

A Party for the Pretentious

Esther 7

March 11, 2018

Introduction: In the wicked world in which we live, it's very easy to look around at all those who seem to sin seemingly without consequence and become discouraged. In times when evil seems to prevail, it's vital that we have God's perspective. Proverbs 16:3-5 says, "Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established. The LORD hath made all things for himself: Yea, even the wicked for the day of evil. Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished." In Esther 7, we'll find great encouragement that God has not lost control. He will judge those who oppose Him!

1. The Petition Finally Revealed (7:1-4)

- a. The third time is the charm (1-2).
 - i. This is the third time that the king has asked Esther for her petition. The first was in the throne room (5:3), and the second was at the first banquet the day before (5:6). In every case, the king indicated that not only would he give her what she requested, but even up to the half of the kingdom!
 - ii. "The urgency of the emergency demands fervency." Jim Van Gelderen
- b. The reason for the queen's alarm (3-4)
 - i. Her life was at stake. Her family's life was at stake. All of her kindred and people were about to perish. They had been servant's before, and she would have been content to be so again. But, at the prospect of losing her life, and so many other lives, she could not be silent.
 - ii. "Countervail" means to pay back or repay. The loss of so many Jews would mean the loss of tribute, taxes, and economic contribution of all sorts. The 10,000 pounds that Haman was prepared to pay couldn't touch the damage the king would sustain.
- c. Application: We also have cause to speak up!
 - i. The eternal destiny of souls of those around us are at stake.
 - ii. The lives of unborn children are at stake.

2. The Judgment Appealed (7:5-6)

- a. God can overturn that which is "unalterable."
 - i. Daniel 3:25 "He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."
 - ii. Proverbs 16:5 "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished."
- b. God can overthrow the wicked.
 - i. Psalms 27:2 "When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell."
 - ii. Daniel 4:37 "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase."
- c. Application: Do you believe that God is able to overthrow those who oppose God and the spread of the Good News of Jesus Christ? Unbelief in this area will keep us from standing up and speaking up for the Lord.

3. Haman's Fate Sealed (7:7-10)

- a. Evil was determined against him by the king.
 - i. Truthfully, evil was determined against him from the Lord. The king was merely the instrument that God used to accomplish God's judgment.
 - ii. God mercifully allowed Haman's family and wise men to warn him, but he did not repent.
 - iii. Genesis 12:3 "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."
 - iv. Application: God would have had mercy upon Haman if he would have repented. Little did he know that he passed up his last opportunity to repent (God's Final Call).
 1. Balaam found out that you cannot curse what God has blessed, and so did Haman.

2. Are you under the deception that God's patience and longsuffering in your life regarding your sin means that God has forgotten it, or overlooked it? Of course, this is not true! We need to embrace His patient mercy and repent!
- b. The ironic nature of his demise preached a message.
 - i. Who preached Haman's funeral? God did, through the circumstances that surrounded his death! The unseen, unheard, unknown God preached a funeral message loud and clear though there was no scroll, no scribe, no delivered sermon, a message was preached, "These are my people, and this man stood up against them."
 - ii. This man went from approaching the king with a request to kill, to leaving the king with a command to honor the man he wanted to kill. He went from describing in detail the honor that he sought for himself, to bestowing all those honors on the one he sought to kill. He went from covering his face in shame after parading Mordecai through the streets to having his face covered on the way to the gallows. He went from having all men bow to him, to bowing before Esther, pleading for his life. The last thing he did on this earth was bow to Esther the Jew. He went from building a gallows for Mordecai, to being hung on that very gallows 24 hour later.
 - iii. Psalm 7:14-16 "Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. He made a pit, an digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate."
 - iv. Psalm 9:15-16 "The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken. **The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth:** the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands."
 - c. Application: In a place where God is not known, in a book in which His name does not appear, God made Himself known!
 - i. Psalm 37:35-36 "I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found."
 - ii. Proverbs 26:27 "Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him."
 - iii. Proverbs 22:8 "He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail."
 - iv. As Haman swung at the end of the gallows 50 cubits high, the LORD had the last word. Even 50 cubits is significant. Haman had planned to preach a message that day, "Those who don't bow to me will hang!" But God used it to preach another message, "Those who curse my people, I will curse!" God is not intimidated by the wicked rulers of this world.

Conclusion:

1. Will you be willing to speak up for the lost souls of men and women?
2. Will you recognize that you cannot win with sin!
3. Will you put your focus on God rather than those who flaunt their rebellion against Him?