

God's UNSEEN Hand ~ Esther 1-2

→Scripture Reading Gen. 12:1-3, Jer. 29:4-7

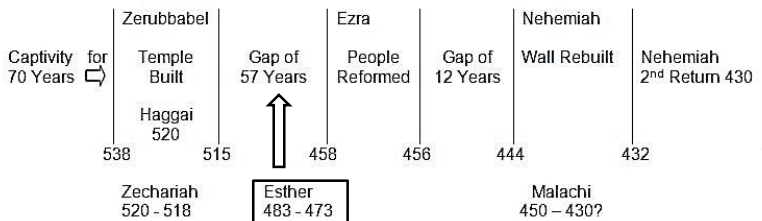
INTRODUCTION

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV) The LORD had said to Abram, Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will BE a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and ALL peoples on earth will be BLESSED through you.

Esther shows us HOW God KEPT His Promises...

- to Abraham
- to the Gentile world

Jeremiah 29:4-7 (NIV) This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ... ⁷ Also, SEEK the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.



Lavish DISPLAY of Wealth and Power ~ Esther 1:1-22

¹ This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush: ² At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa,

- Map
- Citadel of Susa

⁷ Wine was served in goblets of gold, each one different from the other, and the royal wine was abundant,

¹⁰ On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he **COMMANDED** the seven eunuchs who served him... ¹¹ to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles... ¹² But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

IMPLICATION

→Vashti is REMOVED as Queen

Now Remember God is not mentioned in the book of Esther, He is everywhere apparent as the One who opposed and foiled Satan's diabolical schemes by providential intervention. MacArthur

The OMISSION of God's NAME could be understood... MBI

1- as a way of showing God's FAITHFULNESS

Deuteronomy 31:16-17 (NLT) ...After you are gone, these people will begin to worship foreign gods, the gods of the land where they are going. They will abandon ME and break MY covenant that I have made with them. ¹⁷ Then MY anger will blaze forth against them. I will abandon them, hiding my face from them...

2- as a literary style showing that when Israel FORGOT their God He did NOT forget them

Much, Much Later ~ Esther 2:1-23

¹ LATER when the anger of King Xerxes had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her.

⁵ Now there was in the CITADEL of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai

⁷ Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl, who was also known as Esther...

¹⁶ SHE was taken to King Xerxes in the royal residence in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. ¹⁷ Now the king was attracted to Esther...

IMPLICATION

→ Mordecai is in the Right PLACE at the Right TIME

Romans 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in ALL things God WORKS for the GOOD of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

God ALWAYS does the right THING at the right TIME for our Ultimate Good

TAKE AWAY ??

Jeremiah 29:5, 7 (NIV) Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce... ⁷ ...seek the **peace** and **prosperity** of the city to which I have carried you into exile. **Pray** to the LORD **for it**, because IF it prospers, YOU TOO will prosper.

Jeremiah 29:10-11 (NIV) This is what the LORD says: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I **know the plans I have for you**, declares the LORD, **plans to prosper** you and **not to harm** you, plans to **give you HOPE** and a **future**.

¹² **THEN** you will **call upon ME** and come and **pray to ME**, and I **WILL LISTEN** to you. ¹³ You will **seek ME** and **FIND ME** when you SEEK ME with **ALL your heart**.