

The Scepter in His Hand Esther 5:1-6:3

INTRO: Esther and the Jewish people of Persia have prayed and fasted for three days. They have gone to the throne of God praying for safety and favor as Esther goes before the throne of King Ahasuerus.

Esther, some would say, was taking her life in her own hands; but no, she was placing her life in God's hands. She was trusting the Sovereign of the universe to protect her as she approached an earthly dictator.

I. VSS 1-8, ESTHER'S FIRST FEAST

A. Vs. 1, Esther now prepares to go before the king.

1. The first time that she came before the king was at a beauty contest; and she won with her natural beauty. She did not require fine clothes, elaborate accessories and expensive perfumes. The king fell in love with her for who she was. There is a lot more to love and marriage than sex and worldly beauty!
2. This time she spent a lot of time getting ready.
 - a. She put on the finest clothes she had; and she had some nice ones.
 - b. She put on bracelets and necklaces. She dolled up.
3. There she stood between life and death. She "stood in the inner court of the kings house...the king sat upon his royal throne in his royal home..."

B. Vs. 2, There she stands in the royal court waiting.

1. The king looks at her! Will he raise his scepter or not?
 - a. Esther is in a hopeless and helpless situation. She knows it. Before salvation, the sinner is in a hopeless condition (Eph 2:23).
 - b. She is lost and it is in the king's power to save her. She is dead unless the king shows favor.
2. I want you to remember the law of the Medes and Persians. It was unalterable. Without the king's intervention, Esther will die. Then friend, I want to remind you of the law of God; it too is settled and cannot be changed.
 - a. God's law says: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Eze 18:20). That has never changed.
 - b. "The wages of sin is death..." (Rom 6:23a).
 - c. Without God's intervention, you are as good as in hell

(John 3:18, 36).

3. Notice that the king holds out his scepter to Esther because she obtained favor in his sight.
 - a. All of her makeup and jewelry really meant nothing. It was by his grace that she obtained favor.
 - b. Salvation is all of grace not works. Eph 2:8-9: "For by grace. . . ."
 4. The Bible says: "And the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand."
 - a. Friends, there is a scepter that God holds out to men today. It is the Gospel.
 - b. The Gospel is good news. Better than the news that Esther got that day when the king showed her favor. The Gospel is found in I Cor 15:3-4.
 - c. The Gospel message is the power of God unto salvation (Rom 1:16).
 - d. The Gospel is God's scepter of grace.
 - 1.) Grace is getting what we do not deserve— heaven.
 - 2.) God's grace is the bestowing of the greatest gift— salvation— upon those who deserve the greatest punishment— hell.
 - 3.) God's grace brings hope to the hopeless; light to those in the darkness; help to the helpless and salvation to the lost.
 - e. The Bible says we are to hold out the scepter of grace to the lost (Mark 16:15, "Go ye therefore and preach the gospel to every creature."
 - f. There are those who will not see it. There are those who will not believe it. Yet, we are to hold it out. Those who believe pass from death to life (John 5:24).
- C. Vs. 3, The king sees the great distress of the queen and sincerely offers her help. "Make your request," he says, "I'll take care of you."
- D. Vs. 4, She invites the king and Haman to a banquet. She wants Haman present when she let's the king know what he has done: how that Haman has demanded the death of the Jews and not only this, but her death as well because she is a Jew.
- E. Vs. 5, "Send for Haman so he can do as Esther has said."

1. The king has been good to Haman. He has promoted him, trusted him, given him his ring; and let him send out an edict to slay the Jews. But when the queen calls for him to come to dinner, he must come (Eph 1:20). The queen is in favorable standing (Eph 2:6). She could have been dead. We are seated in the heavenly.
2. "So the king and Haman came..."
- F. Vs. 6, Esther can have anything she wants. It's a blank check.
 1. Esther is patient.
 2. She does not panic because her confidence is not in herself. It is in God. We need to learn from this (Prov 3:5-6).
 3. Her waiting produces in her inner strength (Psa 27:14).
- G. Vss 7-8, Esther's timing is in God's hands. In the flesh, I feel as though, she would have liked to blurt out that Haman is evil and is about to deprive you of your queen. But she waits and her strength is renewed (Isa 40:31).

II. VSS 9-14, HAMAN'S FEARFUL PLOT

- A. Vs. 9, Haman goes out pleased; he's happy about the invitation. He has been the guest of the king and queen; and he has an invitation to dine with them again. His ego is full blown.
 1. As he leaves the palace, all the dignitaries of the kingdom are there. They bow to him— all but one— Mordecai the judge. Mordecai could reverence no man. He revered God only. God alone is Reverend! (Psa 111:9).
 2. Haman is angered at Mordecai's lack of reverence.
- B. Vs. 10, Haman really wanted to get on to Mordecai. He wanted to get even; but with others around, he restrained himself. When he got home, he called together his friends and his wife.
- C. Vs 11, Here we see where Haman's priorities were: the glory of his riches, the number of his sons, and the pride of his promotion. Pride goes before the fall (Prov 16:18).
- D. Vs 12, He continues his bragging, walking up and down like a peacock. When a person is self-absorbed, the focus is not on those who bow down, but on the one who doesn't. Liberalism doesn't really care about those who bow to it; liberalism hates those who don't.
- E. Vs. 13, There is a root of bitterness in Haman. He is irritated.
 1. He could have ignored Mordecai. But Haman would not do

- that. He is so important, so powerful in his own eyes.
2. He is flustered and aggravated.
- F. Vs. 14, Haman's Jezebel, I mean his wife, offers a solution. Build a gallows seventy-five feet high on which to hang that little Jew. Build it high so the city can see who is boss.
1. Resentment, hatred and bitterness are flowing from Haman.
 2. Hatred, resentment, and bitterness will drive men to do ungodly deeds. Do not let bitterness rob you of peace and joy (Eph 4:31; Heb 12:15).
- III. 6:1-3, THE KING'S FAVORABLE PLAN— HONORING MORDECAI
- A. Vs. 1, God uses little things to accomplish His plans. He used a baby's cry, that of Moses, to save Israel. God used the empty, unwrapped linen clothes in the tomb to prove to Peter and John that Christ was the resurrected Savior.
1. Here the king cannot sleep. The hand of God is moving in the glove of history.
 2. The king calls for the minutes; surely they will put him to sleep.
- B. Vs. 2, The reader, that night, happened to turn. Well from his viewpoint, he happened to turn to a certain page.
1. The hand of God was moving because what he read caused a chain reaction that changed the course of history.
 2. Look at what he read! God was in it; he saved this record for this night!
- C. Vs. 3, The king raises up in bed. "Has this man been honored?" "No" is the answer. "The man who saved my life must be rewarded."
1. The man the king is about to reward is the man Haman is wanting to kill.
 2. In the nick of time, God steps in. God moves. He is never late.

CONCLUSION: God does move in our lives and Rom 8:28 is still in the book.

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