

The Great REVERSAL ~ Esther 5-6

→ Scripture Reading Esther 4:15-16, Isaiah 41:10-13

INTRODUCTION

→ Image

BOLDLY Going to the King ~ Esther 5:1-8

¹ On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the INNER COURT of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. ² When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. ³ Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you." ⁴ "If it pleases the king," replied Esther, "let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him." ⁵ "Bring Haman at once," the king said, "so that we may do what Esther asks." So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared. ⁶ As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, "Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted." ⁷ Esther replied, "My petition and my request is this: ⁸ If the king regards me with favor and IF it pleases the king to GRANT my petition and FULFILL my request, let the king and Haman COME tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question."

IMPLICATION

→ Courage is doing what you MUST in spite of the FEAR

¹ ...Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the INNER COURT of the palace, in front of the king's hall...

Isaiah 41:10-13 (NLT) ¹⁰ Don't be afraid, for **I AM with you**. Don't be DISCOURAGED, for **I AM your God**. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with MY victorious right hand.

¹¹ See, all your angry enemies lie there, confused and humiliated. Anyone who OPPOSES you will die and come to nothing. ¹² You will look in vain for those who tried to conquer you. Those who attack you will come to nothing. ¹³ For I hold you by your right hand - I, the LORD your God. And I say to you, **Don't be afraid. I AM here to HELP you**.

Faith is TRUSTING God to DO what ONLY He can DO

Haman's RAGE ~ Esther 5:1-8

⁹ Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and observed that he neither rose NOR showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage against Mordecai. ¹⁰ Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home. Calling together his friends and Zeresh, his wife, ¹¹ Haman BOASTED to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honored him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials. ¹² "And that's not all," Haman added. "I'm the only person Queen Esther invited to accompany the king to the banquet she gave. And she has invited me along with the king tomorrow. ¹³ But all this gives me no satisfaction as long as I see that Jew Mordecai sitting at the king's gate." ¹⁴ His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Have a gallows built, seventy-five feet high, and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai hanged on it. Then go with the king to the dinner and be happy." This suggestion delighted Haman, and he had the gallows built.

No longer was the problem Mordecai's lack of respect - his existence was the issue. HOTC

IMPLICATION

→ Bitterness CRIPPLES us

Hebrews 12:15 (NIV) See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no BITTER ROOT grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Absolute REVERSAL ~ Esther 6:1-14

¹ That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. ² It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. ³ "What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked. "NOTHING has been done for him," his attendants answered.

⁴ The king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the OUTER COURT of the palace to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows he had erected for him. ⁵ His attendants answered, "Haman is standing in the court." "Bring him in," the king ordered.

⁶ When Haman entered, the king asked him, "What should be done for THE MAN the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought to himself, "Who is there that the king would rather honor than me?" ⁷ So he answered the king, "For the man the king delights to honor, ⁸ have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head. ⁹ Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honor, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!'"

Haman did NOT covet **money** or **power**, because he already **had both**. What he wanted was the glory and splendor of royalty, including royal robes and a public parade. HCSB

¹⁰ "Go at once," the king commanded Haman. "Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. DO NOT NEGLECT anything you have recommended." ¹¹ So Haman got the robe and the horse. He robed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city streets, proclaiming before him, "This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!"

Although everyone else seemed to know about the Jews' impending destruction, the king did not; his secluded lifestyle made this possible. HOTC

¹² Afterward Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman rushed home, with his head COVERED in GRIEF, ¹³ and told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, "Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him - you will surely come to ruin! ¹⁴ WHILE they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and hurried Haman away to the banquet Esther had prepared.

Pagan advisers and a pagan wife of an evil man unknowingly stated the **central thrust** of this book: neither Haman nor any other human can possibly **stand against God's Chosen People**... BKC

IMPLICATION

→ God HATES Pride and Arrogance

Proverbs 16:5 (HCS) Everyone with a PROUD heart is DETESTABLE to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 16:18 (HCS) PRIDE comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall.

Pride is the essential vice the utmost evil: immorality, anger, greed, and drunkenness, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind. ... As long as you are proud you cannot know God at all. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you. C. S. Lewis

Daniel 4:34-35 (NLT) ...I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven. My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the **Most High** and honored the one who lives forever. His rule is everlasting, and His kingdom is eternal. ³⁵ All the people of the earth are nothing compared to Him. He does as he pleases among the angels of heaven and among the people of the earth. No one can stop Him or say to Him, 'What do you mean by doing these things?'

Daniel 4:37 (NLT) Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven. All His acts are just and true, and He is able to HUMBLE the PROUD.

TAKE AWAY ??

→ God LOVES it when we TRUST Him to DO what ONLY He can do

2 Chronicles 20:12 (NIV) ...For we have NO power to face this VAST ARMY that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon YOU.

2 Chronicles 20:15 (NLT) ...This is what the LORD says: Do NOT be AFRAID. Don't be DISCOURAGED by this mighty army, for the battle is NOT yours, but God's.

²¹ ...the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the LORD and praising Him for His holy splendor. This is what they sang: "Give thanks to the LORD; His faithful love endures forever!" ²² At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the LORD caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves...(NLT)

²⁴ So when the army of Judah arrived at the lookout point in the wilderness, all they saw were dead bodies lying on the ground as far as they could see. Not a single one of the enemy had escaped. (NLT)