

WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT?

TEXT:

Esther 5:1-3, KJV Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.

2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

3 Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

THE SUMMARY OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER

The Book of Esther, which narrates certain incidents in the court of the Persian King Ahasuerus (Xerxes I) relating to the deliverance of the Jews out of persecution, furnishes the reason for the institution of the Jewish Feast of PURIM. It pictures the conditions of God's people during their exile in PERSIA—this time was between the period of the restoration of the TEMPLE under the hand of ZERUBBABEL, and the return of the second group under EZRA.

XERSES, King of Persia, set aside Queen VASHTI (the Feast of Ahasuerus). Esther was chosen to be his new bride and queen, brought in and prepared by the ministries of MORDECAI and HEGAI (the Feast of Esther). When HAMAN the Agagite rose up against the Jews, Esther called a national FAST, and, at the risk of her own life, brought deliverance to the Jewish people. The Feast of PURIM was then initiated to be celebrated annually to commemorate the death of Haman (who was hung on the very gallows he had prepared for Mordecai), and the deliverance and preservation of the Jews.

CHAPTER ONE – THE DEPOSING OF VASHTI

Esther 1:9-12, KJV Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus.

10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded...the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,

11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.

12 But the QUEEN VASHTI REFUSED TO COME....

CHAPTER TWO – ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN

Esther 2:12-17, KJV Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;) – the first TWO HOUSES (for the VIRGINS and CONCUBINES) were “Houses of ENDURANCE.”

13 Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house.

14 In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women....

15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she REQUIRED NOTHING but what HEGAI (the FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY) the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And ESTHER OBTAINED FAVOUR in the sight of all them that looked upon her...

17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she OBTAINED GRACE AND FAVOUR in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and MADE HER QUEEN INSTEAD OF VASHTI.

CHAPTER THREE – HAMAN’S PLOT TO DESTROY THE JEWS

Esther 3:5-6, KJV **And when HAMAN (the ADVERSARY, a descendant of AGAG and ESAU = the FLESH or the DEVIL) saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was HAMAN FULL OF WRATH.**

6 *And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore HAMAN SOUGHT TO DESTROY ALL THE JEWS (the Messianic ROYAL SEED and the PROMISE of Gen. 3:15) that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.*

CHAPTER FOUR – ESTHER’S INTERCESSION

Esther 4:13-16, KJV **Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.**

14 *For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether THOU ART COME INTO THE KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS?*

15 *Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,*

16 *Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and FAST YE FOR ME, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and SO WILL I GO IN UNTO THE KING, which is not according to the law: and IF I PERISH, I PERISH.*

CHAPTER FIVE – ESTHER’S INTERCESSION (continued)

1. CHAPTER FIVE reveals TWO IMPORTANT PATTERNS:

- a. Principles for ENTERING THE MOST HOLY PLACE – HOW to APPROACH the KING. This was Esther’s PURPOSE in becoming an instrument of deliverance.
- b. Principles for approaching the King in TRUE WORSHIP and PRAYER. We have been given “ACCESS” to God.

2. ESTHER going into the INNER COURT to see the KING FACE TO FACE, picturing a people moving into the THRONE ROOM, the MOST HOLY PLACE, has many parallel pictures in the Bible:

- a. JOSEPH receiving the favor of Pharaoh (Gen. 39:4-6).
- b. AARON going beyond the veil on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:12).
- c. RUTH going down to the threshing floor unto Boaz (Ruth 3:4).
- d. The QUEEN OF SHEBA receiving the favor of Solomon (1 Kg. 10:13).
- e. MORDECAI being honored by Xerxes (Esth. 6:10-11).
- f. DANIEL receiving the favor of Darius (Dan. 6:1-3).
- g. PAUL going in to speak before kings (Acts 9:15).
- h. JESUS entering within the Veil for us all (Heb. 6:19-20).

Esther 5:1, KJV Now it came to pass on the THIRD DAY (of the FAST, cp. 4:16 with Hos. 6:1-3; 2 Pet. 3:8), that ESTHER PUT ON (wrap around, dress, clothe oneself) her ROYAL (rule, dominion, royal power) APPAREL (italics), and STOOD (take one’s stand, stand upright, arise; remain, endure – JUSTIFIED, RIGHTEOUS) in the INNER COURT (cp. 4:11) of the king’s house, over against the king’s house (“in front of the king’s throne room” – TM): and the KING SAT (down) upon his ROYAL THRONE (covered, canopied; seat, stool; cp. 1:2; 3:1) in the ROYAL HOUSE, OVER AGAINST (a RAISED position facing) the GATE (opening, doorway, entrance) of the house (only a WALL and a FEW STEPS separated the KING from the place where MORDECAI sat).

NOTE: “ROYAL APPAREL” = to PUT ON CHRIST; this is what Esther WORE that day, and is the spiritual WARDROBE of the believer (this time she, not HEGAI, dressed HERSELF):

- 1. The three-fold GARMENTS of the HIGH PRIEST (Ex. 28).**
- 2. WROUGHT GOLD – divine nature (Psa. 45:13; 2 Pet. 1:4).**
- 3. Clothed with SCARLET, with BLOOD (Prov. 31:21).**
- 4. Clothed with SILK and PURPLE, or royalty (Prov. 31:22)**
- 5. RIGHTEOUSNESS and FAITHFULNESS (Isa. 11:5).**
- 6. The beautiful garments of STRENGTH (Isa. 52:1-3).**
- 7. The garment of PRAISE (Isa. 61:3).**
- 8. Garments of SALVATION (Isa. 61:10).**
- 9. Clothed upon with POWER from on high (Lk. 24:49).**
- 10. The ARMOR of LIGHT (Rom. 13:11-14).**
- 11. INCORRUPTION and IMMORTALITY (1 Cor. 15:53-54).**
- 12. The NEW MAN, a new creation (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10-12).**
- 13. LOVE, the bond of perfectness (Col. 3:14).**
- 14. The WHOLE ARMOR of God (Eph. 6:10-18).**
- 15. Clothed with HUMILITY (1 Pet. 5:5).**

Luke 22:21, KJV But, behold, the HAND of him that betrayeth Me is with me on the table.

NOTE: Esther “STOOD.” Judas FELL (Acts 1:18) because his HAND was on the table, but John STOOD because his HEART was on the table, and his HEAD was on the HEART of Jesus!

Numbers 11:1, KJV And when the people COMPLAINED (mourn, murmur), it displeased the LORD...consumed them that were in THE UTTERMOST PARTS (extremities, outskirts) of the camp.

NOTE: Esther STOOD in the “INNER COURT” of WORSHIP, not in the uttermost parts of the camp, where there is MURMURING. We cannot STAND on the OUTSIDE of what God is doing—we’ve got to get INVOLVED! We must be delivered from being CASUAL and MEDIOCRE, and become DOERS of the Word, and not just HEARERS only, deceiving our own selves (Jas. 1:22). We must mix the WORD with FAITH (Heb. 4:2)!

NOTE: These **FIRST TWO VERSES** of Chapter Five describe the operation of the Spirit in moving a people of FAVOR forward into the Most Holy Place within the rent veil. Someone must PUT ON Christ and lay hold of the “TOP” (*rosh*) of the Golden Scepter, FULLNESS of His HEADSHIP, AUTHORITY, and NAME (“the highest part” = ZION, the HIGH CALLING), the fruit of His FINISHED WORK. Someone must GROW UP into His HEADSHIP (Eph. 4:15). Someone must lay down their LIVES (*psuche*) to bring DELIVERANCE to their NATION and the GROANING CREATION, to be the SECOND WITNESS bringing about the ESTABLISHING of the TRUTH that HAMAN’S DECREE, the LAW OF SIN AND DEATH, has been reversed and abolished!

Esther 5:2 And it was so, WHEN THE KING SAW (perceived) ESTHER THE QUEEN STANDING (righteously) in the (inner) COURT, that she OBTAINED FAVOUR (cp. 2:15,17) in his SIGHT (eye): and the king HELD OUT to ESTHER the GOLDEN SCEPTER (“rod of gold” – Basic English; cp. 4:11) that was in his HAND (Eph. 4:11). So ESTHER DREW NEAR (approached; cp. Heb. 10:19-22,38-39), and TOUCHED (lay the hand on, reach – total IDENTIFICATION) the TOP of the SCEPTRE (all kingly authority, as Matt. 28:18-20—we can TOUCH Him, Heb. 4:15-16).

Psalms 45:11, KJV So shall the king greatly DESIRE (long for, crave) THY BEAUTY (brightness)....

Song 7:10, KJV I am my beloved's, and his DESIRE (stretching out after, longing, craving) is toward ME.

Song 7:10, TM I am my lover's. I'm all he wants. I'm all the world to him!

NOTE: “The king SAW Esther...” (“the sight of her won his heart” – Knox). The KEY to understanding the “SONG OF SONGS” (Song 1:1) for the HOLY OF HOLIES is not how beautiful HE is to her, but how beautiful and attractive SHE is, IN Him and TO Him! He can only identify with HIMSELF.

NOTE: Away with the SIN-CONSCIOUS, pseudo-humility of a traditional Pentecostal mindset (“I’m not worthy”). When she matured, the Shulamite declared, “His DESIRE is toward ME (“for me” – NIV)!” Those of us who preach the Gospel of the KINGDOM are DESPISED in the eyes of religion, but we are BELOVED in His sight! Are you seeking for FAVOR in the sight of MEN or GOD? The Greek word for “men-pleasers” means, “man-courting, fawning; studying to please man, courting the favor of men.” Used but twice, (Eph. 6:6; Col. 3:22), it is taken from *anthropos* (man) and *aresko* (to please).

Hebrews 10:38-39, KJV Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man DRAW BACK (shrink back in fear), my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who DRAW BACK unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

NOTE: “TOP” (*rosh*) = “HEAD; beginning, chiefest place, excellence, first, foremost, HIGHEST PART, lead or principal, sum.” The TOP of the scepter is JESUS, the HEAD of the Church! Lay hold of HIM, the RESURRECTION and the LIFE (Jn. 11:25; 14:6 with Esth. 4:11), and his HIGH CALLING! Have you PRESSED in? Are we content just to TOUCH the HEM (the BOTTOM) of His garment (Matt. 9:20; 14:36), or will we LAY HOLD of the TOP? This is the upward or heavenly call to ZION, the HIGH CALLING (Phil. 3:12-14; Heb. 3:1 with Rev. 14:1-5)!

Esther 5:3 Then said the king unto her, WHAT WILT THOU (cp. Mk. 10:51; Lk. 18:41), QUEEN ESTHER? and WHAT IS THY REQUEST (entreaty, petition; desire, to strive after)? it shall be even GIVEN thee (bestowed, granted, delivered up) to THE HALF (to split in two; cp. 1 Kg. 10:7; Rom. 8:17; 1 Pet. 3:7) OF THE KINGDOM.

ALTAR CALL: WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT?