

Help Is On Its Way Esther 8:1-17

INTRO: A proclamation is coming that will help the Jews in their plight (3:13), a proclamation that will allow the Jews to defend themselves against the evil decree instigated by Haman the wicked enemy of the Jews who has been hanged, a decree that carried King Ahasuerus' authority.

With Haman dead, help is on its way. God has been moving, working in the shadows; and once again, we see the hand of God in the glove of history. With Haman out of the way, two of the top three positions in all of the Persian Empire will be held by Jews: Esther the Queen and Mordecai the newly appointed Prime Minister.

I. VSS 1-2, AN APPOINTMENT AND A RING

A. Vs 1, "On that day," the day they hanged Haman on the gallows prepared for Mordecai, the King gave Esther the Queen Haman's house.

1. It was a custom in those days that any traitor of the Persian empire lost his property and it became the kings.

a. The King in this case gave it to his queen, Esther.

b. Haman lost everything including his life. His actions not only affected him, it affected his whole family.

1- When Adam fell in the Garden of Eden, we all fell with him. Adam's action affected us all (Rm 5:12).

2- Friends, when you do wrong, you are not the only one who loses. Haman's family lost their home, and Haman's ten sons lost their lives (9:7-10).

2. For the first time, it was God's time, Esther revealed to the King that Mordecai was her adoptive father. This is the man, who in the providence of God, had saved the king's life (2:21-23).

B. Vs 2, The ring that had pressed down into the wax seal that called for the destruction of the Jews, the ring that once adorned Haman the enemy of the Jews' finger, was now given to a Jew, Mordecai.

1. The King had been careless in giving the ring to Haman. Mordecai would prove to be a worthy recipient of the ring and its authority.

2. It is important that people with power be people of

character, people of integrity.

II. VSS 3-6, AN APPEAL TO THE KING

- A. Vs 3, Esther with tears pleads for her people the Jews. She loves God, and she loves his people. Esther's position had not stolen her compassion. If you love the Lord, you will love the people of God. It is this kind of love that proves we are his people (I Jn 4:7-8).
- B. Vs 4, Esther will be able to plead for her people because she has found favor with the King.
 - 1. Because of favor with God through His Son, I can go directly to the creator of the universe and plead for God's people (Heb 10:19).
 - 2. By the grace of God, Esther was a queen seated next to the king. By the grace of God, I am seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph 2:4-6).
- C. Vss 5-6, The death of Haman meant nothing if the destruction of the Jews could not be stopped.
 - 1. From Ethiopia to India, Jews in the 127 provinces of Persia were affected. This included the land of Israel at that time.
 - 2. How concerned are we for those who are headed for destruction? May the Lord give us tears for the lost (Psa 126:5-6, "they that sow in tears shall reap in joy.....").

III. VSS 7-14, ANNIHILATION AVERTED BY A COUNTER DECREE

- A. Vs 7, Haman was dead, his home now belonged to Esther, but this would not stop the destruction of the Jews.
- B. Vs 8, The fasting and praying of Esther had paid off (4:16). Help is on its way. With the King's authority given, Mordecai got busy on the documents needed to save the Jews. The King's decree could not be reversed, but a counter decree could be written.
- C. Vss 9-10, The Persian Empire, 127 provinces, was a polyglot kingdom meaning that many languages were spoken. This meant that translators had to be brought in. Officials were notified and letters were sent by post with the counter decree.
- D. Vs 11, The first decree could not be changed, but a new decree could counter the first one. The Jews could defend themselves and their property.
 - 1. There is a decree from God that is unchangeable. "The soul that sinneth it shall die": that is unchangeable.

2. A new decree to counter the first has been given in John 3:18. "He that believeth is not condemned....."
- E. Vss 12-14, For the Jews to be saved, they had to get the message. They had to know about the new decree. The post went out into the Arabian Desert, up the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, over into Africa, and down into India. You and I need to get the message out over land, river, and sea!
1. For souls to be saved, they must get the message.
 2. We have a debt to pay; we need to get the message out, the Gospel message (Rm 1:14-16).
- IV. VS 15, MORDECAI'S ADVANCEMENT
- A. Mordecai had been a condemned man. Now he is the Prime Minister of Persia dressed in royal apparel.
 - B. We who are saved were condemned like Mordecai; but by God's grace, we have been given royal apparel (Isa 61:10).
- V. VS 16, APPARENT JOY
- A. The Jews rejoiced even before they were to be attacked. They knew that victory was theirs and that God was on their side. Because of the decree of the King, they could be assured of final victory.
 - B. Friends, you and I have many battles to fight, but victory is assured. Because of our confidence in our King, we can rejoice day by day (Phil 1:6).
- VI. VS 17, A SALVATION FOR THE GENTILES
- A. The Gentiles of Persia saw God moving. They saw Him working for His people, and they wanted what the Jews had.
 - B. When people see true Christianity, they will want it!

CONCLUSION: God is able to turn our gray skies to blue.

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