

Final and FATAL Reversal ~ Esther 7-8

→ Scripture Reading Esther 5:7-8, 7:2-4

GRANT me my LIFE and SPARE my PEOPLE ~ Esther 7:1-10

³ Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor with you, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, GRANT me my life-this is my PETITION. And SPARE my people-this is my REQUEST." ⁴ For I and my people have been SOLD for DESTRUCTION and SLAUGHTER and ANNIHILATION. If we had merely been SOLD as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.

⁷ The king got up in a RAGE, left his wine and went out into the palace garden. But Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life. ⁸ JUST AS the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, "Will he even MOLEST the queen while she is with me in the house?" As soon as the word left the king's mouth, they COVERED Haman's face.

⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, "A gallows seventy-five feet high stands by Haman's house. He had it made for Mordecai, who SPOKE UP to HELP the king." The king said, "Hang him on it!" ¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided.

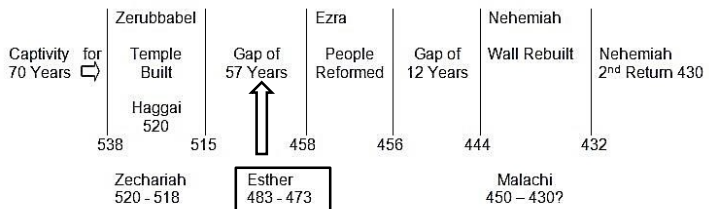
IMPLICATION

→ Why did God ALLOW Haman to take his Plot as far as he did?

Ezra 1:2-3 (NLT) This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has appointed me to BUILD Him a Temple at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. ³ Any of you who are His people may go to Jerusalem in Judah to rebuild this Temple of the LORD...

Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV) ...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.**"

It had now been **sixty years** since Cyrus's decree to rebuild Jerusalem. BBC



Ezra 7:10 (NIV) For Ezra had devoted himself to the STUDY and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

Psalms 119:71 (NIV) It was good for me to be AFFLICTED so that I might LEARN your decrees.

→ Be PATIENT God's TIMING is Perfect

¹⁰ So they hanged Haman ON the gallows he had prepared FOR Mordecai...

Proverbs 21:15 (NLT) Justice is a JOY to the godly, but it TERRIFIES evildoers.

A New Life Giving DECREE ~ Esther 8.:1-17

¹ That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told HOW he was related to her. ² The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman's estate.

³ Esther again pleaded with the king, FALLING at his FEET and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews. ⁴ Then the king EXTENDED the gold scepter to Esther and she arose and stood before him.

⁵ IF it pleases the king, she said, and IF he regards me with favor and THINKS it the right thing to DO, and IF he is pleased with me, let an order be written OVERRULING the DISPATCHES that Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, devised and wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king's provinces.

⁸ Now write another decree in the king's name in BEHALF of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king's signet ring - for no document written in the king's name and sealed with his ring can be revoked."

¹¹ The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the RIGHT to assemble and PROTECT themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate any armed force of any nationality or province that might attack them and their women and children; and to plunder the property of their enemies. ¹² The day appointed for the Jews to do this in all the provinces of King Xerxes was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. ¹³ A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as LAW in every province and made known to the people of every nationality SO THAT the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

Just as Haman's edict ordered the DESTRUCTION of the Jews on the thirteenth of Adar, the Jews now had the legal right to DEFEND themselves on that same day. HCSB

Hostilities would erupt only if people acted on Haman's decree. The second edict had meaning ONLY if the first edict was enacted. HOTC

¹⁴ The couriers, riding the royal horses, raced out, spurred on by the king's command. And the edict was also issued in the citadel of Susa. ¹⁵ Mordecai left the king's presence wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa held a joyous celebration. ¹⁶ For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honor. ¹⁷ In every province and in every city, wherever the edict of the king went, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them.

TAKE AWAY ??

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV) ...I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

² Do not CONFORM any longer to the pattern of this world...

² Don't let the world around you SQUEEZE you into its own mold... (JBP)

² Do not CONFORM any longer to the pattern of this world, but be TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind...

² Do not CONFORM any longer to the pattern of this world, but be TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind...