

Remnant Life Church

May 6, 2021

Esther

Pt 5

Esther

“Mordecai”

Haman

- He was obviously a man of accomplishment
- But he has a problem
 - One that, if he does not address it, will undermine his authority in the eyes of the people
 - The Jew Mordecai refuses to bow down when Haman passes him
 - This is not only a sign of defiance but it is against the king's direct order
- Haman's reaction was to not only punish Mordecai, but wipe out all the Jews in the 127 provinces of the kingdom.
 - We came to understand his actions because he was an Amalekite
 - These were an ancient people with a long-standing blood-feud with the Jewish people

He is a man of great power, great ego, and great evil – a very dangerous combination for one in such a position as his

We are then introduced to Mordecai

- The focus of what we are told is a little unusual
- Although not as much as it first appears because of who he is related to

READ – Esther 2:5-7

There are 4 major lessons we learn from Esther: 1. God has a plan for your life. 2. Satan has a plan for your life. 3. You have a choice. 4. God has the answer.

Mordecai was in the midst of all of that in our study of Esther

- First, he had the compassion and caring to adopt and raise his uncle's orphaned daughter (**Esth 2:7**)
 - This was a very big thing for him to decide because an orphaned, unclaimed little girl had no future
- Second, he raised her understanding the importance of her heritage and the laws of her people (**Esth 2:10,19**)
 - He not only taught them
 - He modeled them by refusing to bow down to Haman (**Esth 3:2**)
- Third, he was also loyal and valued by those around him
 - It was Mordecai who discovered and reported the plan by two guards to assassinate the king (**Esth 2:21-22**)
 - He did not complain when he was not rewarded

- Fourth, he continued to care for and guard Esther even after she was taken to the king's palace in his search for a new queen

What is it about Mordecai that made it possible for God to use him in His plan to save the Jewish people?

1. Compassion
 - a. Compassion means to be aware of someone's deed
 - b. But then doing something about it
 - c. Mordecai saw his young cousin homeless and took her in
2. Unwavering, uncompromising devotion to God
 - a. Mordecai knew it was a sin against God to bow to anyone other than Yahweh
 - b. Even at the risk of his own safety
 - c. And His very life
3. Intestinal fortitude
 - a. Defined as the courage to continue or press on even in the face of great difficulty
 - b. Mordecai showed this ability in several situations
 - i. The first was when he overheard two of the Xerxes' officers planning to assassinate the king
 1. To report that to the king put him in direct danger should it be discovered that he was the one
 - ii. The second was when he was told he had to bow down before Haman
 - iii. The third time was when the edict was issued for all the Jews to die
 1. It was Mordecai's plan, given to Esther, that saved the Jews

Because of these traits, how did God use Mordecai?

- He became the second most powerful ruler in the land under only the king himself (took Haman's job) ([Esth 8:2,15](#))
- He was able to encourage the Jewish people to defend themselves ([Esth 8:11](#))
 - The edict was never rescinded ([Esth 8:8](#))
 - The king could not change his own law (Daniel into the lion's den)
- He organized other Persian officials to assist in protecting the Jews
- When the battle was done, over 75,000 of the Jews enemies were dead ([Esth 9:6,15-16](#))
- The time of rest and celebration by the people became known as the Festival of Purim
- Still celebrated today – 2021 was February 25-27

The line of God's people was preserved