

The Book of ESTHER as Prophecy

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The Book of Esther is an enigmatic little portion of the Old Testament. It is the only Book in the Bible that does not specifically mention any name of God. Historically, it unfolds during the captivity of the Jews--under the Persian empire of Xerses (King Ahasuerus) around 483-473 A.D. Time wise, it fits in between the sixth and seventh chapters of the Book of Ezra.

The story of Esther is a practical demonstration of how God can use individual faithfulness to accomplish His purposes for His people. He is always in control, even in the most adverse circumstances! The fact that there is no reference to the Book of Esther in the New Testament may suggest it's special Jewish character. It may be prophetic of God's intervention for the Jews throughout the tribulation period of "Jacob's trouble." Whether it is symbolic or not, it seems to run remarkably parallel to the pre-trib concept of how post-rapture prophecy will unfold.

Chapter 1:

Queen Vashti refuses to obey King Ahasuerus, and loses her place of nearness to him by despising by his authority. Man lost his familiarity with God because of the fall, and every subsequent disobedience receives its just reward! Prophetically, Vashti's discharge could symbolize the end of God's special grace to the gentiles that has characterized the "Church" era, because of their flagrant disobedience and insubordination to Him.

Chapter 2:

Esther the Jewess is chosen to be Queen because of her striking beauty. There is no indication that she had any choice in the matter. This could symbolize the renewal of God's sovereign call of Abraham's seed to be His special people, perhaps introducing the deferred seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy. (Daniel 9:24-27.) God appreciates beauty in human character, and who would deny the moral beauty of the 144,000 "Sealed" Jews. (Revelation 7:4-8 & 14:1-5.) Mordecai is introduced as a faithful servant of the king that exposed the plot to depose him. He could be looked at as the "Emptied" Christ of Philippians chapter two, before all things are put under Him. (Hebrews 2:8.)

Chapter 3:

Haman is promoted to virtual control over the kingdom. Everyone except Mordecai bows to him. Sin has subjected all men except the sinless Christ to the dominion of Satan! Haman determines to destroy Mordecai and his people for his refusal to bow down to him. He could typify Satan as "The prince and the power of the air," (Ephesians 2:2,) who wanted Christ to worship him. (Matthew 5:8-10.) Haman's plot is comparable to the dragon's persecution of the woman after failing in his attempt to annihilate her child, (Revelation 12,) that symbolizes Satan's malice towards Israel when he realized that the crucifixion did not destroy Christ.

Chapter 4:

Mordecai discloses Haman's scheme to annihilate him and all his people to Esther. Her relationship with the king was part of God's plan for their deliverance. He urges her to intercede for her people despite her insecurity in approaching the king. As Christians we can come boldly to the throne of grace through the blood of Jesus. May we be there regularly interceding for our brethren! Typically, there will be a godly remnant of penitent Jews during the tribulation that will reject Satan's Antichrist and refuse to take the Mark of the Beast. (Revelation 14:1-5.) Although longing for the true Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament to come and deliver them, they may be unaware that the Jesus their fathers had crucified was that Messiah, until they see the wounds in His hands. (Zechariah 13:6.) No one can enter boldly into the presence of God without the knowledge of Christ's atoning work on the cross. But perhaps it will be their tremulous intercession that preserves the nation of Israel until He comes to personally defend them.

Chapter 5:

Esther's approach to the king is accepted, and she is promised that whatever she would request would be granted. Christians are also promised that whatever they ask aright in the name of Christ will be done. She asks only that the king would meet Haman at a banquet. The arrogance with which Haman attends the banquet is turned to humiliation by Mordecai as he leaves it. This only intensifies his hatred of Mordecai. Esther's banquet may typify the "Great Supper of God." (Revelation 19:17 to 20:3.) When Satan presumes to attack God's people, He will be humiliated by the true "King of Kings and Lord of Lords," and be "Bound" for a thousand years. Esther's request for a second such banquet between the king and Haman may be paving the prophetic road for the second such supper after the thousand years are up and Satan is loosed to rise up against God again. (Revelation 20:7-10.)

Chapter 6:

As Haman builds the gallows, or more literally, "*Tree*" to destroy Mordecai, the king resolves to honor him for his faithfulness. God is not unrighteous to forget the faithfulness of His people! Haman expected to receive the glory that belonged to Mordecai, but became the source of Mordecai's glorification instead. Although Satan would like to usurp the glory of Christ, Christ will be magnified by defeating him in God's time.

Chapter 7:

The second banquet proves to be the final destruction of Haman. His wicked intentions against Esther and Mordecai exposed, he is hung on the very gallows he intended for the destruction of Mordecai. Typically, Satan's malice against Christ will prove to be his own downfall, Christ won the victory at the cross! The fact that Satan, rather than Christ, will be destroyed in the second Armageddon (Ezekiel 38 & 39) is secondary to Calvary.

Chapter 8:

Mordecai is given everything that Haman had, and Esther confesses what he is to her. He arranges for the defence of the Jews in the coming conflagration, sealing it with the king's unalterable seal. God always provides a way of escape in every temptation. (1 Corinthians 10:13.) Typically, when the crucified Christ is finally acknowledged as their Messiah by the nation of Israel, He will provide for their defense. (Zechariah 12:8-14.)

Chapter 9:

The attacking enemies of the Jews are completely destroyed in the scheduled melee but the Jews do not plunder their homes. The sons of Haman are hanged. The feast of Purim, "The lot," is instituted to celebrate the victory. It is their acknowledgement of God's sovereign intervention in their adversity. God is able to bring victory to His people despite overwhelming odds! Typically, all the armies of the unbelieving earth will be gathered against Israel and utterly defeated. (Zechariah 14:2-15.) The Beast and the False Prophet--the special sons of Satan--will be cast alive into the Lake of Fire, and the rest will be killed by the sword from the mouth of the "Word of God." (Revelation 19:20,21.) The millennial kingdom of Christ will be established over the whole earth, with Israel as its center. Israel will not need to plunder the conquered nations, as their accumulated debt for their plunder of Israel will be met by what they brought to Jerusalem with their own hands. (Zechariah 14:1 & 14.) All the surviving nations will have to celebrate the Feast of Booths at Jerusalem when they come to worship the King. (Zechariah 14:16-19.)

Chapter 10:

King Ahasuerus lays a tribute on his entire kingdom. Mordecai is exalted to be second only to the king himself, and finds favor with his kinsmen. God rewards faithfulness! Typically, God will finally receive His due from His creation. When Satan is freed to gather the forces of evil against Christ again at the end of the millennial kingdom, He will be defeated and cast into the Lake of Fire where the Beast and the False Prophet are, (Revelation 19:7-10,) Then, after all things have been subjected to Him, Christ will deliver the kingdom over to God. (I Corinthians 15:28.) This whole scene will be replaced by a new heavens and earth in which righteousness dwells. (II Peter 3:10-13.) All will be exactly as prophesied in the Scriptures, with Christ having his rightful place in the new heavens and new earth, appreciated by His people that rejected Him for so long.