***Psalms 19:14 (KJV)***

*<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.*

## Esther Chapter Three

### *Esther 3 (KJV)*

*3 After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.*

*2 And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.*

*3 Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?*

*4 Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew.*

*5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.*

*6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.*

*7 In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.*

*8 And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them.*

*9 If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.*

*10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.*

*11 And the king said unto Haman, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.*

*12 Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.*

*13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.*

*14 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day.*

*15 The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.*

*Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your Word and ask that as we study it, You would bring your life and light into us. We love You and are grateful for Your cleansing and preparing our hearts to walk Holy in You. In Jesus Name, Amen.*

As we push on into Esther Chapter three, we are following the promotion of a vile character named Haman. We also see a rise of an innocent character in Mordecai who refused to bow the knee and also refused to reverence Haman. Haman grew in his wrath and pride toward Mordecai and in his hatred for the Jews because of their relation to him. Haman develops a plan of deceit to destroy all the Jews by influencing and manipulating an order from the King. This declaration of destruction is spread throughout the city while Haman drinks in satisfaction with the King.

So, how does this dramatic change of events in Mordecai and his people's lives relate to us today? It is far closer than it may appear on the surface. We can see a correlation in the prophetic nature of this passage for believers in the very close future. The true remnant believers today who are living sanctified, holy lives for the Lord are represented in the life of Mordecai. They will be a people focused on Jesus, even while the anti-Christ reveals himself in a place of authority. In that new position, he will turn and demand worship and reverence be given to him. Just as Mordecai refused to bow and worship, so must the true followers of Christ follow in his steps. When they make this step they must also be prepared for the laws of their nation to be turned against them asking for their destruction. It will be an intense time, that believers must be prepared for and must know how to not deny Jesus.

*Matthew 24:21-22 (KJV)*

*<sup>21</sup> For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

*<sup>22</sup> And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

They must not deny Him in word or deed! It is not simply an acknowledgement with the mouth, we must be careful not to deny him by our lifestyle. We must make each of our daily choices with Jesus in mind – asking ourselves if the way we communicate, the thoughts we think, the places we go and things we do daily are bringing glory to Jesus. Only then will we be able to stand and not deny Him when faced with the mark of the beast. We must give 100% of our lives to Jesus so that we will not be deceived and thereby succumb to the pressures of the mark. Like Mordecai, we must have our face fixed on the Lord and choose to honor Him above all that maybe appear to be threatening us

*1 John 2:18 (KJV)*

*<sup>18</sup> Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

*Revelation 19:20 (KJV)*

*<sup>20</sup> And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

*Revelation 13:16-17 (KJV)*

*<sup>16</sup> And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:*

*<sup>17</sup> And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

Mordecai did not shirk back, but immediately stood firm when he was thrust into a moment of decision to bow before Haman. He did not pause to choose to fear the outcome. He did not compromise and only bow half way. He had already made a decision for God long before He was asked to bow to Haman. This is why He was able to say no. May we be firm in our convictions to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*John 14:6 King James Version (KJV)*

*<sup>6</sup> Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

*Luke 10:16 (KJV)*

*<sup>16</sup> He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.*

If you are ashamed of God, you will deny Him. If you deny Him, He will deny you. Let us not deny Him dear Sisters.

*2 Timothy 2:11-12 (KJV)*

*<sup>11</sup> It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:*

*<sup>12</sup> If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*

*Matthew 10:28 (KJV)*

*<sup>28</sup> And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Rebellion, strife, anger, gossip, pride, lacking love, etc .– these behaviors deny Jesus. Let us not fall prey to deception, but walk purified entirely before the Lord, rather than only in part.

*1 John 1:6 (KJV)*

*<sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

*1 John 3:6-8 (KJV)*

*<sup>6</sup> Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.*

*<sup>7</sup> Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.*

*<sup>8</sup> He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

*Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV)*

*<sup>21</sup> Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

*<sup>22</sup> Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

*<sup>23</sup> And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Don't toe the line. We must live a sanctified life in all of our clothing, speech, music, movies and all of our conduct.

*James 4:4 (KJV)*

*<sup>4</sup> Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

Be conformed to Jesus!

*Romans 12:2 (KJV)*

*<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

We also see that Haman cast lots against the Jews to pick their day of eradication. But truly the Lord decided the time and His hand was already working to intervene on their behalf.

*Proverbs 16:33 (KJV)*

*<sup>33</sup> The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.*

The law that was decreed was irreversible. What a thought – once issued there was no undoing, no cancellation! This is a similar concept to how sin entered the world and corrupted it. There is only one way to come out of that sin and it is through the blood of Jesus.

*Romans 6:23 (KJV)*

*<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Praise the Lord for His intervention in sending His son Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins! May He help us to commit all our ways and works to Him to bring Him honor and glory!

## Esther Chapter Four

### **Esther 4 (KJV)**

*4 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;*

*2 And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.*

*3 And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.*

*4 So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not.*

*5 Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was.*

*6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate.*

*7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them.*

*8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.*

*9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.*

*10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;*

*11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.*

*<sup>12</sup> And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.*

*<sup>13</sup> Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.*

*<sup>14</sup> For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

*<sup>15</sup> Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,*

*<sup>16</sup> Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.*

*<sup>17</sup> So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.*

*Heavenly Father, thank you for Your Word. Please help me to be conformed to the image of Christ. Please cleanse my heart and mind of all the ways that displease You and help me to bring You glory and honor in all I say and do. Please help me to receive Your correction and restore my relationship to You, as You show me areas that must be cleansed in order to walk Holy with You. I love you Lord and I love Your righteous ways. In Jesus Name, I pray! Amen*

“Let nothing be said about anyone unless it passes through the three sieves: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?” ~Amy Carmichael

As women of God, we must have a strong guard on our tongues. Our tongues left unchecked can pull us into a web of problems.

*Proverbs 18:7 (KJV)*

*<sup>7</sup> A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.*

We see how words can snare us and cause much sin leading to our destruction. We find great instruction in 2 Timothy 2:25 and Ecclesiastes 12:14:

*2 Timothy 2:24-26 (KJV)*

*<sup>24</sup> And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,*



*<sup>25</sup> In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*

*<sup>26</sup> And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*

*Ecclesiastes 12:14 (KJV)*

*<sup>14</sup> For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

Gossip, slander, lying, anger, complaining – all of these sins of the tongue are destructive to our soul. We must ask the Lord to guard over our tongues!

*Psalms 141:3 (KJV)*

*<sup>3</sup> Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.*

May the Lord help us to walk in His ways of righteousness! We see in Esther chapter four, the fruit of the slander and lies of Haman's tongue. This one man's sin expressed through his tongue resulted in the agreement of the King to annihilate an entire race of people. Words have power – and must be used wisely! You may feel like a little gossip hasn't really hurt anyone – but one person can slander and annihilate another person's character in a large way in just a few moments of wrong words.

*Proverbs 18:21 (KJV)*

*<sup>21</sup> Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*

As believers, we must heed Proverbs 21:23 and 1 Timothy 5:13 and stay out of the trap of sin.

*Proverbs 21:23 (KJV)*

*<sup>23</sup> Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.*

*1 Timothy 5:13 (KJV)*

*<sup>13</sup> And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.*

Rather than to continue to sin with our mouths, we should busy ourselves with the service of the Lord Jesus.

*Proverbs 31:27 (KJV)*

*<sup>27</sup> She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.*

*Proverbs 6:16-19 King James Version (KJV)*

*<sup>16</sup> These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:*

*<sup>17</sup> A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,*

*<sup>18</sup> An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,*

*<sup>19</sup> A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren*

Let us repent of every sin of our mouth and any harm we may have caused others through our careless words. May the Lord help us to not continue to walk in this way. Be careful what seeds you allow to grow. If you sow seeds of iniquity it will bear much terrible fruit in your life. In this season especially, we want to sow righteous seeds and quickly uproot anything that will bear us fruits of destruction. We must own up to our behaviors, remit the sin, repent of our ways and renew our minds. How do we renew our minds? By filling ourselves with the Word of God and spending time in prayer with Him. We must live righteously to walk in the Kingdom. If we have sinned against others, we must not only repent, but ask the Lord what kind of restitution we can make wherever we are able, that we may not reap corrupt fruit in our life.

Remember Ephesians 6:12:

*Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)*

*<sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*

As we aim to have clean lips and pure hearts, we must also consider what to do when we ourselves are the found to be the target of an attack of someone else's words. How do we respond? What should we say or do? How do we respond in a way that will bring glory to our King Jesus. Accusation and slander have a way of causing a crushing blow to reputations and circumstances. Many times it can feel as if there is no recovery or coming back from such an attack of words. Fear not my dear sisters, if we maintain our walk with the Lord in such a manner as Mordecai did, we will find ourselves in a position where the Lord will be our defender.

*Psalms 94:22 (KJV)*

*<sup>22</sup> But the LORD is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge.*

In Esther chapter four, we find a great amount of emotional upheaval as the result to the decree obtained by the slanderous accusation and gossip of Haman. Mordecai was deeply grieved by the circumstances and went out in sackcloth and ashes into the city before the King's gate. We see that the response of Mordecai and also the Jews is one that we should take to heart. They lay weeping and fasting before the Lord for His deliverance. Esther sends out one of the Eunuchs to determine the cause for his sorrow, and she now becomes aware of the commission that has been given to destroy herself and her people. What is our response if we find out we are being gossiped and slandered about? Do we weep before the Lord and fast for His direction or do we get angry or bitter?

Interestingly, I found it incredible that in all the time that Haman was slandering Mordecai to friends and family prior to this – we never see an example of Mordecai doing the same back. He patiently waits and only presents his case to the Queen Esther once it has become necessary to do so. He finds that God has given her this role for such a time as this and encourages her to not act in fear or silence, but to petition the King for her people. We see that the fasting and prayers to God brought him to this directional instruction as a solution. He did not attempt to solve his problem on his own strength, as he knew it was greater than him. If we find ourselves in such a situation, may we call upon the Lord for His righteous steps to handle it and may He give us the guidance we need to face the battle with a heart of love.

Queen Esther was now placed into a precarious circumstance of having to choose whether to violate the King's rule by appearing when not summoned. We see she also did not take this decision lightly. She understood that the choice was not about her alone, but about righteousness and the preservation of her people. In like manner, we see her character shine through, as she agrees to go to the King, but first calls for a three day fast day and night for the Lord's help. She acknowledges that it may cost her life, but she sees the value in standing for righteousness. The Lord is faithful to deliver, instruct and preserve; but we must have a heart of love and humility when we approach any situation. If we walk in His ways, He will guide us through even the hardest storms.

*Hebrews 4:16 (KJV)*

*<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Lastly, if like Queen Esther, you have been placed in a position to deliver another from the arrows of slander, remember to be bold like she was. God positioned her to be there for their deliverance and it is possible that He is positioning you in place to deliver other believers from other situations in the future. Don't shirk back in fear in those moments, but allow the Lord to use you and fulfill His purposes through your position.

*Hebrews 10:38-39 (KJV)*

*<sup>38</sup> Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

*<sup>39</sup> But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

## Esther Chapter Five

### *Esther 5 (KJV)*

*Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.*

*<sup>2</sup> And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.*

*<sup>3</sup> Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.*

*<sup>4</sup> And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.*

*<sup>6</sup> And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.*

*<sup>7</sup> Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is;*

*<sup>8</sup> If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.*

*<sup>9</sup> Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.*

*<sup>10</sup> Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.*

*<sup>11</sup> And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.*

*<sup>12</sup> Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.*

*<sup>13</sup> Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.*

*<sup>14</sup> Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.*

We join back into the story of Esther on the third day, a day that would forever affect the destiny of her life and her people for either good or bad. As she approaches this moment, she does it not only with prayerful preparation, but also with boldness in the mercies of God. She doesn't run to beg the King for His favor in mourning garments, but rather clothes herself in the royal apparel of the role of the Queen. She knew the risk of possible death, yet still she carried herself in the humble confidence in the role that the Lord had allowed her to be placed in. She did not pridefully force her way in before the King, but stood in the court allowing the Lord to cause the King's eye to notice her and release the scepter in her favor. Once she sees His favorable acceptance, she then draws near to the King and touches the top of his scepter.

Let's pause for a moment and look at the example of intercession that Queen Esther has laid for other women, who are seeking to obtain the favor of the Heavenly Father and deliverance from their situations. We are told in the Scriptures to cry out for help to the Lord and we are also told to come boldly to His throne.

*Psalms 34:17 (KJV)*

*<sup>17</sup> The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.*

*Hebrews 4:16 (KJV)*

*<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

As, we seek Him, weep before Him and petition help – we must do it in humility, but also in the royal way. The royal way is as daughter of the King. Like Esther, who did not approach the King as a beggar, but rather as a humble royal Queen willing to lay down her life for the sake of her people. Prayerfulness, righteous living, operating in humility and walking in the strength of Christ are things that will cause the favor of God to operate in our lives and the Glory of the Lord to be released in our circumstances.

Upon receiving Queen Esther, the King asks for her request and within it offers her whatever she may desire up to half of His kingdom. In wisdom, Esther does not reveal all, but instead has been given a divine strategy for the process in which to make her request. Had she not been so prayerful, she might have spoken out of turn and missed the proper moment of God's timing. She was wise and aligned with the time frame of God and requested the banquet for the King and for Haman. As the banquet ends, we see the King again ask her petition, to which she replies with a request to serve the King and Haman another banquet.

How do we handle opportunities in our situations? Do we speak too quickly? Do we see an opportunity or connection possibility and rush to make the most of it? Sometimes when we have been praying for an answer the enemy tempts us with second best. God opens a door, but rather than ask for heaven's strategy, we use the divine opening from a position of the flesh. Our outcome is then foiled and we think that God never answered, when in reality, He did but we didn't follow His process. His ways are higher and we should always ask for His wisdom to handle every situation, just like the example we see of Esther. Timing is very important and we don't want to miss the openings the Lord has pre-ordained for us.

Haman was joyful and full of himself after the second banquet. He was so focused on what he perceived as increased favor with the Kingdom, that his pride caused him to set a plan for his own destruction.

*Proverbs 11:2 (KJV)*

*<sup>2</sup> When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.*

He had planned for his own will for so long, he felt that things were truly aligning in his favor and his hatred for Mordecai was also increasing. He went home bragging and boasting of his high role and authority within the Kingdom, while simultaneously unsatisfied that He could not control the one righteous man that God had placed in His path. He was so filled with himself and operating within the realms of evil, that he was pleased with his wife's plan to have Mordecai hung.

This is part of the story that always reminds me of the parable in the Bible about the wheat and tares. So often, when dealing with persecutions, hardships or difficult situations, we find the warfare we are under is coming from within the Kingdom. We cry out to God for deliverance and find that those persecuting us seem to be rising higher and higher in this man made hierarchy of the Church system. Sometimes people question, why Lord? Why is this happening? What would be better to do though, would be to continue be sanctified, holy and righteous and trust in the deliverance of God and trust His process to be the proper and best way to bring about His divine strategy. He knows the proper way to save His people and to bring the ungodly wolves to justice. This parable is such a great reminder.

*Matthew 13:24-30 (KJV)*

*<sup>24</sup> Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:*

*<sup>25</sup> But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*

*<sup>26</sup> But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.*

*<sup>27</sup> So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?*

*<sup>28</sup> He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?*

*<sup>29</sup> But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.*

*<sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

*Thank you for your guidance, direction and protection in my life. Lord, I ask that you would keep my heart pure and clean and sanctified according to your Word. Please give me wisdom, divine heavenly strategy and order my timing for the deliverance from the situations that I am seeking You on. Forgive me for anyways that I have operated in pride, un-forgiveness, and bitterness, because of not understanding your plan and your ways. Help me to operate as a child of the King and not a beggar. I love you Lord and thank you for your mercy in my life.*

*In Jesus name, Amen.*



## Esther Chapter Six

### **Esther 6 (KJV)**

**1** *On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.*

**2** *And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.*

**3** *And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.*

**4** *And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.*

**5** *And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.*

**6** *So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?*

**7** *And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,*

**8** *Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:*

**9** *And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.*

**10** *Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.*

**11** *Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.*

**12** *And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered.*

**13** *And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.*

**14** *And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hasted to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.*

God's plans of deliverance are unfathomable. His ways are best! They are right and they are always in the right timing. As we cross over, into the sixth chapter of Esther, we find the King being read to from The Book of the Records and the Chronicles, because he couldn't sleep.

During the reading the King discovers that Mordecai had saved the King's life

from two evil men. The King's heart is deeply touched by this new revelation of knowledge and he wants to ensure that this kind deed was properly rewarded. It is reported to him that nothing had been done to honor this loyal man. At the same time that the King is deciding how to handle this new information, wicked Haman has taken it upon himself to go to the King's court to obtain permission to hang righteous Mordecai.

This is very similar to the position that many people who love the Lord find themselves in. They have stayed faithful and true in the midst of persecutions, but it seems to have gone unnoticed. Also, the sufferings seem to have grown worse and deliverance does not appear to be at hand. May those of you who find yourself in these situations take comfort in the perfect timing of the Lord. Keep your heart and hands pure and keep seeking Him!

### ***Psalm 24:3-6 (KJV)***

*<sup>3</sup> Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?*

*<sup>4</sup> He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.*

*<sup>5</sup> He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

*<sup>6</sup> This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.*

Back to our passage in Esther six, the King is informed of Haman's arrival and is welcomed in immediately. The King seeks his advice for his situation. He desires to know how to honor someone.

### ***Proverbs 16:9 (KJV)***

*<sup>9</sup> A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.*

### ***Proverbs 11:2 (KJV)***

*<sup>2</sup> When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.*

Haman filled with himself and thinking the person to be honored would be him, immediately shared his ideas with the King. His selfish pride was thrust forward as he came up with an elaborate plan of glorifying himself in a very public way.

How quickly the seasons change! In one instant, the King commands Haman to go and give all this great honor that he has described, to Haman's enemy Mordecai. I love how Mordecai's humility, trust in God and perseverance in the face

of trials never waivers. Even though up to this point his situation has not changed.

In the next moment, we see an extravagant display of the King's honor towards Mordecai contrasted against the utter humiliation and humbling of Haman. May the Lord be the one that gives you honor in the presence of your enemies and honor toward your righteous character.

***Psalm 23:5 (KJV)***

*<sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

Continuing in his gentle character, Mordecai does not go flaunt himself as someone who was just exalted, but rather returns to his position, in waiting at the King's gate. He does not grasp hold of the moment in the flesh, but continues to allow the Lord to place him where he needs to be and to only be lifted up at His command. Haman retreats home in shame, only to have his friends and wife confirm that he has begun to fall before his enemy. Before he could dwell further on his dreadful condition, the King's eunuch's arrived and bring him to Esther's requested banquet.

Dear sisters, in the midst of your trials, if you will conform your character to that of Jesus Christ, then you will have no need to be discouraged or to fear. Wait on the Lord and take heart in His timing!

***Psalm 27:14 (KJV)***

*<sup>14</sup> Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*

This was just the beginning stage of the deliverance of Mordecai and the people of God. Little did they know at that moment, that their best days were actually ahead of them. And so it will be for the remnant believers, if we endure to the very end and not lose heart.

***Esther 7 (KJV)***

*So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.*

*<sup>2</sup> And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.*

*<sup>3</sup> Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:*

*<sup>4</sup> For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?*

*<sup>6</sup> And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.*

*<sup>7</sup> And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.*

*<sup>8</sup> Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.*

*<sup>9</sup> And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.*

*<sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.*

Esther seven opens right into the intensity of the conflict between good and evil. We find both the enemy Haman and the Queen Esther both sitting before the King at the banquet. Both Haman and Esther had very high rank in the Kingdom, but only the bride of the King had his heart. This is reminiscent of the wheat and tares that grow together till the very end in the parable that Jesus taught in Matthew 13. Often times, we wonder why God doesn't uproot certain people right away who are

causing havoc in the Church. God is patient and knows what is best and how to save His remnant.

**Matthew 13:24-30 (KJV)**

*<sup>24</sup> Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:*

*<sup>25</sup> But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*

*<sup>26</sup> But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.*

*<sup>27</sup> So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?*

*<sup>28</sup> He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?*

*<sup>29</sup> But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.*

*<sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

Back to Esther, the time of the deliverance has come, as the King allows her to make her petition of Him. Remember first, she just requested the presence of the King and now she makes the petition for her and her people's life. Notice that she does not request judgment on Haman. Rather, her cry was for their salvation. In so doing the King is moved and He desires to pursue punishment of this culprit that would do such a terrible deed to her people.

Please make note of the beautiful example that Queen Esther shows us about interceding. Pray to the Lord, request His presence and then when He has asked you what you want, then present your petition to Him. Sadhu Sundar Selvarj once said in an Open Heavens sermon something to the effect that you must desire the Lord and you should pray, "Lord I desire You." Then only make your request once the Lord has come and asks what it is you want. So often, we seek the deliverance, the gift, the need, but not the giver of those things. When you have Him, you have everything that comes with His Kingdom.

### **Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)**

*<sup>6</sup> But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and **that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.***

With Haman exposed for who he really was and the King filled with wrath, we see Haman at what will become the lowest point of His earthly journey. His slanderous tongue ceases and his works are now to be judged for their vileness. A wise eunuch nearby, Harbonah, reveals Haman's murderous plan for the righteous Mordecai. What he sowed, he now reaps. The King then executes the very same judgment onto Haman. In one day, the situation for Mordecai and for Esther went from devastating to swift deliverance.

### **Galatians 6:7 (KJV)**

*<sup>7</sup> Be not deceived; God is not mocked: **for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.***

May we learn from Esther's example and be quick to seek the presence of God as the solution to our problems and not to handle things through the ways of man.

### **Psalms 27:8 (KJV)**

*<sup>8</sup> When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, **Thy face, LORD, will I seek***

### **Psalms 27:11-14 (KJV)**

*<sup>11</sup> Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.*

*<sup>12</sup> Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.*

*<sup>13</sup> I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*

*<sup>14</sup> **Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.***

## Esther Chapter Eight

### *Esther 8 (KJV)*

*1 On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her.*

*2 And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.*

*3 And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.*

*4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,*

*5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces:*

*6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?*

*7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.*

*8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.*

*9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.*

*10 And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries:*



*<sup>11</sup> Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey,*

*<sup>12</sup> Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.*

*<sup>13</sup> The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.*

*<sup>14</sup> So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace.*

*<sup>15</sup> And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.*

*<sup>16</sup> The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.*

*<sup>17</sup> And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.*

Many times in the midst of our testings upon this earth, there is a tendency to become overwhelmed by the sorrow of the large proportion of the trials being faced. You may have seen a few encouraging moments of redemption, yet the enemy still seems to be operating in his overall plot of destruction in your life. Take courage and pour your heart out before the Lord and watch as He, in due time, redeems your life from the dust. In one hour, your situation can change dramatically. Don't give up before your breakthrough. Don't quit before the Lord's time of deliverance. Have good endurance, stay strong and know the faithfulness of God.

### ***Romans 5:3-5 (KJV)***

*<sup>3</sup> And not only so, but **we glory in tribulations also**: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*

*<sup>4</sup> And patience, experience; and experience, hope:*

*<sup>5</sup> And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*



The story of Esther has come to a momentous time frame as the entire house of the Esther's enemy has been removed from the control of evil and given entirely in the hands of Esther. In this new place, Queen Esther reveals her connection to Mordecai and he is then brought before the King, who shows him appropriate honor as one connected to the royal family. The King takes the ring of position that was held by Mordecai's enemy Haman, and gives this position and authority over to righteous Mordecai. Not only has his shame been now turned in honor, then Queen Esther places him over the house of Haman. Truly the Lord delivered him.

### ***Psalm 34:7 (KJV)***

*<sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.*

What an amazing testimony of the faithful deliverance of God! In the midst of your preservation, remember the purpose and calling of God on your life. Don't just pause at the moment of individual redemption, but stand up again for the body of Christ that the glory of God may shine through them all. Let us not be self-seeking but let us seek the cause of Christ like we see in the example of Queen Esther. We are one family in Christ. If only one succeeds there is no satisfaction, but rather only peace found in the rescue of the entire family. I think this story is such a beautiful example of what it means to not be self-seeking nor competitive within the body of Christ.

### ***Philippians 2:4 (KJV)***

*<sup>4</sup> Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

Even in the midst of this beautiful redemption of the suffrage of Mordecai and the removal a wicked leader like Haman, Queen Esther is still burdened and needing the deliverance of her people. Upon humbling herself before the throne of the King, she requests again for His favor in stopping the decree that would destroy her people. The King's ear is inclined toward Queen Esther. His Word is sure and cannot be reversed, therefore he allows her to issue a decree in his name in favor of the Jews to combat the prior decree that had been sent out. The new decree would enable the Jews to defend and rid themselves of their enemies with the support of the Royal house behind them.

### ***Psalm 5:12 (KJV)***

*<sup>12</sup> For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.*

The redemption and restoration of right standing for Mordecai were beautiful, but it was not yet the complete restoration for Mordecai. We see at the end of Chapter 8 that Mordecai is now sent out in Royal apparel and with a great

crown of Gold. If there was any doubt among the people of His favor and position, just one look at him would establish his authority within the Royal family. The joy of the people of God was full and the fear of them amongst the gentiles caused many to turn to follow the one true God.

***James 1:12 (KJV)***

*<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

***Joel 2:25-27 (KJV)***

*<sup>25</sup> And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.*

*<sup>26</sup> And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.*

*<sup>27</sup> And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.*

*Lord, prepare our hearts to endure each testing and help us not to waiver and lose hope while awaiting your purposes and plans to come into fruition. Help us like Esther and Mordecai to have clean hands and a pure heart and stay faithful in waiting upon you Lord.*

*In Jesus Name, Amen.*

## Esther Chapter Nine

### *Esther 9 (KJV)*

*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;)*

*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.*

*3 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.*

*5 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.*

*11 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.*

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

*<sup>15</sup> 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.*

*<sup>16</sup> 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,*

*<sup>17</sup> 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.*

*<sup>18</sup> 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.*

*<sup>19</sup> 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.*

*<sup>20</sup> 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,*

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

*<sup>22</sup> 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.*

*<sup>23</sup> And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them;*

*<sup>24</sup> 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;*

*<sup>25</sup> 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.*

*<sup>26</sup> 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,*

*<sup>27</sup> 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;*

*<sup>28</sup> 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.*

*<sup>29</sup> Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim.*

*<sup>30</sup> 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,*

*<sup>31</sup> 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.*

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

Our readings in the book of Esther have been so insightful into handling persecution, properly waiting on God, showing us how to intercede and even how to focus on saving others in the midst of your own deliverance; rather than being only self-serving. Chapter Nine brings us into a new season, where the Jews were given full permission of the King to avenge themselves of their enemies. Not only were they given permission; but they were allowed to carry it out on a day that was originally intended for their own annihilation. God turned a massive trap for His people into the pit for their enemy and caused all to fear them. God has the power to make a way in the midst of our hard times. Trust Him! Wait on Him! He will do it in His perfect timing! While you wait remember, that it is not abnormal to face persecution like Mordecai did. It is actually to be expected while serving Christ.

## ***2 Timothy 3:12 (KJV)***

*<sup>12</sup> Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

In spite of these sufferings remember He works all things for His glory!

### ***Romans 8:28 (KJV)***

*<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

Don't grow weary in doing well and waiting upon the Lord. Don't fall into sins of the flesh from not having cultivated a posture of waiting on the Lord. The sins of the flesh will tempt you when you have been in an extended period of waiting. Sins like bitterness, anger, slander, back biting, complaining, gossip, self-pity, fear, depression, etc. Rather than sink low to the fleshy ways; glory in your suffering as it can produce great character in your life. Submit yourself to being refined for His glory!

### ***Romans 8:35-37 (KJV)***

*<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

*<sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

*<sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

Don't grow weary in the process of refinement. Praise the Lord that He is using these trials to purify you and sanctify you! May God be glorified in and through your life!

We see also in this chapter, that not only was Haman removed from the picture, but so were His ten sons. This is very reflective of the end times where we will see the antichrist rule with ten kings. How amazing that such a powerful story from so long ago was an image of what is about to occur! How amazing is the Word of God!

### ***Revelation 17:12-14 (KJV)***

*<sup>12</sup> And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.*

*<sup>13</sup> These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*

*<sup>14</sup> These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

Lastly, we find in this chapter the glorious celebration of Purim – a victorious, beautiful deliverance and thanksgiving! God worked a wonder in their life! Mordecai

was so quick to instruct that this victory was to be celebrated by all! The Lord still saves, heals, delivers and preserves His children! Praise His Holy Name!

***Psalm 147:1 (KJV)***

*147 Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.*

## Esther Chapter Ten & Conclusion

### **Esther 10 (KJV)**

*1 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.*

While Esther Chapter ten is just a short three verses, it is the beautiful conclusion to the journey of Queen Esther and Mordecai's story. What really stood out to me in the ending was how righteous Mordecai, who stayed so humble and low his whole life, now spent his days as an authority next unto the King of the land! Even in this place of exaltation, he continued to seek the well being of his people and did not turn into a person of selfishness or self-exaltation.

The example of Godly character in the life of Mordecai is one that each of us should take heart as well. Whether in suffering or in a position of authority, his character remained consistent. He always sought to honor God in his choices and never craved high position. He simply lived out what he believed even when he was brought to the Kingdom. How about us? Can the same be said of us? Are we women who seek after God in all that we do? Do we seek honor and glory and recognition of man or of God? What about in the area of love? Do we walk in love like Jesus did? May God help us to walk rightly with Him! When I think of Queen Esther and Mordecai's testimony, I think a lot of how gifted they were in so many areas. But the most important thing that they exhibited was love. Love for God and love for others!

### **1 Corinthians 13 (KJV)**

*1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*

*2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.*

*3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*



<sup>4</sup> *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,*

<sup>5</sup> *Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;*

<sup>6</sup> *Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;*

<sup>7</sup> *Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*

<sup>8</sup> *Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

<sup>9</sup> *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*

<sup>10</sup> *But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*

<sup>11</sup> *When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

<sup>12</sup> *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

<sup>13</sup> *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*