

(Note: The following e-mail study-commentary by C J McKnight on the Old Testament Book of **Esther** covers the time it was begun on May 27, 2008 to September 17, 2008.)

ESTHER. 1

In the days of Ahasuerus, the venerable king, the great. Esther 1:1 A title given to a Persian ruler who could have been Xerxes I or II. Historians are divided as to the exact identity of this man. Daniel is linked to Darius, the son of Ahasuerus. Dan. 9:1 The prophets Ezra, Haggai and Zechariah were active in the days in the days of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes the kings of Persia. Ezra 6:14 Nehemiah was also one who stood before a king called Artaxerxes. Neh. 2:1 Darius, at the age of sixty two was used to fulfill the prophetic utterances and revelations pertaining to the fall of Babylon.

He ruled over a great kingdom reaching from India to Ethiopia. It is listed as being one hundred and twenty seven provinces. The one hundred and twenty were added to the seven when he conquered Babylon. The original seven are seen in Esther 1:14. The seven princes or governors who ruled over them are named. These men had easy access to the king as his advisers. The fact that in the day of this king there was one ruling over such a vast area of the earth. Involving so many different languages, all under one king with the nation of the Medes and Persians in power, shows us that the peoples of that time were not isolated. Therefore we can better understand that Paul was not stretching a point when he said that the gospel had been preached to every creature which is under heaven. Col. 1:23 Obviously the people of the earth heard the gospel in his day, of this his statement is quite positive. The gospel went to all the earth and the ends of the World. Rom. 10:18 Hope, to the whole world. Col.1:5-6

As we go through this book we will try to emphasize as many of the symbols and attempt to identify their meaning as we can. From the very beginning it is interesting to note that the number one hundred twenty seven is the number of the provinces over which he ruled, and that they are divided into two sections. One hundred twenty and seven. Both are significant numbers relating to the end of the age.

ESTHER. 2

One hundred and twenty provinces with one hundred twenty satraps or governors ruling over them. The children of Israel in captivity, but in the midst of it all Daniel, the one faithful to his belief, saw the hand of the Lord exalt him in the kingdom. He was one of three presidents and of the three he was the first. Dan. 6:2

The name Babylon means mixture, confusion. It illustrates a method used by the enemy to be victorious. Confuse, divide and conquer. Babylon is both historic and prophetic. The confusion of man made doctrines and ideas propagated in the church of today will result in captivity to Babylon. The false church depicted in the book of Revelation. She is one of the great mysteries found in the Bible. Her falsehood is revealed in the book of Revelation. She is the mother of all that is sinful and unclean. Rev. 17:5 She is destined to be destroyed in the end of the age. Rev. 14:8 Thus we see the climax of wickedness.

The one hundred twenty years in the days of Noah depict the end of all flesh. Gen. 6:3 Now, as then there is a point of no return where the inhabitants of the earth reach the peak of unrighteousness. Imagine, the Spirit of the Lord dealt faithfully with the people in Noah's day for that extended period of time. Certainly ample warning was given them of a coming destruction such as had never happened before. So obnoxious were the actions of that generation that the Lord was sorry and grieved that He had made man and determined to destroy humanity from off the face of the earth. Gen. 6:6-7 Babylon (the nation) as well as Babylon (the false church) filled with wickedness and pride are recipients of the wrath of the Lord. Rev. 18:8-19 A person in our day who is unable to see what amounts to preliminary signs of the end of the age is both blind and chooses to ignore the fact that even scientist are warning of impending disasters.

ESTHER. 3

There is another one hundred twenty which must be considered for the number has a positive side as well as negative. We are presented with a picture of absolute unity in the blowing of one hundred twenty trumpets

joining in with the voices of the temple singers at the dedication of Solomon's temple. 2 Chron. 5:12-13

There is yet a consecration, a dedication to be made by the temple, the church, the bride of Christ. Ye are the temple. 1 Cor. 3:16 It is exemplified by this ceremony. They were clothed in fine linen, the righteousness of the saints. Rev. 19:8 They were of one voice, though many. The church, the bride, unified in all things in fulfillment of the prayer of the Lord Jesus. John 17:21 The house of God was filled with the glory of the Lord until no flesh could enter. The bride/church will be filled with all the fullness of the Lord. Eph. 3:19 Amazing, astonishing but He will accomplish His will fully, in a willing people.

The number seven is a divine complete number. The book of Revelation is the book of sevens. The number is used repeatedly in relationship to end time events. Some of the situations in the book of Esther exemplify these events which even in our day are evident.

Esther's Hebrew name was Hadassah, meaning the myrtle tree. Est.2:7 This tree has a significance which reaches down to the end of the age. Isaiah saw a tremendous transformation that was to take place inasmuch as the myrtle tree was to replace the brier becoming a sign which would never be ended and would result in the name of the Lord being glorified. Isa. 55:13 Surely, the intent of the Lord is that perfect church of which Paul wrote. Eph. 5:27 Furthermore, it is one of seven trees which the Lord said He would plant in the wilderness. Isa. 41:19 It is the Bride of Christ who is transported and planted in the wilderness during the three and one half years of the great tribulation. Rev. 12:6, 14

ESTHER. 4

Her Persian name Esther, means a star. She could well have been named Esther because of her spotless and outstanding beauty. She was destined to be come a bright and shining light of deliverance for her people. She is most definitely one whom the Lord had prepared for the time and the season.

The character of Ahasuerus is seen in his actions during a great feast held in the palace Shushan, meaning a lily. Following the pattern of that day, the city of Susa must have been a city of beauty. At least its name would imply that it was like a garden of flowers. Pride, a desire to show his accomplishments to the leadership of his kingdom caused him to have a great feast, with his subordinates present. His guests were an impressive group being the power of Persia and Media, the nobles, the leading men, and princes. Est. 1:3

He conducted what would have amounted to a world's fair for a period of six months, or one hundred and forty days and nights of revelry. These feasts were not without an abundance of intoxicants. All during these days there was a display of the wealth of his vast kingdom. The splendor and abundance of this great kingdom over which he was the ruler was on display. The might, the power the greatness and honor ascribed unto his kingdom was also a bragging point for him. Greatly impressive and perhaps overwhelming to those who saw the display of this great kingdom. Est. 1:4

All this was climaxed with a special seven day feast of great proportions held in the king's garden. These ancient gardens were the area of their palaces which we generally reserved for their own private use. After such an extensive period of revelry and entertainment this was to be a climax well to be remembered. It is the door to the whole of the book of Esther. Est. 1:5

ESTHER. 5

The area of this seven day feast was decorated in an extravagant manner. The white, green and blue drapes were according to the royal colors of the kingdom. The materials used were of the finest available in his kingdom. They were tied back with cords of the very best of linen dyed purple, tied to rings of silver. The pillars were of marble. The floor covered with red, blue, white, perhaps mother of pearl and black marble. The couches on which they reclined were of gold and silver materials. There was every sign of great opulence to be found in the garden of the palace. Est. 1:6

They drank wine out of various golden vessels. Ahasuerus, having conquered Babylon and taken spoils from the city, were these vessels the

same as those taken from the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem? Note, Dan. 5:3-4 During the seven days of this great banquet the wine flowed in great abundance. It was not the ordinary wine of the man on the street, but the royal wine of the kingdom. While none were compelled to drink, neither was the abundance of wine withheld from any. Each one drank as much or as little as they desired.

At the same time Vashti, (Old Persian for beautiful woman), the queen entertained in the palace, the wives of those who attended the feast. After seven days of imbibing, Ahasuerus was certainly under the influence of the wine which had flowed so freely. It is difficult to picture anything but a loud drunken, raucous crowd of men. Suddenly, Ahasuerus is inspired to have his beautiful wife come into such an atmosphere that he might show her beauty to his drunken guests. Obviously the majority, if any of them had never seen her, and this was his opportunity to show her off. Were it not for the influence of the wine he would never have acted in such a crude manner. His heart was merry, of high spirits from the wine NIV. From the statements made and from the time spent in banqueting we have to assume that he was very intoxicated.

ESTHER. 6

On the seventh day Ahasuerus called for the seven eunuchs to bring Vashti the queen to the banquet. Her subsequent refusal causes him to consult with his seven advisers, his counselors or wise men concerning his actions toward Vashti. A triple seven suddenly appeared. Such a usage of the number seven cannot be overlooked. The number seven is a number of divine completeness. It is never more used than in the book of Revelation, the book of a multiple of sevens. The book of the end of the age. Est. 1:10, 14

Following the advice of the wise men Ahasuerus gave Vashti a bill of divorcement. Their words are exceedingly important to grasp. "Let the king give her royal estate to another that is better than she." Est. 1:19 This sets the theme for the rest of the book and it's message. Whatever her reasoning might have been, the fact remains that she disobeyed royal law and was punished accordingly. A situation that is all too often disregarded is the fact that the Lord gave Israel a bill of divorcement. It was not an action

that the Lord desired to take, but because of the rebellion and wickedness of their ways, the Lord said that they had done it to themselves. Isa. 50:1 The Lord is always very straightforward in all of His dealings with mankind. In this case He made it very plain that they had committed adultery, even worse had played the harlot and sought out many lovers. Jer. 3:1

The Lord is not a man that He should lie. He has strongly stated that those who had been His people and He counted them to be His wife, were no longer in that exalted position. Israel was not His wife nor was He her Husband. His call to her was to repent and cease from her whoredom and adulteries. He warned her of sever punishments that would come as a result of her sinful way of life. Yet the Lord Jesus came to Israel. John 1:11 So, once again He turned away from them to others. Jn. 1:12

ESTHER. 7

Vasthi was a woman of beauty. Even her name bears the meaning of beauty. He wanted to place her beauty on display and demanded that she appear with her royal crown. That Ahasuerus was proud of her poise and beauty there could be no question. However what he asked of her was contrary to Persian custom. With the royal feast having reached a climax of clamor and intoxication she would seem to have been justified in her refusal to appear before those gathered for the feast. Literally, he was placing her on display. Est. 1:11

Her refusal to respond to his request created a serious problem for all involved. She must have anticipated the consequences of her rejection of his request. Who would know the temperament of Ahasuerus better than Vasthi. As she would have expected, he became exceedingly angry until it became like an unquenchable fire burning in him. Revenge for the great insult which he felt had been made toward him became the desire of his heart. Est. 1:12

As there were seven eunuchs who bore his request to Vasthi, now Ahasuerus turned to his seven closest advisers for directions out of his dilemma. These men were like a supreme court for their knowledge of the law of the Medes and the Persians, and their understanding was utilized by Ahasuerus. It is certain that they were in complete comprehension of the

laws of the land. However, because of the statement made concerning them that they were men, “which knew the times,” it would appear that they likewise delved into the black magic of that day. Their influence, perhaps even control, of the king would have been tremendous. They were in constant attendance before the king. They would have been situated in the presence of his throne. Where others, at times, would have found the king inaccessible, they were persistently present to counsel and guide the king in making decisions pertaining to the kingdom. They were men of great power and had tremendous influence with Ahasuerus. Est. 1:12-14

ESTHER. 8

A decision sought, not according to the emotions involved but as stated in the law of the Medes and the Persians. What is the penalty for disobedience as determined by the law. Vashti had violated the law by her refusal. She had gone against the will and call of the king. Est. 1:15

Memucan, whose name means dignified, is the spokes- man for the seven princes. He must have been the elder statesman among them. He expanded the guilt of the whole affair to include an affront against the king, the princes and all the people of every province. Esther 1:16

This is a case where the cause would seem to be totally justifiable, were it not for the law of the land. On the basis of the law, Vashti was judged to be disobedient and therefore had broken the law and must be punished. The effect and authority of the law would now take it's action against her. Our human emotions would strongly want to justify her, but the law was something by which they lived. Whether we like it or not, there must be laws by which we conduct our lives in this world. The law prevailed, it had been violated and now the consequences must be paid. Est. 1:17

Any way it is considered, the reasoning and remarks made by Memucan have a definite sound of male chauvinism. How secure were their relationships and their marriages until they feared through the act of the queen, all the ladies of the land would despise and disdain their husbands. Even to a point where they would pour out contempt and anger against their husbands. It makes them sound like a group of suppressed women just looking for a leader and a cause to revolt against their husbands.

On the other hand, perhaps that was the exact situation. Heathen homes, built on heathen practices of marriage without love, are not on a solid foundation. Troubles and difficulties can easily erupt and create emotions such as those feared by Memucan. Est. 1:18

ESTHER. 9

It is time to draw an analogy here between the consequences which took place in the palace of Ahasuerus and the dealing of the Lord with Israel. While the situations and actions are not similar, the end results are.

There are two words which tie the two together. The first, the beauty of queen Vashti. The Lord chose to call His people Judah, Beauty, a people in whom He could delight. Zech. 11:7 He beautified and magnified them until they became a great nation. Then they substituted the gods of the heathen and idols in His place. Israel, Samaria or the Northern tribes He called Bands. From the prophecy of Zechariah it is very obvious that the Lord was extremely angry with both nations. So much so that He vowed to break His covenant with them. Zech. 11: 10 And, it was broken. Zech. 11:11

The second word is divorce. Beauty could not overcome the judgment passed on disobedience. Regardless of how appealing Beauty may have been it could not change the outcome. Separation was inevitable. The Lord “put Israel away” that is gave her a bill of divorcement. Jer. 3:8 However, Judah committed sin which was far greater and was certainly grounds for divorce according to the Law. Jer. 3:8-13 Along with the message reminding them of their sin is a call for repentance. Surely the Lord is merciful. In spite of their great wickedness the Lord is still calling them unto Himself.

Shocking. For all their vileness and the tremendous repulsion of the Lord toward their actions, He still confessed that He is married to them and extended an appeal for the backslider to return unto Him. Jer. 3:14 What we now find in this prophecy of Jeremiah is not to be fulfilled after the flesh but requires spiritual changes in the hearts and lives of the participants. This is not a blanket act of the Lord covering the entire population of the nation, but involves the individual who comes to Christ.

ESTHER. 10

A people gathered to Zion. It is necessary that we properly evaluate the Sion/Zion of the Lord. Paul stated that according to the writings of the prophets there was to be a Stone laid in Sion. That stone was to have a dual purpose. In a positive manner it was to bring them into the presence of the Lord. It was to be a sanctuary, a place of peace and rest. A refuge and a hiding place in the time of storm. Rom. 9:33 Those who would have faith in Him are most certainly blessed in many ways.

Contrarywise, it was to be a stone over which the multitude of Israelites would stumble and fall. The very thought presented to them that this rock was Christ, the Messiah, was an offence and obnoxious to them. Isaiah recognized both houses of Israel, the Northern kingdom of Samaria and the house of Judah resident in Jerusalem. The stone, the Lord Jesus Christ, was to be a snare and a trap to them because of their rejection of Him. Many among them would stumble and fall to their own hurt, ending up in captivity. Isa. 8:14-15

The believer in Christ finds Him to be most wonderful and of extreme value. Those refusing Him, stumble and fall because of their disobedience to the Word of the Lord. It is utterly impossible for any person or nation to be blessed of the Lord and reject the Word, the Lord Jesus at one and the same time. Sion, the people of the Rock can only be those who have believed on Him and are obedient to His Word. Those who are not born of the Spirit do not have the spiritual vision which will enable them to see the kingdom of God. John 3:3 Entrance into the kingdom is gained only by those who have been born of the water and Spirit. Natural birth, birth in a certain nation is not an open door to the kingdom of the Lord. Jesus, is the only way and the only door. The Word is very exacting as to the acceptance of any person into the kingdom of God. Only a people of one heart and one way will make it into the kingdom. Jer. 32:39 Thieves and robbers try other means of gaining the kingdom. John 10:1

ESTHER. 11

The Lord, through the prophetic utterances of Jeremiah promised to give Zion pastors who would minister according to the heart of the Lord. Jer.

3:15 There is not to be a restored temple and the sacrifices and ordinances of the Law. It is to be a Word ministry, filled with the knowledge and understanding of the Word as supplied by the Spirit. There is a pure, true doctrine as taught by the Lord Jesus which originates with the Father. John 7:16

Note that those who are gathered by the Lord do not place their hope in the ark of the covenant, which was the heart and soul of the tabernacle and the temple. If it still be in existence it would not be put to use by the Lord. Man will try to reinstitute temple worship but the Lord is not in it. The new race of the Lord will not speak concerning the ark, nor will they even remember it. Most certainly they will not visit it to worship before it. Jer. 3:16 Consider the complete repulsion of the Lord toward the ordinances of the past order. He called it practices iniquity because of the hypocrisy of the people. His soul hated their days of festivity where they were supposed to be worshipping Him. They were wearisome and a burden to Him. Because of their waywardness He stated that when they lifted their hands in prayer He would close His eyes. When they prayed, He would not listen. If He felt this way at that time, would it be any different with a restored temple? Their hands were full of blood, how very very, true. His desire toward them was a spirit of repentance among them and a cleansing of their hearts and ways. Isa. 1:14-16

Jerusalem, the throne of the Lord. The saved individuals of the nations gathered unto the NAME OF THE LORD. Jerusalem is not the objective but the NAME OF THE LORD is. Is the prophet talking about natural Jerusalem, which is in bondage (Gal. 4:25) or Spiritual Jerusalem, which is the mother of us all. Gal. 4:26 Silly, is it not to revert to the natural when the Lord has paid such a tremendous price to make the Spiritual available to all.

ESTHER. 12

Those who come to the Lord are a people who have had a drastic change of heart. They no longer walk after their own stubborn and contrary ways. Judah and Israel are seen joining together in a great gathering of the people of the Lord. If this is a natural event then it must be considered that the descendants of these two must be thoroughly identified. Also that their

numbers would be far too many for the so called promised land to accommodate them. Jer. 3:17-18 The gathering of the people is not unto a city or a country but unto the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Gen. 49:10

The people who are to be His in the end of the age are identified as a remnant, not the whole of either nation, Judah or Israel. They are partakers of the election of grace. The grace of the Lord Jesus. Rom. 11:5 As seen in the opening of this chapter in Romans, the Lord has always had those who were faithful to Him, even at times of great apostasy. Rom. 11:1-4 The Apostle then gives us a brief study showing the great contrast between works and grace and how totally incompatible the two are. A very distinct line is drawn between them. Rom 11:5

The religious situation has not been changed from that day until this. Paul took notice that those who were the elect responded to the gospel, while the others continued in their blindness. In all actuality, the Lord has given them the spirit of slumber, having eyes, they cannot see and ears they cannot hear. Rom. 11:8 A condition, with the exception of a few individuals has not been alleviated.

Their table was to become a trap and a snare unto them. The only article of furniture in the tabernacle called a table was the table of showbread, upon which they placed twelve cakes, representing the twelve tribes. Lev. 24: 5 Bread in the scripture is a type of doctrine or the Word. Thus, their stubbornness in maintaining their Law, when Christ had fulfilled the Law became a stumbling block to them. Rom. 11:9

ESTHER. 13

In Romans eleven, Paul used language which is positively negative pertaining to the separation between the Lord and Israel. Their eyes were to be darkened, a complete inability to see the truth. Their backs were to be bent, always or forever, under the burden of their actions. Rom. 11:10 They stumbled, they fell as a nation, but again, as with all the peoples of the earth, as individuals they may be saved. Rom. 11:11

Their fullness is the time of the tribulation period where for three and one half years they will live out the last half of Daniels seventy week prophecy.

With the crucifixion of Christ, after having ministered for three and one half years, the first half of that seventieth year was fulfilled. For in the midst of the week, (Dan. 9:27) with the once for all sacrifice of Christ, (Heb. 7:27) all sacrifice and oblation under the Law ceased as far as the Lord was concerned. As a matter of fact, The Lord hates animal sacrifice and totally rejects it. Isa. 66:2-3 Moses and Elijah, the Law and the Prophets, will present Christ to the inhabitants of Jerusalem during the tribulation. Rev. 11:4-8

Paul called the separation between the Lord and Israel as a nation, as a fall. a slipping, a transgression. Also as a diminishing, a failure, a loss. Rom. 11:12 They were cast away, rejected and lost. For all this there is still the opportunity for reconciliation, but only through the acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as Messiah. Rom. 11:15 As branches of the tree of the Lord, they were broken off, estranged from the true tree and thrown aside. The words of the Lord Jesus indicate eternal judgment for the branches which are pruned from the tree. John 15:6 This most certainly excluded no one. Through they were the tree of the Lord, nevertheless, they were not spared from being cut off from the tree, for they were without fruit. Rom. 11:21 Under any circumstances, it must be emphasized that salvation is not of race, but of the grace and faith of the Lord Jesus.

ESTHER. 14

There is a question as to the inclusion of Esther in the scriptures. One of the arguments used is that the name of the Lord does not appear anywhere in the book. In the Companion Bible with it's notes written by E. W. Bullinger, he presents five acrostics, four instances where the name of Jehovah, LORD is mentioned and once where the name I AM is to be found. An acrostic is a hidden meaning, (in this instance, a name) written in a poem, puzzle or as in this case, the scripture. Only the first acrostic found in Esther 1:20 is given in this lesson. If you would like the full study it is found on line at: <http://www.giveshare.org/library/companionbible/>

Go to, [appendices/app60.html](http://www.giveshare.org/library/companionbible/appendices/app60.html).

THE FIRST ACROSTIC (1:20) is formed by the initial letters, for the event was initial; and the name is spelt backward because Jehovah is turning back and overruling the councils of man. The whole clause reads as follows; the words forming the Acrostic being put in italic type:- "And when the king's decree which he shall make, shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small." The four words we give, 1st, in the Hebrew type (with the Majuscular letters at the beginning of each word, not copied), 2nd, with the Transliteration; and 3rd, in English paraphrase, reproducing the sentence in the word LORD with the initial letters backward:-

		1	2	3	4
		Hi'	Vekal	Hannashim	Yitt enu.
		H	V	H	Y

		1	2	3	4
		it	and-all	the-wives	shall-give
		Due	Respect	Our	Ladies
		D	R	O	L

Prov. 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings to search out a matter.

ESTHER. 15

The suggestion was made that a royal decree be issued by the king which would become a part of the law of the Medes and the Persians. There could be no stronger action taken than to issue a proclamation in the name of their law. This would make it final and binding, a law which could not be changed. It was to be relevant to one subject and one person, i.e. Vashti. She was to be removed from her place as queen and forbidden to come before the king, for any occasion. Est. 1:19

Her authority and power was to be totally removed from her and given to another, one who would be better than Vashti. Thus, we come to one who would more completely fulfill the office of the queen and be superior to

Vashti. Vashti represents the past, the Law and its failure to produce obedience in the people of the Law. The better, the excellent, was one who would not only be acceptable but would greatly please her husband. We see Christ and the perfect church. Eph. 5:27

The Law, perfected nothing. But the introduction of the better, the very best, a much stronger and more noble hope has brought to pass the promise of a perfect people, in a perfect church. Heb. 7:19 The Lord Jesus has brought into force the better, the true covenant, of which He is the guarantor. His is an unfailing, eternal covenant which has been tested, proven and sealed by His death, burial and resurrection. In Jesus, we have found the real thing. Heb. 7:22 His covenant has resulted in the most excellent presentation of the mighty works of the Lord. Nothing can even begin to compare to the glorious manifestation of His might and power. He is the one and only individual capable of negotiations between man and God. His covenant is the very best for it was founded on promises that are far superior to any others. Heb. 8:6 His promises are established upon the basis of the very blood of God Himself. The blood of a child is from the father. His blood was the purest of pure and provided a perfect sacrifice. Heb. 12:24

ESTHER. 16

A message, a commandment was issued to the whole of the kingdom placing the responsibility of each home on the husband and father of the family. The foundation of the Christian home is established on this very principle. The husband is to take the leadership in all things, the guidance, the care and nourishment, the protection of the wife and family. He is also to be filled with love for the one who is his wife, to the same extent as Christ loved the church. Eph. 5:22-25

There are symbolisms to be found here that are of interest. The number seven, is a number that is frequently used in the book Of Revelation. It may therefore be said that it relates to the end of the age and all the events which are to come to pass prior to the second coming of the Lord Jesus. For instance, there were seven princes, men of knowledge and power who were before the throne of Ahasuerus. It was one of these named Memucan who suggested the action to be taken by Ahasuerus. Strangely enough, he

is the last one named on the listing of the seven, making him the seventh. Est. 1:14

How remarkable that there are the seven Spirits before the throne of the Lord. Rev. 1:4 The NIV in its margin translated this to be the seven fold Spirit. When compared with Isaiah 11:2 we see and understand the seven fold nature of the Holy Spirit. The number seven in relation to the Spirit would also indicate completeness, fullness. How completely Jesus was filled with the Spirit is noted in the fact that He had the seven Spirits, or the divine comprehensiveness of the Spirit. Rev. 3:1 That coincides with His promise to ask of the Father and to send another comforter. John 14:16 The seven Spirits are also likened to the single lamp stand of the tabernacle and the temple. It was made of gold and was the seven lamps burning and illuminating the Holy Place. Ex. 37. The slain lamb, the witness and testimony of redeeming blood, the Lord Jesus who stands in the midst of the throne is also seen as having the seven Spirits of the Lord. Rev. 5:6

ESTHER. 17

The decree was sent to the whole of the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians. A vast kingdom embracing one hundred twenty seven provinces. Est. 1:22 Daniel made a statement that one hundred and twenty princes were appointed to rule over the various districts. Dan. 6:1 This too creates an interesting number in as much as the decree was written in the language of the various peoples over whom these princes were appointed. Language and the number one hundred twenty are reminders of the Day of Pentecost. Acts 1:15, 2:4 It would appear that we are about to find an Old Testament type of the Bride of Christ.

A sober, somber king found rethinking the hasty judgments he had made concerning Vashti and the new law, which was irrevocable. His regret must have been very great and also evident to those who were in his presence. Est. 2:1 His faithful servants on observing his deep grief, suggested that an immediate search be made for one to take the place of Vashti. Est. 2:2 It was further stipulated that they were to be beautiful, young and virgins.

The requirements restricted the numbers that might be chosen. Those who were sought, and called would have to go through much training and

preparation for the position which they were about to receive. They had to be pliable and willing to adhere to the total process before them. The bride of Christ will be comprised of a class of people who meet these qualifications perfectly. Paul, as a father, to the Corinthian church declared that he had committed them in engagement to be a chaste virgin unto Christ. 2 Cor. 11:2 Thus we see and understand the emotions of the Lord Jesus toward His church. The effect of the Word and the Spirit in the lives of those who come to Christ prepares them to be a part of the Bride of Christ. It is the great mystery which is symbolized throughout the Word of the Lord. Eph. 5:32 This calling of the virgins, in the day of Ahasuerus, is one of them.

ESTHER. 18

The maidens who were chosen were to be brought to the winter palace of the king of Persia. A place called Shushan, meaning lily, indicating that it was a city of lilies. The beauty of the lilies enhanced the city and their fragrance perfumed it. In the lily we find a symbol of true love, the agape love as found only in the Lord. Jesus is the lily of the valleys. Song 2:1 A flower noted for its whiteness (purity) and for its fragrance. Where does one become better acquainted with the Lord Jesus than when going through the valley of difficulties. His bride, His loved one also is likened to the lily for she must bear His likeness and character. How much more is her beauty enhanced as she is pictured among the thorns, the wicked and unrighteous of this world. Song 2:2

They were gathered to the palace, to the house of the women. There were three chambers in the palace, one for the queen, one for the concubines and the room for the virgins, to which were gathered at the very least one hundred and twenty young women. They were to be under the watchful care of Hege, the eunuch, who was to be the guide and guard of the virgins. It was to be his responsibility to over see the preparation and purification of the young women. Est. 2:3 They were being prepared for marriage with the king. Do we do an injustice if we see in him a type of the Holy Spirit who is responsible for the enlightenment and purification of the bride of Christ? The Holy Spirit is the great teacher of all truth. John 14:26 He is also the manifestation of the purifying fire of the Lord. Luke 3:16 The process of purification according to the meaning of the word as found in

Strong's dictionary is, scouring with soap or perfumery, figuratively, a detergent. That would make it to be a process of many washings and that with strong soap and perfumes. The Hebrew word comes from a root meaning to polish, by implication, to sharpen, rinse, to be bright, to scour. They went through a process of many days of washings. The bride of Christ will go through sanctification and cleansing by the Word of the Lord. Eph. 5:26

ESTHER 19

The Lord is sufficient for all things. He very thoroughly prepared for His deliverance of His people from their captors. Babylon had been His tool for the punishment of Israel because of their disobedience unto Him. The time had come for them to be granted their freedom and to return to their own country. The Lord always prepares someone who will fulfill His purposes. So, we are introduced to one of the main individuals found in the book of Esther.

A Jew named Mordecai. Est. 2:5 The meaning of his name is vague. However, little man and worshiper of Mars (deity of war) are suggested. If it was, little man, it is not necessary that when he would grow up, he would be a small man. What parent has not held their baby child and either called them a little man or a little woman. On the other hand, to be a worshiper of the god of war would indicate a feisty spirited individual. A man of great bravery, fortitude and wisdom. He had to have been a spiritual man who was willing to listen to the Lord. He became a one man ambassador of the Lord in preparation for the deliverance of the Israelites who were in bondage in Babylon.

He was a Benjamite (Meaning; son of the right hand). The right hand is a symbol used frequently in the scriptures as a symbol relating to the Lord Jesus. The right hand is the source of salvation and the demonstration of the might and power of the Lord. Ps. 20:6 The right hand is the fullness of the righteousness of the Lord. Ps. 48:10 Jesus, the son of man, the man of the right hand was full of the power of the Almighty because the hand of the Lord was upon Him. Ps. 80:17 The Father established the Son at His own right hand until He makes His enemies a footstool for Him. Ps. 110:1 The right hand of the throne of the Lord is the source of all true pleasures.

Ps. 16:11 Having finished the plan of redemption by blood, Jesus has been exalted to the eternal throne of God and sits at His right hand. Heb. 12:2

ESTHER. 20

Strangely enough, Mordecai had admittance to the palace of the king. The reason for this access is not told but at the least he would have been a servant and would have learned all the palace gossip. His genealogy is given and indicates that up to three generations were born in captivity. His great grandfather, Kish had been taken in captivity and removed from Jerusalem to Babylon. The names of four generations are given. Therefore they must bear an importance to the book of Esther, other than just a genealogy.

These names are given a variety of meanings which makes it difficult to be exact. However, with each one there emerged a general meaning of the name and a message to be heard. We begin with the father of Mordecai, a man named Jair. In his name we find a meaning which is always associated with the Lord. The shining one, the one who enlightens. Nelson, gave a very beautiful explanation in, "may Jehovah shine forth." Light and the Lord are inseparable, for the Lord is light. 1 John 1:5 All during the seventy years of their captivity they remembered the Lord and their homeland. The light of the Lord did not leave them. Note: Psalm 137.

Shimei, was the grandfather of Mordecai. In his name the emotions of the captives as seen in Psalm 137 are also expressed. Particularly in relationship to the Lord. The thought emerges from his name of one who hears and obeys the will of the Lord. Therefore is the protector of the reputation of the Lord as well as his own. Declaring that the Lord is famous and is the renowned one. Also, hear me (El) of (Jah) is given as a translation. Thus we see that prayer was made to the Lord in the land of their captivity. The meaning of names in the scriptures is fascinating for so often there is a prophecy for all, or the nation, or even the individual. Their character and actions are often reflected in the connotation of their names.

ESTHER. 21

Kish, the great grandfather, the first in the genealogical list, a man who was taken into Babylon as a captive. His name means, a bow, a man of power. Also one who is stern and difficult. He most likely reflects the character of all those in Israel who were conquered and led off into captivity. Est. 2:6

The name of the subject of the book is not without significance. Her Hebrew name was Hadassah, or myrtle. The myrtle tree was a tree which grew along the stream and river bottoms. Their source of water (type of the Spirit) was constant. Therefore they were assured of constant growth. This was also a place of revelation, for it is here that we find the Angel of the Lord (the Lord Jesus) visiting Zechariah. Zech. 1:9-11 The branches of the myrtle tree were also one of the five with which the Israelites built huts to dwell in during the feast of Tabernacles. Therefore it signifies a spiritual shelter. Neh. 8:5 The feast of Tabernacles is the one feast which does not have its spiritual counterpoint fulfilled in the church. It is a portrayal of the last day revival and the final harvest of the Lord prior to the great tribulation period.

The harvest will culminate with the Bride of Christ being transported into the wilderness. Rev. 12:6, 14 Geographically, the area is well termed a wilderness a desert place. However, with the presence of the Bride, the Lord will completely alter the whole landscape. Instead of the brier, the nettle, there will be the myrtle (the Bride) which will greatly flourish. It will grace the wilderness with its beauty and majesty. The preparation, the works of the Lord are for the glory and exaltation of His own great and wonderful name. It is an everlasting sign which shall never cease to exist. Isa. 55:13 The waste place, the emptiness of the desert will be turned into a veritable garden of Eden. A place of comfort and great joy. Isa. 51:3

ESTHER. 22

Esther, was the Babylonian name given her and means, a star. The Lord was to take one who was an orphan, unknown and as far as the king was concerned insignificant and elevate her to the highest place in the kingdom. She was to become the light of the Lord in a kingdom of darkness. As with all of these hidden ones, like Joseph in Egypt, Daniel and the three Hebrew

children she was to become a great blessing to her people, Israel. The Lord has a strange and beautiful way of hiding those whom He will use as deliverers right under the nose of their enemies, eventually making them to become officials in the land. Surely, the Lord has a sense of humor. Her name is derived from the word satarah, to hide, thus we see that she was hidden in her guardians house, then exalted to the throne. Est. 2:7

Esther was the daughter of Mordecai's uncle which would have made her his cousin. He had adopted her as his daughter and had raised her in his own home. Like Abraham of old and the church, all are adopted. The Lord called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees and adopted him and his descendants. Rom. 9:4 In Christ Jesus the new testament Christian has been destined to be adopted into the family of the Lord. Rom. 8:15 Hence, we see a type of the adopted being exalted to the highest status in the kingdom of the Lord. Rev. 3:21 The true queen of heaven will be seated with Him in His throne and the Father's throne which is one and the same. Rev. 3:2

It was said about Esther that she was both fair and beautiful. She was physical of fine form and impressive. Her countenance was one of striking beauty. The word fair, also bears the connotation of being bright and attractive. Beauty, goodly (in the widest sense). The best, the better, well favored. There is no doubt but what the Lord had endowed her with natural form and beauty beyond others. There is also to be found an intimation that her character was loving, gentle and most kind.

ESTHER. 23

Esther and many others brought to Shushan the palace. That there was a time of great competition there is no doubt. The Hebrew word, rab, indicates an abundance, plenteous or populous. The contest would be great under such circumstances with every human emotion being on display. Est. 2:8

Esther is the only one of the scores of young women who is mentioned by name. Her introduction to the leader of the eunuchs would indicate a special favor and acceptance by Haggai. She had not been chosen by one of the specially appointed envoys, as all the others had been. She was the

Lord's choice, therefore was granted entrance into the competition by the man in charge. In as much as she was taken directly to Hegai, he would feel that she was his choice and therefore would favor her as greatly as is recorded in the book of Esther. Est. 2:8

And the maiden pleased him. He readily accepted her as one worthy of the office of the queen. What better start to the contest ahead could one have. Though beauty and poise were special areas in which these maidens were to be chosen, never loose sight of the fact that this is an evidence of the hand of the Lord, as far as Esther is concerned. Est. 2:9

She obtained kindness, special favors from Hegai. Est.2:9 This is a sign that Esther was one who loved the Lord and was willing to do His will, in all things. There is a great lesson to be learned here, when we put the Lord first in all things, He will open all doors before us and give favor with even our enemies. Prov. 16:7 Great, he speedily, quickly and without hesitation provided her with the necessary items for her purification, or cosmetics. The favor of the Lord was already being evidenced in her life. Special attention was to be paid to her every need. She was preferred above all the others in the distribution of all items necessary for their life and preparation.

ESTHER. 24

Seven special maid servants were given Esther by Hagai. Women who originated from the king's palace and would have been acquainted with the ways of the king and the customs of the court. This would have given her an insight and an advantage into the ways of the new life which she was now facing. Numbers are always important in the scriptures. The number seven is the number of divine fullness or divine perfection. It is a positive signal from the Lord that He is acting on her behalf. Add Esther to the number and we have the number eight, which is the number of resurrection and new life. It foreshadowed the future life of both Esther and the children of Israel. Est. 2:9 What the Lord was about to accomplish through Esther was not for her alone but for the entire nation of captives.

Esther and her little troop were then moved into the best area of the house of the women. From her humble beginnings, not yet chosen to be the

queen but already benefited with the best. Human nature being what it is, it must have been infuriating to the others to see how very special she was being treated. It is as if the shadow of being chosen to be the queen was already covering her. As far as Hagar was concerned, she fit all the criteria of the new queen, without having to undergo the lengthy preparation. If he were to be consulted by Ahasuerus at all, there is no question concerning his recommendation. He preferred her, among other meanings given this word, preferred is the thought of folding, or two fold, double. It is significant of the very special blessing of the Lord which rested upon Esther. The two fold, or double portion is not limited to twice as much, but embraces the thought of completeness or fullness and typifies the revival of the last days. A glorious event which will culminate in a perfect church, who will be the bride of Christ. She is destined to be filled with all the fullness of the Lord. Eph. 3:19 The people filled with all the majesty and power of the Lord, who bear His likeness in every aspect.

ESTHER. 25

To help better understand the importance of this preferential treatment we turn to the history and relationship between Elijah and Elisha. The only request which Elisha made of Elijah was that a double portion, that is an identical measure, of the spirit of Elijah might be given him. 2 Kings 2:9 Elisha was willing, yes even anxious and determined to continue the ministry of Elijah. We have here a type of Christ and His church. We are to wear His mantle and demonstrate His glory and power to the world. The church is to be the people of the double portion. While his request was not an easy matter, just continuing his journey with Elijah had not been at all easy.

They started at Gilgal, rolling. The place of the first encampment of the children of Israel after having crossed the Jordan. At this time Israel kept the feast of Passover for the first time in the new land. Josh. 5:10 Those who had been born since leaving Egypt were also circumcised with knives of flint stone. Josh. 5:2 It is immediately evident that if the church is to follow her Elijah and receive His spirit, she must start with salvation, the Passover experience, redemption by blood. Col. 1:4 Then circumcision of the heart. Rom. 2:29 Though Elijah enjoined Elisha to stay here, he would

not have it. Elisha was determined to go all the way with Elijah and receive that most precious anointing. 2 Kings 2:2

So they proceeded in their journey to Bethel, the house of God. The news of Elijah's translation seemed to be the news of the day. The young prophets from the school of the prophets informed Elisha of the impending circumstances. He would not be discouraged, Elisha knew what he wanted and was going all the way. Not even the urging of Elijah for him to stay at Bethel could turn him aside. 2 Kings 2:2-3 This would certainly would have been a place of comfort. A good place to settle down and be comfortable. So many seek a place just like this where they may feel at ease without much to disturb them. But not Elisha.

ESTHER. 26

The next destination of the prophets Elijah and Elisha was Jericho, the place of fragrance. A pleasant area in which to dwell. The fragrance with which the place was noted for reminds us of the special anointing oil which was reserved for the anointing of the priesthood. Here likewise those who were prophets like himself discouraged Elisha, but nothing was about to hinder him from achieving his goal. Once again Elijah pressed Elisha to stay behind. 2 Kings 2:4 However, Elisha had set his mind and goal on receiving spiritual benefits from Elijah and would not be deterred. He was going all the way with him.

Elijah ordered to go to Jordan. Jordan is representative of death. Elisha is encouraged by Elijah to cease from following him. Elisha cannot be turned aside. Those who are successful in their spiritual life must have the tenacity of Elisha. Interestingly, fifty (the number of Pentecost) of the prophets stood a far off watching these two as they proceeded to Jordan. They were not about to get close to the action. They were quite comfortable with their current position. Who and what their accomplishments, if any, were is not recorded in the history of Israel, but Elisha's deeds are documented. 2 Kings 2:7

The actions of Elijah at Jordan were that of a true prophet. Practical, yet an unusual manifestation of his faith in the power of the Lord. His mantle,

could have been a sheep skin for that was the sign of the office of the prophet in those days. Heb. 11:37 That would give a Messianic touch to the situation. The mantle was rolled together and used to smite the river Jordan. Immediately, the miracle of a divided river was performed and the two of them crossed over on DRY GROUND. 2 Kings 2:8 A double miracle had been created, the waters stopped flowing and the river bottom became absolutely dry. This was the second time that this had taken place at what must have been the same place. Josh. 3:15-17

ESTHER. 27

Elisha knew exactly what he needed for his future ministry. The fullness of the Spirit of Elijah. He specified it to be a double portion or the completeness of the manifestation of the Spirit in his life. 2 Kings 2:9 Wonderfully, the recorded miracles of Elisha are just twice that of Elijah. His request was considered by Elijah to be difficult, but there was a way whereby it could be accomplished. It all depended on Elisha seeing Elijah at his translation. He had to keep his eyes fixed on Elijah. 2 Kings 2:10 What an example. We want the Lord to work today as in the past but where is our vision centered? If it is on the Christ of God, then the experience of Elisha will be seen in mighty power.

How fitting it is that the prophet who had called down fire from heaven would in his last moment on earth be separated from his younger prophet by a chariot of fire and horses of fire. Most assuredly the Lord was present in a mighty way. 2 Kings 2:11 However, Elijah did not hitch a ride in the chariot of fire on his way to heaven. He was transported by the hurricane/typhoon which was no doubt created by the fiery presence of the Lord. The revelation of the throne of the Lord to Ezekiel was a throne surrounded by great activity of wind and fire. These are not harmful but demonstrate the constant flow of the glory and the Spirit of the Lord coming from the throne. Eze. 1:4

What an amazing sight this was for Elisha. The glory of the Lord was far greater than he had anticipated and that remains true for those who would desire to see the glory of the Lord today. The mantle fell from Elijah and before Elisha would wear it he tore his clothing apart. What he had been, he no longer was to be. He was taking the place of the man of God, the

prophet Elijah. The old would have been but a hindrance. The old man must be laid aside that the new man may ever lead and guide. The Lord will use those in whom the new nature, the nature of Christ, is manifest.

ESTHER. 28

The steps taken by Elisha in following Elijah are those which must be taken by any individual who would be mightily used of the Lord. The starting point is always Gilgal. A separation from the will and desires of the flesh. A true consecration made to the Lord. The call of the Word and the Spirit today is still that made through Paul. Come out, be separate, touch not the unclean and be received of the Lord or better yet receive of the Lord His power and might. 2 Cor. 6:17 He will not fill an unclean vessel.

Bethel, the house of the Lord. A home, a place of learning and instruction in righteousness. Spiritual growth is to be found in the house of the Lord. This is the nursery of the Lord. Here the new born are to be instructed in the Word of the Lord and in righteousness. 2 Tim. 3:16 The Word builds a foundation which is most vital to any sort of a building. Not only should it be a storehouse where we bring our tithes but it must be a constant source of spiritual nourishment. In Esther and Elijah we find them being taught, and willing to receive teaching. Only after having been qualified for their work were they placed in a position of responsibility. 1 Tim. 3:6

Jericho, the fruitful area, the place where the blooming of the fruit trees fills the air with fragrance. Still under tutorship but learning to exercise and practice the things learned. The presence of Esther was announced wherever she went by the perfumes that were a part of her preparation to be the Queen. Even in this stage of spiritual growth we soon learn that the perfumes used originate from substances which must be broken, crushed and even ground into powder, and mixed together. If we suffer with Him, we are joint-heirs and will be glorified with Him. Rom. 8:17 There is a sweet perfume associated with the individual who has suffered with Him. It is the privilege of everyone in preparation for the wedding to wear the king's perfume. 2 Tim. 2:12

ESTHER. 29

He came to Jordan. What an interesting history the river has. Lot was given the opportunity to make a choice which he made solely on what he saw with his eyes. The luscious, green plain of Jordan appealed to him for it looked like the garden of the Lord to him. His decision was made on a very natural basis. Gen. 32:10 It was a bad decision and proved to be the cause of the loss of all to him.

To Elisha, who crossed Jordan twice (double portion) Jordan was a new life and the beginning of his ministry. For Jacob his second crossing (double portion) was a display of tremendous growth. His first crossing, he had but his staff in his hands. When he returned he had become two groups (double portion). Crossing Jordan was also to become a time of reunion with Esau. His family and his gifts were divided until there were five sections (number of atonement), a foreshadowing of the last day revival among the descendants of Jacob and Esau. It was on this occasion that Jacob wrestled with a Man, and prevailed. Here his nature was changed as well as his name. He had met the Lord in his session of travail. Gen. 32:9-30 To Naaman, it was obedience and healing. 2 Kings 5:9-14 To Jesus, it was the fulfillment of all righteousness and the anointing of the Spirit. Mt. 3:13-17

In Esther and Elijah we find many of the same qualities. They were direct opposites. He was a rough and forceful man who was a prophet. On the other hand she was very much a fine and noble lady. They both had a goal and though their circumstances and methods were different they were out to achieve their purpose and calling in life. They were filled with determination to do a work for the Lord. They were willing to risk life and limb for their people. They were spiritually minded and loved the Lord. Both were mightily blessed of the Lord and received divine protection and care from the Lord in the process of doing His will. They were achieving, successful people.

ESTHER. 30

Esther, at the instigation and instruction of her adoptive father, was incognito in the palace of the king. It was not a covert act, nor intended to deceive. There is a time and place for all things to be revealed. Their first

reaction to the Jewish maid would have been negative. Once they had come to know her, their reaction to her and her race would be much different. It was a wise move. Est. 2:10

Mordecai showed a bit of a spirit of anxiety in his daily visits to the court of the women's house. He had to know how her situation was from day to day. Her present location in the palace was at his suggestion and like any concerned parent he had to know her current status, immediately. Est. 2:11 In all reality, the special favor shown her should have put to rest any and all concern that he had.

The order of preparation, just to be presented to the king, was not quickly done. For twelve months, a full year each and every maid was daily made ready to eventually go before the king. This gives us to understand that inasmuch, as Esther is a type of the Bride of Christ there will be a period of time during which the Bride will be in preparation for the wedding. Est. 2:12

The church will not suddenly, instantaneously be changed from a luke warm almost indifferent body of believers to the Bride of Christ. Far too many have misunderstood the words of the Apostle Paul and anticipate that when our Lord returns there will be a great spiritual change. The imperfect, made perfect by His coming and the change will take place instantaneously. Shockingly, that is not to be. Consider carefully the subject which is being addressed in 1 Cor. 15:50 The kingdom of God is not for the natural man who is still flesh and blood. Nor will corruption inherit incorruption. Paul is not addressing an event which will take place in the spirit nature of man but in the changing of the physical body.

ESTHER. 31

Being prepared for the meeting with the king was the daily focus of Esther for a whole year. Preparedness, all necessary requirements completed. Then, and only then could any of those chosen enter into the king's presence. Would the prerequisites necessary to stand in the presence of the King of kings be any lower or less? Most certainly not. In respect to the Bride of Christ it is declared that she made herself ready. Rev. 19:7

The call of the Spirit of the Lord through Isaiah is for a drowsy, sleeping people to awaken. It is important to consider that Isaiah's call is doubled. A strong Word from the very heart of the Lord. This is a prophetic utterance which is definitely for the day in which we live. Isa. 52:1 Therefore, knowing the time, knowing that we are living in the end of the age. Rom. 13:11 Knowing that the daily events of this world, are screaming out, the fulfillment of the signs designed to warn us of the need to prepare for His marriage to the church. We dare not be ignorant of the times and the seasons and be caught unaware and unprepared. There must be perfect, complete, full, accurate knowledge of what is taking place and why it is happening. 1 Thess. 5:1-2

Put on the wedding garments of great beauty. It is time to appear before the king and the clothing must be that which is fitting and proper. Remember the man who was thrown out of the wedding because of his improper clothing. Mt. 22:11-12 Though the king called him friend, he was still bound and cast out into outer darkness (the tribulation period). Inasmuch as we are kings and priests unto the Lord, (Rev. 5:10) we must dress accordingly. The garments of Aaron and his sons, the priests of the Most High, were for beauty and glory. Ex. 28: 2 Gorgeous and most impressive. A constant witness of their high office in the tabernacle and temple. If that which was to be eliminated was glorious how much more majestic and beautiful will the wedding gown be beyond description.

ESTHER. 32

A whole year of preparation was necessary even before they could have an audience with the king. The year was divided into two six month periods of time. Looks like the double portion again, six months oil, six months perfume. The first six months were spent in being anointed with the oil of myrrh. Est. 2:12

Because Esther is a type of the Bride of Christ this time of anointing is significant. Myrrh was an ingredient used in the holy anointing oil, which was placed on the priest the tabernacle and all of its furnishings, thus anointing them for the ministry. Ex. 30:26-30

The importance of the anointing of the oil of the Lord, the Holy Spirit, is emphasized in another type of those who will be in the Bride of Christ. This is a situation where the those who never had been filled with the Spirit, were not even called. This does not mean that they are lost but because of no anointing are not included. Those who had been anointed but had lost the anointing, excluded themselves by having to go seek oil when they should have been filled. Only those possessing oil (fresh anointing) were invited into the marriage. Mt. 25:6-13

The status of all was the same, they were all virgins. All took lamps and oil. All were excited about the coming wedding and were filled with an anticipation of meeting the Bridegroom. All slumbered and slept. All heard the midnight cry, but then the difference became evident. Oil, the fresh anointing of the Spirit, ever so vital and necessary, was the dividing factor.

The wise went into the marriage and the door was closed. The opportunity to be in the Bride of Christ was closed. They went in to the marriage. In other words the marriage was consummated before the five who are now known as foolish virgins could return with oil. Therefore the Bridegroom said to them, I know you not. Mt. 25:12 In other words there is no possibility of their inclusion in the group, the five wise, now called the Bride.

ESTHER. 33

The requirements of the law of the Medes and the Persians, would have fulfilled the dream of any cosmetologist. The fact that a whole year was taken up with a daily process, used in the preparation of the future queen, should speak to us of the preparation of the Bride of Christ. These beauty treatments were intended to enhance that which was already beautiful. The king must have the very best. According to Strong's dictionary, the word purifying comes from a root meaning to polish, to sharpen, to make bright. Est. 2:12

The desires and requirements of the Lord Jesus for a Bride are far more important, for they are spiritual and eternal. He has given us His Word as a source of washing and cleansing. He will have a Bride who has responded fully to His will and Word. Eph. 5:26 Obedience to the truth as it is made known by the Spirit leads to the cementing factor of the body of Christ, the

church. His Bride will be a people of unfeigned love. Their love for Him will extend to every member of His body. 1 Pet. 1:22

Every desire of the maidens heart was to be granted them as they went in to appear before the king. Whatever they felt would enhance their opportunity to become queen was freely given them. Clothing, jewelry, perfumes would all have been requested and worn for that once in a life time opportunity. Est. 2:13 The excitement of the moment must have been tremendous. The let down when being dismissed to return to the house of the woman the next day would have been traumatic.

The book of Revelation gives us a second glimpse of the Bride of Christ and the fact that she is prepared as a Bride. She is the new Jerusalem, that glorious and wonderful, eternal city which is fully adorned for her Husband. All the promises of the Word have been fulfilled in her. She is the ultimate consummation of the whole plan of salvation as revealed in the scriptures. Rev. 21:2

ESTHER. 34

In the evening time, at dusk, the maidens were escorted into the presence of king Ahasureus. They no doubt partook of the evening meal with the king and whatever entertainment was provided for the pleasure of the king. If she was not chosen by the king, she was designated a place in the harem of the king. Unless she had been able to impress the king she would never be called into his presence again. She could return to his courts only if she was called by name and had been able to delight him in that brief visit. Est. 2:14 Therefore we see the risk which Ester was taking in being a part of the group from among whom the new queen would be chosen.

The Godly wisdom of Esther is noted by her reliance on Hegai, the kings chamberlain, for the gown and jewelry which she should wear. He would know and understand all the intricacies of the courts of the king and his likes and dislikes. She was wise enough to depend on one who was knowledgeable and close to the king. Here for the first time, the name of her deceased father is mentioned and it is not without significance. Abihail

means, father or possessor of might. Thus we have a hint of the unseen, yet very obvious power of the Lord that is in action here. Est. 2:15

Now the story really begins to get exciting. What an understatement, "Esther obtained favor in the sight of all of them that looked on her." The hand of the Lord is highly visible in the terrific impact her entrance into the king's courts made. All who were present were highly impressed, not only with her great beauty, but her self composure, bearing and modesty. She may be placed in the same category as the one called "My dove." The choice one, the favored of her mother. Surely the situation called for some negative responses to the beautiful, mature woman who now stood before them, but no, like the lovely dove, she is admired by her compatriots, the queens and concubines all praise her. Song 6:9 As with the dove, so with Esther.

ESTHER. 35

So impressive was this Jewish maiden that the search for a new queen ended abruptly with her entrance into the throne presence of the king. She was chosen above all others and received into the royal house of the king. Est. 2:16

Such types portraying that which will be, are weak and puny when compared to the glorious events of which they become a prediction. The story of one adopted by family is a portrayal of the new life begun by the Bride of Christ, for she too is adopted. Rom. 8:15 This is seen as the destiny of those who will comprise the Bride of Christ. The Lord in His infinite wisdom and will has prepared the whole plan of salvation with a grand climax in mind, and that is a Bride for His Christ.

The Father was married to Israel of old. He acknowledged His relationship with them by calling Himself their Husband. Isa. 54:5 The result of that marriage was the birth of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Spirit of the Lord, the power of the Highest was to overshadow Mary. From that glorious experience was to be born the man, who was to be called the Son of God. Luke 1:35 He is titled the King of kings as well as Lord of lords. Rev. 17:14 Those who are by His side are those whom He has made to be kings and

priests unto the Lord. Rev. 1:6 Consider also that those who are with Him, that is in His immediate and intimate presence are:- the called, those with a special invitation to be in proximity to Him. What else could they be but a Bride/Queen. The chosen, because of the hand of the Lord upon their lives and their full and complete dedication to Him, they are His select, His favorite ones. They are, the faithful, the believing, those who are trustworthy. These are they who will be the Bride, the true church which will meet all the standards presented in the fifth chapter of the letter to the Ephesians. He has declared it and it shall be done.

ESTHER. 36

Numerically, the seal of the Lord was upon the marriage of Ahasuerus and Esther. Most agree that it had been four years from the time of the release of Vashti and the marriage of Esther. Four is the number of the earth and would indicate that this event is for the benefit of the earth. The year was the seventh of the reign of king Ahasuerus. Seven is a divine complete number and relates to the book of sevens, the book of Revelation. The tenth month was chosen for the wedding. Ten is the number of law and order. The whole story is about the release of the people of the Law and their opportunity to once again worship the Lord according to the Law of Moses. Est. 2:16

The king loved Esther above all others which had been and were available to him. Inasmuch as Esther is a type of the Bride of Christ, this would indicate a very special love between Christ and those who are in the Bride. The saving love of the Lord is very broad and extends to the whole of the world, to all of mankind. John 3:16 Jesus loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus as friends and compatriots but not with the intensity that one would have toward those chosen to be His Bride. John 11:5 He taught His disciples to love one another with the same measure as His love for them. John 13:34 The love of Christ for His bride is of the same nature as Ahasuerus for Esther, more than any other. The love of Christ and the Bride is the essence and apex of pure love.

All that we read in the book of Esther give evidence to the presence of the hand of the Lord. He chooses His own ways to work out His will. There is

no question but what He tweaked the emotions of Ahasuerus giving him a very special and strong feeling of love for Esther. Immediately he began to show his extreme acts of kindness toward her. She obtained grace, kindness, special favor, goodness and mercy from him in every aspect possible. With the help of the Lord she had thoroughly captivated the heart of the king.

ESTHER. 37

Ahaseurus wasted no time in promoting Esther to the status of his new queen by placing the royal crown upon her head. The brevity of the statement, and the quick action of crowning Esther, is no doubt to impress on the reader how totally in love he was and so thoroughly delighted with Esther. Est. 2:17 Esther could have lived her whole life in captivity in Babylon as a very normal, unnoticed person, but the Lord had plans to use her for His glory. She had a divine destiny. Most definitely, in this case, promotion is from the Lord. Ps. 75:6-7

Esther's feast. It is time for a great celebration in honor of the newly crowned queen. The leaders of the kingdom were invited to gather for this time of festivity. He declared a holiday in commemoration of the exaltation of his beloved queen. Also, as a king, he gave appropriate gifts after a royal fashion. Est. 2:18

The yet unfulfilled feast in the dispensation of the Holy Spirit is the feast of tabernacles. This is the marriage feast which will be the celebration of the marriage of the Lamb and His Bride. It was at the time of the feast of tabernacles (John 7:2). The last day, the great day of the feast when Jesus stood and issued a most vital invitation and a great and precious promise. A call to those who have a great thirst for the reality of the Spirit. Oddly enough, the promise of the water which He supplies will result in not only a quenching, a complete satisfying of the thirst, but a flow of rivers of water from within. We note that the promise is RIVERS, plural, ever flowing and in great abundance. John 7:37-38 We are short changing ourselves today by being satisfied with but a stream when the promise entails a huge volume and a constant supply. John, on Patmos, saw the headwaters of that stream and learned that it's source is the very throne of the Lord. Rev. 22:1 The awesome presence of the Spirit of the Lord must flow in His

fullness through the church that the perfected Bride might be brought into existence.

ESTHER. 38

As an expression of the great delight in having found a queen who delighted his heart such as Esther, gifts were dispersed throughout his kingdom. The Lord Jesus, in His ascension unto the throne of the Lord, gave gifts unto all who will receive them. These are gifts purchased by His blood. Eph. 4:8 The first of these gifts, the one which opens the way for all other spiritual gifts, is His marvelous gift of grace. It is given out without charge, it cannot be purchased. It is granted in such great abundance that it covers the sin of each and every individual who seeks the Lord for forgiveness of sins. Rom. 5:15-17 With it, He imparts the gift of righteousness whereby we are able to live His life in this world, through Him.

It is inconceivable that any would reject the precious spiritual gifts given by our Lord. Yet, there are those, who have been blessed by the first, the foundational gift of His great grace, who refuse the most necessary gift for ministry, the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that He would send a Comforter, who would abide forever, not one who would come and then gradually fade out. John 14:16-17 In the abiding presence and working of the Spirit of the Lord we find that there are many gifts granted for the purpose of edifying the church. 1 Cor. 12:1, 8-10

The virgins brought before the king a second time. This time to honor and pay homage to the new queen. It is of interest to note that having previously visited the king and spending the night in his palace, they are still determined to be virgins. Est. 2:19 It would appear that these virgins would become her companions and her court of grand ladies in waiting. It would be a gathering of great beauty but outshining them all would be Queen Esther. Paul viewed the church as a pure virgin. 2 Cor. 11:2 So powerful and thorough is the cleansing of the blood of Christ that the person who is cleansed by it is reckoned to be made absolutely new, before the Lord.

ESTHER. 39

Then Mordecai. As the adoptive father and counselor of Esther his concern and care for her is continuous. We are not told why he was positioned in the king's gate. It would have been in an official capacity of some sort. He was a friend of those who served the king in the inner palace. The gate of a city was the court in their day. For instance, Boaz before he could take Ruth as his wife had to settle with another close relative. To do so, he went to the elders who sat in the gate of the city. Ruth 4:1-11 However and for whatever secular reason Mordecai was there, we know that it was in the will of the Lord. He is a key to the whole book. All the gossip and intrigue of the palace was whispered in his ear. He Was well informed.

Esther, in all that had taken place in her life, had not yet revealed her racial background. She remained faithful and obedient to the wisdom of Mordecai. The time was yet to come when she would reveal her nationality. It does seem that we should make a spiritual analogy to the relationship that existed between these two. Certainly, Mordecai is a type of the Holy Spirit. His knowledge of the palace situation. His ability to lead and instruct Esther. Her complete submission to his instructions all add up to a relationship which the Bride of Christ will have with the Holy Spirit. She is definitely Spirit led. Est. 2:20

Conspiracy! Two of the king's appointees, officers of the women's house, plan to kill the king. We do not know why they were so angry, could it have been that they too had their favorite young maidens and were upset at the choice of Esther. Est. 2:21 These plans were not made by an enemy from without the palace but from the king's trusted people. This particular theme is woven throughout the scriptures. Consider Ps. 55:12-14 The enemy from within is the most effective and damaging. Where did sin begin? In the very throne presence of the Lord. Eze. 28:14-15 Jesus in choosing twelve, said, one of you is a devil. John 6:70

ESTHER. 40

These men are a type of the antichrist. Est. 2:21 The evil force that is within. The Pastor (W.H. Offiler) under whose ministry I was saved, eighty three years ago, taught us and taught us well that the antichrist would be

from the church. In these decades of time I have heard and read the prophecies of many so called great prophetic ministers. The list of the world leaders which they chose as the antichrist is too long to enter here. Almost every past political leader, and many religious as well, was chosen by them as the antichrist, yet they have all passed off of the scene.

The antichrist is presented as one sitting in the temple of God. 2 Thess. 2:4 Now, what is the temple of God? A mega church? A huge building? How does the Word define it. "Know ye not that your body is the TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit." 1 Cor. 6:19 This as yet unrevealed and unnamed antichrist will first of all be a spiritual leader in the body of Christ, the church. Definitely, he is not the Pope, past or present. He will ultimately be the head of all the religious bodies of the earth. There is no question but what he will eventually become a political leader also. Note his character. He is the leader of the opposition, got one in your church? He is filled with pride for he will exalt himself. Always bragging and promoting himself while down grading everyone else about him. 2 Thess. 2:4

He is the beast of Revelation thirteen. He will possess a big mouth, the ability to persuade people. His power to manipulate and influence will supersede all. Rev. 13:5 With his foul and blasphemous mouth he will curse God and His people. He is a man appealing to both men and women. A man of war who will make war and overcome the tribulation saints. Rev. 13:7 Woops, there will be saints in the tribulation? How about the teaching that says we all escape the tribulation? Study to show yourself approved of the Lord. 2 Tim. 2:15 It is the Spirit of the Lord who is holding back the powers of darkness until the proper time. Yes, the Lord works on a schedule. 2 Thess. 2:6-7

ESTHER. 41

The conspiracy discovered and broken up. The intentions of evil toward the king by two very trusted door keepers of the house of the women, Bigthan and Teresh, revealed by Mordecai. The palace gossip had reached him and he passed it on to Esther who communicated the report to the king, in the name of Mordecai. It is the beginning of a good and very necessary relationship between the king and Mordecai. Take note of the wisdom of Esther in making certain that the king knew that it was Mordecai who

passed this report on to her. The report was researched resulting in the hanging of the two. Est. 2:21-23

The promotion and advancement of Haman was a bad choice on the part of the king, and for the situation of the Jews of that day. Est. 3:1 Close associates chosen by those in positions of leadership are not always wise choices. Close companions, confidants must be chosen cautiously and wisely. So often it is those who are close but not in agreement, who create problems. In all that we are about to see in the book of Esther the hand of the Lord is very visible. The Lord is in control and even though we do not always understand His methods in accomplishing His purposes, He is in charge. Leaders, in every aspect of life, may not necessarily be what we would chose but they are established by the Lord. Rom. 13:1 The Lord alone is the judge, He will elevate and or replace those in authority according to His will and purposes. Ps. 75:6-7

The background, the lineage of Haman is somewhat uncertain. He is called an Agagite and they were bitter enemies of Israel who were determined to destroy them. However, we do know that he was a man seeking great political powers and authority. He also had a deep rooted hatred for the Jews. He was given a position which was the highest in the kingdom and the authority to act in the name of the king. He was over all other men in positions of leadership in the kingdom. Est. 3:1 He was a dangerous man to place in such a high position.

ESTHER. 42

Haman exalted by king Ahasuerus who commanded the people to bow before him and to show him reverence. This involved not only kneeling to him but could go as far as to prostrate one's self before him. It is a religious term such as would be used in worship or falling prostrate before the Lord. As usual, this type of person gains great favor with the one in charge and is given a position far beyond their worth. These whose place was in the gate of the king were not the common people of the city but officials who would do the will and command of the king. We know that among those sitting in the gate was Mordecai, the man who refused to perform as commanded. Mordecai's refusal gives us an insight to the courage that he possessed.

He would not render to man that which he reserved for worship unto the true God. Est. 3:2

Mordecai was a man of strong convictions and was willing to face whatever circumstances came his way because of his stand. His actions were very apparent and caused his companions to question his disobedience to the king's command. Most certainly Mordecai's purpose was not civil disobedience nor disrespect for the king, but rather, a matter of obedience to the higher power, the Lord. He would not bow down to an idol nor to a man. He adhered to his religious principals. This was not a one day affair but daily, for an unknown period of time, he maintained his integrity. In the course of these days Mordecai revealed his Jewish background which added fuel to the fire. It is difficult not to read into the actions of his compatriots a spirit of dislike, perhaps envy and most certainly jealousy because of his connection to the queen. They waited (vultures) to see what sort of punishment would be given Mordecai. Mordecai was not a minor voice in the decisions which were made daily in the king's gate. In the political atmosphere in which he found himself it was not always easy to maintain his high standards in light of the opposition which he faced. His decisions would be made on the basis of the Law, which could be contrary to the laws of the Medes and the Persians.

ESTHER. 43

Haman having been informed of the refusal of Mordecai to fulfill the command of the king and to give Haman the honor required, took notice of his lack of action. Being the man of pride, which he was, he became extremely angry with Mordecai and consequently his people, the Jews in the whole of the kingdom. Haman was not satisfied to limit his revenge on Mordecai but determined to punish the whole race by exterminating them. The adherence of Mordecai to the Law of the Lord was in the perfect will of the Lord. Nevertheless, the result was personal trouble and a sentence of death upon the Jews in the kingdom. Est. 3:5-6 Up to and until this time the children of the Lord had advanced beautifully in the kingdom of the Medes and Persians. One of them had even become the Queen. Surely the blessing of the Lord was on them and they were living peacefully, though in captivity.

Now, we see the negative side of the will and blessing of the Lord. He uses His own strategy to work out His will. The actions of both Mordecai and Haman are according to His purposes. Trouble, difficulties, problems and reverses in life are not all outside of the intention of the Lord. Adversities are but stepping stones to the revelation of His glory and power in our lives. How quickly we forget that ALL THINGS work together for good to them who love the Lord. Rom. 8:28 Even Jesus, who was the Son of God learned obedience through the things which He SUFFERED. Heb. 5:8

A generation of Christians who are raised (spiritually) on a diet of 'bless me' Lord, will not be prepared for the trials and persecutions which are a part of these last days. Faced with a decisions such as Mordecai was they will compromise, for that is what they have been and are being taught. The blessing of the Lord is not evidenced solely by the goods of this world but by the mighty presence and anointing of the Spirit in the lives of His people. Consider. Heb. 11:33-38

ESTHER. 44

Haman had the astrologers of the court cast lots seeking for a time, a month and a day when he could execute his vengeance on the people of Israel. The amusing thing in this case is, as in all use and predictions of wizards, necromancers or fortune tellers, the final word is the Lord's. The outcome, the results, the future is in the supreme hands of the Lord. Pr. 16:33 He is in absolute control. They were seeking a 'lucky' time, what they would consider to be a proper time to destroy all the Jews in Persia.

See the hand of the Lord in their choice. Esther had been Queen for around five years. Five is the number of atonement, liberty from bondage. The Lord was about to deliver His people from the threat of death and extermination and was doing it His way. His way does not always fit into our plans. Too often we want an answer to our prayers, right now. There is a need of patience on our part that after we have done the will of the Lord we wait patiently for the answer to our prayers. Heb. 10:36 Due to human impatience we are often off some place trying to solve the problem ourselves. So that at the time that the Lord wants to respond, we are gone.

The month chosen to seek for this “proper” day is significant. It was the month Abib (Heb.) or Nisan (Persian), the first month of the Hebrew Levitical year, the seventh of the civil year. What impressive numbers. It was the month of new beginnings. The first of the three harvests which they experienced in the promised land. It was the time of the harvest of the barley. Which was the primary food of the poor. The time when they commemorated the feast of Passover, deliverance from death, plagues and Egypt. It was celebrated in conjunction with the feast of unleavened bread. No leaven was to be found among them during this feast. Lev. 2:11 Leaven is a type of sin. The Passover Lamb is a type of the Lord Jesus. When we partake of the Passover Lamb, we are not only pardoned from sins of the past but we are delivered from the act of sin. No leaven. 1 Cor. 5:7-8

ESTHER. 45

In the twelfth year of the reign of king Ahasuerus the lot was cast seeking that perfect day to punish the whole of Israel because of Mordecai’s refusal to bow to Haman. Twelve is the number of government in the scriptures. The Lord is the supreme ruler over the governments of this world. Good, bad, evil or indifferent, He is over all. He has ordained them to fulfill His will. Rom. 13:1 Daniel recognized His power and authority by his statement, “He removes kings and raises up kings.” Dan. 2:20-21 They cast lots for each day of every month of the year at one and the same setting. Est. 3:7

Haman’s revenge. A man of sly politics and well versed in political maneuvering. As the prime minister of the king his approach is as if he were seeking the best interest of the king. There is not even the slightest hint of the personal affront which he had experienced. He is the clever one. The name of these people, who are supposedly disobedient to the king, he does not mention. The punishment is to be rendered because of the diversity of their law from the Medes and the Persians. No reference made to the fact that it is the Law of the Lord which would conflict with their laws. His clincher is that it is not beneficial to the king to allow this condition to continue. How devious are the ways of those who oppose the Lord. Haman was well versed in the use of language, without revealing his personal involvement. Est. 3:8

Haman positioned himself before the king as both attorney and judge. He had already made his decision and now was involving the king in his verdict. There is no question but what the king had great confidence in Haman, after all, he was second in command with great influence on all the resolutions made by the king. So intense was his hatred and determination that he was willing to pay ten thousand talents of silver into the treasure to cover the costs of the extermination of the whole of Israel. Est. 3:9

ESTHER. 46

Ahasuerus in giving his signet ring gave full and absolute authority to Haman to act as the king and as it pleased him. His purpose was action to destroy the Jews. His decisions and orders, with the king's signature would have to be carried out to their full. Indeed, he was an enemy to the Jews. Est. 3:10

It is not yet apparent that the king was aware of the people who were to be destroyed. There is the possibility that he was thinking of an entirely different race of people, who had been conquered by his army, and were scattered throughout his kingdom. How cunning of Haman not to mention the particular race which he had in mind. The king made available the silver and the troops which were necessary to carry out the will of Haman. His plot against the Jews was progressing very well. Foolishly, the king was siding with him. Est. 3:11 He was given total liberty to accomplish his wicked purpose. What a sly fox this Haman was.

Haman wasted no time in gathering the scribes of the kingdom together that the command to kill all Jews, on a certain day, might be quickly sent. This action was taken on the thirteenth day of the first month. Thirteen is the number of rebellion. Note Gen. 14:4 This was also the day before the Jewish Passover, which takes place on the fourteenth day of the first month. The intention of Haman to destroy the Jews is now openly declared to all. The order was given to every leader of every province and to the heads of every captive nation that they were to exterminate the whole of the nation of Israel on one and the same day. Such extreme and deep rooted hatred is unimaginable, but it is there, in the heart of mankind. All this was done in the name of the king and with his signature on it. The

implicit trust which the king had placed in his right hand man, Haman, was about to create a real problem for the king. Est. 3:12

ESTHER . 47

There is always hope and time for the Lord to show His abundant mercy. Though the letters of condemnation were quickly carried by courier. The kingdom was so spread out that it would have taken an extensive period for all to receive the command. Then too, the proper day had been chosen which gave the Jews a period of at least eleven months before they were executed. All, young and old, men and women were to be completely destroyed all over the kingdom in one day. Their possessions and property was to be confiscated. Est. 3:13 Everybody, was invited to participate in the horror of that day. Est. 3:14

The reaction of the citizens of the city of Shushan was one of perplexity, of deep concern. We know from the time of the rebuilding of the city and the temple under Ezra and Nehemiah and the others who helped them that there had been much mingling in marriage of the different nationalities in the seventy years of their captivity. Neh. 13:3 The same would hold true for the rest of the country. Once a slaughter of this proportions started, who could tell where it would end.

The king and Haman sat down to celebrate their decision by having themselves a session of drinking. We now know that the king was aware of the plot against the Jews and from this show of camaraderie with Haman made known his approval.

The reaction of Mordecai was immediate and intense seeing as it had been his previous actions which triggered the current condition. The rending of his clothes was a signal of the brokenness of his heart. He did not repent of his actions, nor should he have. He did feel great grief for his people because of what was to happen to them. Est. 4:1 Clothing himself in sackcloth was a sign of the extreme anguish and sorrow which he felt. He went about the city in deep anguish of soul crying out with a loud voice and bitterness of soul. Est. 4:1

ESTHER. 48

Mordecai approached the gate of the king's palace clothed in sackcloth and in great sorrow. However he did not enter the king's gate for it was forbidden to those who were in mourning. Throughout the land as soon as the news was spread the Jews went into mourning, sackcloth and ashes, weeping and wailing, even fasting, because of the impending calamity which was to come upon them. It was a case of national repentance and seeking the Lord. Too bad that it takes such pressure to get people to pray but if there is no other way, the Lord will certainly use it for our benefit. Most every one prays some kind of a prayer when faced with difficulties and problems. Est. 4:2-4 When He slew them, then they sought Him. Ps. 78:34 There will be times when the Lord of Love will take corrective measures to get our attention. Why wait?

Esther was not aware of all the palace stratagem until the news of her adoptive father was brought to her by her maids and chamberlains. Her reaction was immediate, she sent proper clothing to Mordecai, thinking that it would mollify his sorrow. However, his problem was not to be solved by clothing from the hand of the Queen. He and his people were in need of a reversal of the death sentence which had been issued. That would take the attention of the king. That was the solution which Mordecai sought. If the royal decree were not nullified, the Jews were as dead people and their properties would be confiscated.

Esther was moved with compassion and concern and stirred into action. She commanded an eunuch named Hathach to inquire of Mordecai as to the problem and cause of such extreme action. This gives evidence of the deep love and concern which she had for Mordecai. Now, being elevated to the status of the Queen, she did not forget those who had cared for her and brought her to her present position. She did not desert or deny her origins. She showed a good spirit and demonstrated humility. Her elevation to a high position did not change her character. Est. 4:5

ESTHER. 49

The political wickedness of Haman made known to Hathach that he might enlighten the Queen. Not only by word of mouth but Mordecai produced a copy of the decree which had been circulated to the officials of the land.

Mordecai strongly urged her to read and consider the official document. Furthermore, he exhorted Hatach to convey to her vocally, the extreme seriousness of the circumstances. He issued a request which is worded so strongly that it may be considered a command to go before the king on behalf of her people. She was to become an intercessor, the only one who could cause the decree to be altered by the king.

Esther, a type of the church, was about to experience the highest order of prayer. There is a vast difference between just saying prayers and entering into a spirit of prayer which deals with matters of life and death. Jesus, our great example prayed a prayer of extreme intercession in the garden. He was under such an intense burden that it is recorded that He sweat great drops of blood. He prayed with great agony, excruciating anguish of soul and spirit Lk. 22:44 Physical death was not the cause. He was about to bear the sin of the world. The man who knew no sin was to become sin for all. 2 Cor. 5:21 He is still the intercessor of all, standing before the Father for all who will call upon His name for salvation. Heb. 7:25

In the process of salvation, as the Lord has established it, there is that precious experience called the new birth. The seed is sown. 1 Pet. 1:23 This is then followed by travail. Gal. 4:19 Which is paramount to the prayer of intercession as stated by the Apostle Paul. A prayer which cannot be formed by words. It is a prayer in the Spirit and is accompanied by groaning which cannot be expressed in words. Rom. 8:26 It is like the high priest entering into the Most Holy Place on that one day of the year, the Day of Atonement. It was a prayer that was heard in the early days of Pentecost, but seldom if at all today.

ESTHER. 50

Esther, as a go between, an intercessor was to lay her life on the line She was the only one in all the kingdom who could be a savior to her people. Through her plea to her husband, the king, she was to give new life to a whole nation. It was a case of dying with them, as one of them, or the possibility of dying trying to save them. The request of Mordecai for her to represent her people before the king was also an extremely humbling act. She was to, "beg for mercy and to plead for her people." Est. 4:8 NIV Until now, she had not revealed to Ahasuerus the fact that she was a Jewess.

Her appearance before him would be a shocking experience for both of them.

The law of the Medes and Persians did not allow anyone, not even a wife, to enter into the court of the king unceremoniously. In order to appear before him they had to have been invited to enter into his presence. The people all knew this, including Mordecai. The risk was tremendous, especially considering that she had not been called into his company for the past thirty days. Thirty is an interesting number, it is the number of dedication and consecration. The old testament priesthood were consecrated to the ministry at the age of thirty. Num. 4:3 Jesus was about thirty years of age when He was baptized by John the Baptist, and filled with the Spirit. Ahasuerus had the most beautiful woman in his kingdom as his queen but did not seek her companionship and presence for one whole month. There could not have been much love in that marriage. Est. 4:11

The sentence of death was automatically passed on anyone who would dare show up uninvited before the king. The exception was if the king would hold out the royal golden scepter to them as an act of acceptance. On hearing this report brought to him, by Hatach, from Esther, Mordecai reminded her of her family tree. By walking into what could be certain death she was gaining life for herself and her people. Est. 4:12-13

ESTHER. 51

Mordecai's response to Esther's reluctance to become personally involved was sharp and to the point. There was only one choice which would benefit her personally, and at the same time be the deliverance of the Jew's from the sentence of annihilation which had been pronounced upon them. Mordecai was certain that the Jews would be delivered, if not by her actions, then by the efforts of someone else. If their escape came from a source other than Esther, the outcome would be the total destruction of Esther and her father's house. He was just as positive that her personal deliverance depended entirely on her confronting the king for her people. The responsibility of future of the Jews depended on Esther. Est. 4:14

The Lord never fails to have the right person, at the right place, at the right time, who will do the right thing. In retrospect, there is no question but what Esther had indeed been chosen Queen for the benefit of the Jews. Joseph, for all the difficulties and adverse circumstances which he faced on his way to becoming the second in command in Egypt, was well prepared to deliver and sustain his family from famine. Jesus, was called upon to experience rejection and much suffering, fit perfectly into the plan of the Father. He fulfilled all the Messianic prophecies pertaining to His becoming the Lamb of God and the Savior of the redeemed. The timing and preparation of the Lord is always perfect.

Esther made a total commitment to the deliverance. It was a of life or death. "If I perish, I perish." However, it was founded on the involvement of the whole of the Jewish community present in the city of Shushan, her maidens and of course Esther, in three says and nights of total fasting. They were neither to eat nor drink. The involvement of her maidens gives the impression that they were also Jewish women. They were to be "gathered together," unified by one cause and purpose. Too bad that it requires adverse circumstances to produce unity. The Lord definitely allows situations to develop to bring His people together.

ESTHER. 52

The three day and three night fast is of true significance. In this case it foreshadowed the three days and three nights which Christ spent in death. Mt. 12:40 Jonah's experience of death, in the great fish, was also a type of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The foundation of the ministry of Saul of Tarsus, whose name was changed to Paul was an immediate three day and three night fast after his conversion. Acts 9:9 In these fasts they neither drank nor ate, a complete fast. Such commitment is fully sufficient to produce a manifestation of the glory of the Lord. Mordecai followed the request made by Esther. Fasting, with the right attitude and purpose, is a mighty weapon in bringing the carnal man into subjecting and empowering the spiritual man.

Esther, with great confidence, having dedicated herself fully to the will of the Lord, and knowing that there were scores who had joined her in prayer and fasting, entered the kings court. She had clothed herself with the finest

of her royal garments. Most certainly something that Ahasuerus had given her and complemented her on her appearance. She had to look her best, this was that moment where she stood between life and death for herself and her people. She did not brashly enter immediately into the presence of the king. Following the dignity of her person and the office which she held, she situated herself, within the gate, where the king could see her. Est. 5:1

The king on seeing her instantly beckoned for her to come into his presence. She had obtained favor of the king. More importantly she had received the grace of the Lord, who, in response to the fasting and prayer of Esther and the people had full control of the heart of the king. How could he possibly have done other than accept her presence. The beauty of the Lord upon her plus her natural beauty would have made her most acceptable to him. If the Lord is for us, who can be against us. Est. 5:2

ESTHER. 53

Many factors entered into the acceptance of Queen Esther. First and upper most it was the method used of the Lord to accomplish His will. Esther and many others had been in fasting and prayer for three days and nights. Certainly not to be excluded, her royal robes, no doubt in the colors of the kingdom. Est. 5:1

The Bride of Christ is to be clothed in a most majestic manner. She will have "put on Christ." Gal. 3:27 The all important covering applied when she is baptized in His name and receives it as a token of her devotion and dedication to Christ. The Bride is to be the total expression and example of what a new person is in the Lord Jesus. She is the epitome of righteousness and true holiness. In other words, she is in all things, like her Lord. Eph. 4:24 She has the mind of Christ and is fully motivated to exemplify Him in all of her life and actions. 1 Cor. 2:16 She is filled with His knowledge, knowing always, His desire and will. She is a duplicate of Him in all things. As Jesus was the exact image of His Father, so the Bride will be the faultless and full reproduction of the Lord Jesus. Col. 3:10

The Bride of Christ will appear before her King as a conqueror, having overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. She is the victorious, triumphant body of Christ. Rev. 3:5 She is spiritually wise and alert. She is

filled with the wisdom of the Spirit. Therefore she has purchased (without money, without price) items of extreme value from the storehouse of the Lord. Her value is placed on things above, the heavenly, the eternal, and not on the things of this earth. Rev. 3:18 Her clothing is the finest of the fine, the righteousness of the saints bestowed upon them by the Lord. Rev. 19:9 Picture if you will, the ultimate of clothing and the appearance of the Bride as seen in Rev. 12:1. Never, ever, in time or eternity has there ever been nor will there ever be a Bride clothed in such a manner. The beauty of the Lord is upon her in its fullness.

ESTHER. 54

King Ahasuerus was molded, shaped and controlled by a power so extremely mighty and greater than he, that he did not have an opportunity to do anything but the will of the Lord. Remember, the powers that are in authority are under the control of the Lord. That includes the disruptive, the just plain unprofitable, as well as the good. Rom. 13:1 The heart, the intellect, the will of all leaders is in the hands of the Lord. He directs their thoughts and actions in which ever way He wills. Prov. 21:1

She was extended his favor as he saw her standing, waiting patiently for his acceptance. He extended his golden scepter to her as a token of favorable response. It was a moment of great surprise on his part. Esther had not been summoned to appear before him but of her own volition had braved the possibility of his wrath and subsequent death. Why had she come? For Esther it was a step of faith, for her sake and that of her people, she must be accepted.

The scepter represents the authority and power of the king. It was a sign of his ability to rule, to create rules and regulations governing the people, to judge, and to correct. The true scepter of gold is to be found in the eternal kingdom of righteousness, the kingdom of the Lord Jesus. Heb. 1:8 Because of His love for absolute righteousness of life, The Lord Jesus received unequivocally the completeness of the anointing of the Most High. Heb. 1:9 The scepter, the conduct of His kingdom is that of a rule of justice. Ps. 45:6 Jacob prophesied of the coming One who would turn the hearts of the people from the Law to the true of the Lord. Gen. 49:10 Even Balaam, the for hire prophet, was forced into prophesying the truth by declaring the

Lord Jesus to be the star out of Jacob and the scepter of deliverance for all who would believe on Him. Num. 24:17 The scepter of the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is offered today in acceptance and salvation. Today is the day of salvation.

ESTHER. 55

Very thoroughly the Lord had prepared the heart and mind of Ahasuerus to respond most favorably to Esther's visit. His willingness to respond in a positive manner was evident in his question to her. Even though she had not yet stated the reason for her visit, he was quick to promise to react in the affirmative, even to the dividing of the kingdom with her. What a beautiful response to prayer and fasting that was. The Lord was present with Esther, making the king more than willing, not only to show grace to her but to make a tremendous promise to her. Est. 5:3

The wisdom of the Lord was very evident in Esther. Her ultimate request was not immediately revealed, that is a request for clemency for her people and the punishment of Haman. Instead she invited the king to have dinner with her, a banquet, which she had already prepared for the king and to be sure to bring Haman with him. The elated king called for Haman to come at once that Esther's wishes might be fulfilled. Est. 5:4-5 Do you suppose that Esther had read Proverbs 29:11 If not, she certainly knew it's message and practiced it.

Under the influence of the wine served and having been mellowed by its influence, his curiosity must have been enormous and for a second time the king asked what her request of him might be, and offered to fulfill her petition, willing to give her even up to the half of his kingdom. In the meantime all this is still a mystery to him. It is like a game of cat and mouse and she very definitely has the upper hand. Slowly but surely she is enticing him into the trap. She is making certain of his feelings toward her. If I have found favor, if the king is pleased to satisfy my desire and give me what I want. Then come again tomorrow, be sure to bring Haman, and once again I will prepare a banquet and tell the king of my request. Est 5:8 The irony of the whole matter is amazing. It proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Lord was greatly involved in the whole setting.

ESTHER. 56

It is well to note that the Companion Bible recognizes the second acrostic, where the name of Yehovah is to be found in the book of Esther. This time in the invitation of Esther. Let the king and Haman come this day. In the Hebrew, Yabo Hammelek Ve Haman Hayyom. The first letter of each word used in forming the name of Yehovah or, YHVH. Est. 5:4

*(**Acrostic**, written lines containing word: a number of lines of writing, especially a poem or word puzzle, in which a combination of letters from each line spells a word or phrase. Encarta ® World English Dictionary © & (P) 1998-2005 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.)*

Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall. Prov. 16:18 NKJV A word picture of Haman as he left the presence of king Ahasuerus and Queen Esther. He was highly elated at the second invitation to attend another night of banqueting. That is, until he got to the gates of the palace where faithful Mordecai was seated. Then his whole demeanor was altered. From being highly elated his attitude changed to one of complete anger and hatred at this foreign person who refused to pay homage to him. Mordecai also declined to move if he happened to be in Haman's way. How extremely irritating all this would be to most anyone of his nature and in his high political position.

"He refrained himself." The gauntlet of human emotions stirring in the heart of Haman would have reached a high peak. Hatred, anger, certainly murder, controlled his whole being. A person of this nature would be filled with much bitterness. Est. 5:10 A root (some are as small as the finest hair) of bitterness is to be avoided under all circumstances. How many lives have been ruined because some affront, purposely or accidentally performed against us, was allowed to find a place in the heart and spirit, until it grew into a great tree, and many were wrongly influenced by it. Heb. 12:15

ESTHER. 57

Haman the man who had attained his goal in life, but once there found that it was a place of thorns and difficulties. He assembled his wife, family and

friends to declare to them his good fortune. Also his problem with the Jew, Mordecai. His news is a case where good news, is bad news, only he does not yet know it. We learn some things about him. He is a man of considerable wealth. He had a large family among whom he was able to number ten sons. Est. 9:10 Having been chosen by the king, he had been promoted and advance above all the leaders of the kingdom.

Beyond all that he had been in attendance with the king and queen as their guest and now for the second time he was to be present at her very special banquet as a personally requested guest. His consensus was that he was being accepted into the very special favor of the royal family. Est. 5:11 In spite of all these positive elements in his life the one overriding factor was the refusal of Mordecai to feed his ego and acknowledge him as a worthy and great person. For all that he had gained, the pent up rage burning in him destroyed the joy of all of his attainments. The attitude of one person toward him overshadowed the honor and praise of all others. His extreme pride and his intense hatred were the foundation of his ultimate downfall and ruin. Est. 5:12

Their advice to him was that a gallows be prepared that extended some seventy five feet into the air. They were going to place on display the end of one who would oppose Haman, by lifting him up high that all might see. To Haman, it was the answer to his problem. He immediately set about to order the gallows to be built. He then, could go into the feast with a merry heart for he would be able to avenge himself of his enemy. After all, the sentence of death was on the Jews and surely the king would consent to the hanging of this Mordecai as an example of the future destruction of a whole race. Est. 5:14

ESTHER. 58

The night the king could not sleep. Now who do you suppose kept him awake. The Lord knows how to deal with the political leaders of the world. The more the crisis intensified in the life of Mordecai, the more we see the hand of the Lord revealed. The king was led directly to the source of information concerning Mordecai and his past actions benefiting the king. How wonderful that the scribes were made to read from the book of records precisely from the page relating to Mordecai. Est. 6:1-2 The Lord does not

always alter the difficult situations we face in life but He does make a way of escape. 1 Cor. 10:13 He did not take the children of Israel around the sea or another way, but he took them through the sea, on dry ground. Ex. 14:16

The hand of justice moves slowly. Rewards do not always quickly follow good deeds. Up to, and until now, Mordecai had the knowledge and good feeling of having done right in reporting the intentions of Bigthana and Teresh. At this instant in his life, when he most needed it, he is about to receive the benefit of his good deed. How timely are the dealings of the Lord. Having been bypassed, overlooked and perhaps even ignored by those in authority after a space of approximately five years, Mordecai is not only to be delivered from death but is to be exalted in the kingdom. Be patient, the Lord sees and knows and in His time the awards will be forthcoming. There is a crown of life for all who follow the Lord Jesus. Rev. 2:10

What has been done for him? Nothing, absolutely nothing. Could it be that he did not even hear the words, thank you. This was an embarrassment and a breach of conduct for the king to have permitted such an injustice to happen to Mordecai. He had been shown no honor, or financial award. He had not been acknowledged or dignified by being given special status in the nation. Est. 6:3 Kind deeds do not go unrewarded, some time, some place in some way, in time or eternity there is a payday.

ESTHER. 59

The opportune, inopportune arrival of Haman in the court of Ahasuerus. Regardless of how cloudy and dark things appear to be, the Lord is in control. Haman did not come by chance on that particular early morning visit. His actions fit perfectly into the plan of the Lord. Haman came with the intent of seeking final permission to use the gallows which he had built especially for Mordecai. Est. 6:4-5 While Haman was unaware of the Lord's purpose in all of this, he was about to learn the facts of Solomon's wisdom. "He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it." Eccl. 10:8 Not only was Haman in the court of Ahasuerus, but unknowingly he was also standing in the court of the just and merciful Lord. The work of his own hands and actions was about to be visited upon him. Ps. 9:15-16 A plot to do evil to an innocent person will receive it's just reward.

Haman taken into the confidence of the king. What an exhilarating moment that was for him. He mistakenly thought that he was the king's number one man. Surely he was the man whom the king desired to honor. This story is a contrast between the proud and the humble. The proud is about to be totally deflated while the humble, the patient Mordecai is about to be greatly honored and elevated. Pride, is destructive. Humility, is to be desired. Prov. 29:23

Haman spoke from his heart his dreams of grandeur. No doubt he was visualizing himself in this place of high honor as he outlined for the king all that should be done for such a person. In all actuality Haman wanted the person so honored to appear as the king. Wearing the royal apparel. Riding the king's horse and wearing the crown of the kingdom upon his head. Was there a spirit of insurrection in him? Could he possibly have thought of taking over the kingdom? Est. 6:7 We find one with the same attitude and spirit in Lucifer. He wanted to take over the kingdom of the Lord. Isa. 14:9-15

ESTHER. 60

Haman could see himself, in all the splendor of the king, parading the streets of the city and being proclaimed, by the elite of the king's court, as a man of great status and honor. Est. 6:8-9 His extreme pride and selfishness would allow him to think of no one other than himself as the candidate of this great honor. He is a true example of the human, carnal manner of self aggrandizement common to mankind. Paul was well aware of this and warned the church not to think of themselves from a standpoint of human emotions. Rom. 12:3

The king commanded Haman to make haste, do so quickly, take the clothing and the horse and give this honor to Mordecai, the Jew. Fulfill all your words, do exactly to him as you have designated before me. What a SHOCK. The wildest of our imaginations could hardly be used in trying to comprehend the emotions which flooded through the being and soul of Haman at that moment of time. What can be said? If the Lord is for us, regardless of how dark and cloudy the situation may look, He will work it out for His glory. Rom. 8:31

Beware, the despised, the hated may be exalted and take the place of one who is constantly seeking the high place, the prominence, honor and the praises of others. Insult upon insult. Haman was designated to take the crown, clothing and horse to Mordecai. Then he was to be the one who would precede him and proclaim as one receiving very special honors from the king. Est. 6:10 How could any one be brought lower than to have to serve one whom, unjustly, they had condemned to death. This is a perfect demonstration of the truth of the Word of the Lord. "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble. Prov. 29:23 The Lord does not keep us from trials and tribulations. They are a part of life. However we may be assured that He will be with us throughout the circumstances and in the end will see to it that we are victorious.

ESTHER. 61

Mordecai, the man with a balanced spirit before the Lord. He simply returned to the gate where he had been before his great accolade, which had been led by Haman. He was certainly not a man of pride and self seeking. Est. 6:12 He was a level headed man and one of a well balanced spirit. He knew his place in life and was not about to be removed from it. Like David, he was not haughty nor were his eyes lofty. Ps. 131:1 The attitude which receives the attention of the Lord is like that of Mordecai. Contrite and humble in the sight of the Lord. Isa. 57:15

Haman left in embarrassment and shame, covering his head to hide his identity after such an excruciatingly humbling experience. He went mourning, in extreme distress of spirit and soul. The praises and exaltation which he thought he was planning for himself he had to execute for his worse enemy, the man he despised and hated with a passion. Taking refuge in his home and seeking solace from his wife and his astrologers did not by any means better his fears or his position. They had no good or positive words for him. Assuring him that if Mordecai was of the seed of the Jews, Haman was in the process of losing the battle and would be defeated. No words of comfort for him were to be found. Est. 6:13

While they were yet in consultation, the servants of the kings came to quickly bring him to the banquet of Esther. The darkness of spirit, the trouble of his mind, the fear that was building in Haman must have been of

tremendous force about this time. Est. 6:14 Zophar, one of Job's friends stated concerning the wicked that their moment of victory is brief and they shall utterly perish. Job 20:5-9 The word picture offered in these verses aptly fit Haman. So the king and Haman went into the banquet prepared by Esther. However hard he tried to cover up his dilemma and hope for a way of escape, he would have had to manifest the storm which was raging within his being. He was truly in dire circumstances. Est. 7:1

ESTHER. 62

The Lord has a perfect time for a solution for every situation. The leading of the Lord in having a second banquet is self evident. Haman had been degraded and utterly humiliated. We note that it was a banquet of wine. When the king was in a mellow mood he began to question Esther. The king was overwhelmed with curiosity as to Esther's request. Unable to contain his desire to know, he could no longer refrain from seeking the purpose of these banquets. Astonishingly, without even knowing what her request would be he promised her that it would be done. She had the king's word, she could be assured that whatever she would ask would be done. To strengthen her cause he gave her complete assurance, a guarantee that it would be accomplished. Waxing eloquent, he even went so far as to promise her up to half of his kingdom. Est. 7:1-2 When the Lord is involved in a situation concerning His own, be assured that the matter will be for the good of all.

Tender of heart and mild of manner, Esther, every bit a Queen approached the king with a gracious demeanor and words fitting and proper to one of her position. "If I have found favor," she well knew that she had, but still approached the king in humility maintaining the correct courtly approach to her husband, the king. "If it pleases the king." exactly how pleased he was with her is evident in the fact that he had offered to give her the desire of her heart, even to the half of the kingdom. That was not just a frivolous promise. If he had not loved her before, he was surely in love with her now. Est. 7:2

Esther became an intercessor, for her own life and the lives of her people. She presented their plight before the king for they were a people upon

whom there was a sentence of death. Unquestionably Esther is a type of the true church of the Lord Jesus. In the record giving she is depicted as standing between the living and the dead and is pleading earnestly for deliverance. She had placed herself in a position, for herself and for her people, which could have very easily ended in her own death. Est. 7:4

ESTHER. 63

Brave and undauntedly, Esther presented the appeal of her heart to king Ahasuerus, to spare the life of her people as well as her own life. We have been sold, that amounts to slavery, which in itself would have been bad enough. Now, the burden of the situation takes over and she emphasized the terrific plight of the people of Israel. We are scheduled to be completely destroyed, brought to complete destruction. We are to be slain, slaughtered, and to perish, completely annihilated as a people. It would have been far easier had we been sold alive, as slaves. Under such circumstances of distress for us, I would not have bothered the king. Est. 7:4 The wisdom of the Lord is powerfully evident in the life of Esther. Her words are well chosen, strong and to the point, yet diplomatic to the greatest degree. Esther's composure was perfect. She was able to motivate the king without exhibiting anger or malice, on her part, toward Haman.

Without hearing or knowing the details, the king's answer had to have a measure of curiosity in it but mostly the upsurge of rage at anyone who would dare plot against his queen and consequently against the king. Who is he, where is he who would "have dared presume" to act in this manner. These words are the key to the attitude of Ahasuerus being that of extreme anger. It was an action that not only effected the Jews but his queen and in the ultimate, himself. He saw it as the palace plot that it was. He had cause for great anger. Est. 7:5

In the seeking this deliverance, Esther is exposing herself as a Jew. Up to and until now, this was not known, even by the king, her husband. Most certainly, Haman would have had no clue in this matter. His hatred of Mordecai completely dominated his life and his motivations. His impending judgment was born of the all consuming extreme dislike of Mordecai and the Jews. Haman is exposed, by Esther, as the ambitious type of individual

that he was. Esther pointed him out to as the source of the cruel and unkind action taken against the Jews and the queen. She declared Haman to be an adversary, the enemy and a wicked, evil man. The scheming, the opposition was not one from the outside but the man who was the daily companion and adviser of the king. Ahasuerus trusted Haman and would have confided in him in all the affairs of the kingdom, now betrayal. What a heartache.

ESTHER. 64

There is a hidden lesson to be found in all of the skullduggery which went on in the court of Ahasuerus. We have here a type of the coming anti-christ. The enemy within. In the seventy three years that I have been saved we have seen many proclaimed to be the anti-christ, even books have been written attempting to prove why these individuals fit the role. Most all of them have been prominent world leaders who have died without ever becoming the anti-christ.

The Bible pattern began in the heavens with a created being who was in the immediate presence of the Lord and His throne. He is portrayed in a prophecy, given by Ezekiel to the king of Tyrus. The attributes spoken of as belonging to Tyrus, really are those of this created being. Eze. 28:12-15 The Lord imparted to him every component which pleases Him. Like Haman with Ahasuerus, he was the closest to the throne and authority that could be found in heaven. His name was Lucifer, day star or light bearer. Isa. 14:12 Consider carefully his high and exalted position when compared with the Lord Jesus whom the anti-christ will emulate when he comes. Jesus is the bright and morning star. Rev. 22:16 Jesus is also the light of the world. John 8:12 Every true type in the scriptures relating to the anti-christ gives evidence that he first of all will be a high ranking, spiritual, insider. In choosing His disciples, Jesus said; I choose you twelve and one is the devil. John 6:70

The assumptions of the past, regarding the ever so many world leaders, as being the anti-christ, failed because they were looking to the wrong source. The anti-christ will first be an outstanding and high ranking spiritual leader of the last day church. (Lucifer, Judas and others) He will abdicate his position in exchange for the leadership of the harlot church, the last day

conglomerate of all religions into one. Rev. 17:5 John plainly stated that the anti-christ will depart from the church, of whom, even in his day, there were many who typify that last day individual. John related the coming of the anti-christ to a last day event, that is the end of the age. He wrote to a division which had taken place and said; they went out from us because they were of a different spirit. Had they been of the same spirit they would have remained in unison with the rest of the true church. 1 John 2:13-14 Be wise and not proclaim every world leader as the anti-christ, whether they be good bad or indifferent. His time is close, but not yet.

ESTHER. 65

The third acrostic I to be found in this section of Esther, in the words, where is he and who is he? This time it is not the name of Jehovah but I AM. Hue Zeh Vey Zeh. Est. 7:5 The fourth will be found in relation to the emotion of fear found in Haman. He saw that there was evil determined against him. Ky Kalethah Elayv Hara'ah. YHVY, or Jehovah. Companion Bible.

"Then Haman was afraid." This is worded in such a mild manner. Haman was overwhelmed by all the physical and emotional reactions of a moment like this. Anyone who has ever had extreme fear and experienced the reaction which accompanies it can know the desperate feelings of Haman at this instant. Est. 7:6

On the other hand, the king was filled with wrath. He now saw Haman in a different light. Instead of being a friend and a trusted confidant, he was a scheming, conniving person. Ahasuerus retired to his garden, a place of solitude and relaxation. There he could thoroughly meditate on this sudden and dramatic turn of events. He had been led by the hatred of Haman against the Jews into making a decision to destroy them, which he now resented. We are warned not to be partakers of the sins of others. 1 Tim. 5:22 It is in human nature to involve innocent people in their disagreements and quarrels against another person. Unfortunately, making them a partner in a matter with which they had no part. The king had been extremely unwise in allowing Haman to involve him in what would have amounted to the murder of a whole race of people.

Haman the merciless murder is diminished to a groveling individual begging Esther to show mercy and to spare him from further punishment. What a change of events and attitude. Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap. What a tremendous example of just such a reward we find being enacted here in Esther. Est. 7:7

ESTHER. 66

The king having somewhat regained his composure returned to the banquet hall only to see Haman sprawled before and on the couch of Esther. He immediately thought the worst of the scene and reacted accordingly. As he spoke to Haman in great anger, the men of the court covered Haman's face that the king might not have to look on him. It was a sign of rejection, impending judgment and death. Est. 7:8

Harbonah, a trusted servant, of high rank in the court of the king, suggested that Haman be hung on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai. The king responded with an order that Haman be hung on the gallows which, in anger and a strong desire for retribution, he had prepared for Mordecai. The location of the gallows is in a odd place, the house or courtyard of Haman. No doubt Haman had intended to view Mordecai hanging there and gloat over his victory over him. Haman had a warped personality, who would want even their worst enemy hanging on a gallows in their yard. Est. 7:9-10

The height of the gallows, fifty cubits, is intriguing. At seventy five feet high it would have been an imposing structure which could have been viewed by most of the city. Inasmuch as it was Haman who was hung there it speaks to us of the end of all flesh. The wicked, scheming, hateful, power mad Haman met his end there. Fifty is the number of Pentecost. The intent of the Lord in the baptism of the Spirit was to eradicate the old man, the sinful, carnal nature. True baptism of the Spirit is accompanied by the fire of the Spirit, according to John the Baptist. Furthermore, he stated that He, this Jesus, would separate the chaff from the wheat, then consume the chaff with fire unquenchable. Luke 3:16-17 The Lord Himself is an all consuming fire. It is His nature, His being. Heb. 12:29 Extremely unlike natural fire, the fire of the Spirit is most pleasant and enjoyable. It consumes the old nature and implants a whole new manner of life in the heart.

ESTHER. 67

The Lord is of great equity and will bless those who are determined to serve Him. Problems, difficulties will arise, even for Christians, they are just a part of the learning process of this life on earth. The afflictions of the righteous may be many but the Lord has a way of delivering us from them all. Ps. 34:19 We have before us an example of the afflicted, the persecuted, the lowly being exalted to the highest of offices and honor. There is a process of the working out of the will of the Lord in our lives which is sometimes long, rough and stormy. How the race is run is important but much more vital is the conclusion of the race. This is a classic case of the hand of the Lord exalting the depressed. 1 Sam. 7-9

Esther was awarded the entirety of the estate of the wicked Haman. It would certainly have involved his servants and quite possibly his immediate family. They were sold into servitude because of the wickedness of the heart of Haman. He is entitled 'the Jews enemy' and became a sign to all of those who would fight against the will of the Lord. Est. 8:1

At this time, Esther revealed to Ahasuerus her family and racial connections. Mordecai is made known as her cousin and adoptive father. What a tremendous change of affairs. Mordecai, who had been just hours away from hanging on Haman's gallows is now called upon to replace him. He is elevated to the place of high and complete, absolute trust. The signet ring which the king had given to Haman was now surrendered to Mordecai and with it he became the second in authority in the kingdom. His actions were paramount to the personal acts of the king. What an amazing change of affairs. Est. 8:2 The value of fasting and prayer is well documented in the deliverance and the complete turn around of affairs. When the Lord is involved in our daily lives there are tremendous results and our lives are blessed of Him in a mighty way. The estate of Haman must have been considerable as Esther turned the administration of it over to Mordecai.

ESTHER. 68

The ministry of Esther before the Lord was that of a go-between, an advocate, an intercessor. She and Mordecai were now safe and standing high in the good graces of the king. Their deliverance from certain death

was not sufficient for Esther. She felt a responsibility and had a burden and vision for the whole nation of Israel. The king's edict, instigated by Haman's hatred of Mordecai and the Jews had not yet been reversed. They were still under the sentence of death. What an intense moment of time this was. How desperately the nation needed an intercessor to deliver them from the judgment which had been passed upon them. There was but one who was in the right position to bring about their deliverance, and that was Esther.

In fulfilling her calling and ministry she once again approached the king without having had a summons from him. Throwing herself down at his feet and depending entirely upon him for mercy and acceptance, she began to weep seeking his indulgence and audience. She presented her petition for the reversal of the former edict manipulated by the late wicked man, Haman. Est. 8:3 The golden scepter was again extended to her by the king. Her actions contained a great measure of danger, but moving in the will of the Lord and for His purpose, she could not have been refused. Est. 8:4 Being in His will and loving Him, all things work together for good. Rom. 8:28

With perfect decorum and knowing the proper manner with which to address the king she presented her petition. Her approach was not a demand but was dependent upon the inclination of the king. "If the king so desire." "If I have found favor." She placed herself in the very center of the situation as a possible sacrifice. One who could lose everything. "If it seems proper." The right thing to do. "If I meet with the king's approval." If I am attractive to you. All her statements were very personal, and placed her in a position as one who was willing to give up all, in order to gain freedom for others. In all of her words she was politically correct in addressing a king. Est. 8:4

ESTHER. 69

His wife, his queen, yet in the agony of the request which she is about to present to him, she approached him in abject humility. Casting herself before him was not a vain show intended to impress or move him with pity. From the depths of her heart, she was greatly burdened with the plight of her people. She approached him boldly, but with great meekness. She established a beautiful example for all who would seek the face of the Lord.

She was presenting the needs of the people, it was her hearts cry that they be delivered from the calamity they faced. Paul in his ministry not only supported himself in his ministry but in prayer, travailed in prayer and Spirit for the salvation of souls. 1 Thess. 2:9 Earnest, intense prayer at the feet of Jesus has tremendous results.

Esther wept. These were not false, or crocodile tears, but an expression of the powerful emotions stirring in her soul and spirit. The future of the lives of her people were totally dependent upon her. If they were not freed from the evil of Haman, how could she every enjoy life knowing that she could have made a difference. The true intercessor will weep many tears over the lost of this world. Jesus on beholding Jerusalem wept for he knew the acts that its inhabitants would perform and its ultimate judgment. Luke 19:41

Esther strongly petitioned, implored king Ahasuerus to show mercy to her people, the Jews. Her request was concise and to the point. There was a great need to right a terrific injustice which was about to be committed in the kingdom and she was there as an advocate to alter the previous decision. Her appeal was unselfish, for others and from the depths of a very tender heart. Sincere, earnest prayer for the lost will often produce personal results. He Lord will responded to a pray, not yet prayed, one which was only a thought. Yet, the Lord knowing the burden and concern for the spiritual needy and the prayers prayed for them will grant the desire of the heart. Ps. 37:4

ESTHER. 70

When the Lord involves Himself in the affairs of men there is a tremendous change of affairs. The response of the king to their request is amazing, yet knowing that the Lord is in charge, it is to be expected. The king granted Esther and Mordecai, carte blanche action. To issue whatever decrees they desired. They were given complete liberty to do exactly as they pleased. Their orders were to be sealed by the signet ring of the king, now in the hands of Mordecai making it an irrevocable order. Indeed, many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. Ps. 34:19

The Lord is ever teaching His people, patience. He has a schedule and will act according to that which He has purposed. Having prayed and done what is necessary, we must then exercise faith that He will fulfill His promise. Heb. 10:38 Through Esther and Mordecai, the Jews are about to receive great benefits. Greatest of all, their lives. This second edict, about to be issued by Mordecai, could not rescind the first which had been instigated by Haman. These proclamations, with the king's signature, became the law of the land. Full, absolute, complete freedom given to Mordecai to include in the declaration any purpose which he had in mind to accomplish. This unqualified liberty was a miracle of the Lord. Only the hand of the Lord could create such an action totally benefiting the Jews of that day and giving them an answer to the edict made by Haman. Est. 8:8

The feast of Pentecost falls in the third month and it was in this third month that Mordecai wrote his all important letter to the Jews, the governors and the leaders in all the provinces of the kingdom. Est. 8:9 Mordecai had found a true solution to the conflict of the edicts which had been issued. The anointing of the Pentecostal blessing is the answer to the inner conflict of the spirit and soul. Isa. 10:27

ESTHER. 71

The command of Mordecai sent to the whole nation by every means available to them. Written in the diverse languages of the nation. It was sealed with the king's signature ring now held by Mordecai and sent in his name. Therefore it became a ruling which could not be broken. The carriers were sent forth riding on every means available to them. There was certainly an air of urgency and at the same time rejoicing because Mordecai had found a solution to the impending slaughter of the Jews. His message was to the whole nation with its various nationalities and in their language. It revealed official action which could be taken, by the Jews on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month. Est. 8:10

The Jews could no longer be defenselessly slaughtered but at the instigation of Mordecai they were allowed to defend themselves. The broad scope of this edict gave the Jews full authority to wage an all out war against those who had been planning to kill them. It was not to be a case of an insurrection but the ability to gather together and vigorously defend

themselves. The action that was to be taken against them is now reversed and they were permitted to attack all who would act according to the plan of Haman. The annihilation of their enemies was to be complete, even to the taking of their goods as a reward for their efforts. Est. 8:11-14

If the Lord be for us, who can be against us. Rom. 8:31 How true is His Word. The Lord in His time, changed the whole atmosphere of the country. Those who had been slated for death were now the executors and had the ability to resist their enemies. They were urged to gather together, to become unified in their attack against those who had planned to kill them. It is utterly amazing, the liberty given Mordecai to write and send such a letter in the name of the king. The hand of the Lord is so strongly revealed in all that has transpired. Who could maneuver a king in permitting such an irrevocable law to be written, but the Lord.

ESTHER. 72

David the king, the author of many of the psalms speaking from experience specifically declared the end of the wicked, they were to be cut off. In contrast, those who would seek the Lord and wait upon Him would inherit the land. Ps. 37:9 In the incident before us we have a perfect example of the fulfillment of that very basic principle of Bible living. Their fasting, prayer and waiting on the Lord produced positive results to the fullest degree. If we have a mountain, an enemy which is challenging us, we have the answer in the experience of the Jews in Babylon. They established a pattern, which when exercised will produce victory.

What was about to take place was a forerunner of the ultimate deliverance of Israel from their bondage in Babylon. It is not unusual for the prophetic utterances of the old testament to have more than one incident in view. Freedom from sorrow, fear and hard bondage is promised in Isaiah fourteen, verses one through three. It is also stated that the situation would be so altered that the master would become the servant, and the servant the master. Likewise the enemy would turn and embrace the house of Jacob. Thus we see a sign of the ultimate freedom of Israel and their subsequent return to Jerusalem. That also is included in Isaiah's prophecy.

The elevation of Mordecai brought rejoicing and joy to the capitol city of Shushan. Esther 8:15 this rejoicing was not limited to the Jews of the city, but all in the city were made glad by his advancement. Obviously there was a completely different attitude and manner of ruling between that of Haman and Mordecai. From his actions, we would expect Haman to have been a hard man and one who ruled by fear. Mordecai, was a man of compassion and caring. He would rule by care and love. The kind, fair rule of the righteous bring rejoicing to the hearts of the people. Let the wicked rule and the people mourn under the corrupt actions of such a politician. Prov. 29:2

ESTHER. 73

Mordecai was deeply honored by the king as he bestowed the garments of his high office upon him. This is a rags to riches story. During their season of fasting and prayer he was clothed in sackcloth. Now, the clothing and his crown or turban indicate the highest of mark of distinction to be found in the kingdom. Like Joseph in Egypt, he was basically in charge of the kingdom and ran its day to day affairs. Gen. 41:40-43 It pays to sit patiently in the king's gate, eventually there is a reward granted the faithful and patient. There may be many tribulations and trials in the process but the outcome is greatly worthwhile. Those who sit at the door called Jesus (John 10:7-9) will reap tremendous benefits and sit down with the King of kings. Rev. 3:21

His clothing was of the finest of linen, the turban or cloth which he wore about his head was of the same material. The very best of linen to be found in that day was from Egypt. It had a certain sheen to it differentiating it from other linens. Each article of clothing distinguish him as royalty. So, the redeemed who wear the fine linen, the righteousness of the saints. Rev. 19:8 They are also elevated to the office of a nation of kings and priests unto the Lord. Rev. 1:6 They will be issued crowns of the kingdom, which are crowns of eternal life. James 1:12 Crowns which are bright and shiny, crowns of the glory of the Lord. 1 Peter 5:4 Crowns of the righteousness of the Almighty. 2 Tim. 4:8

The very unique robe which he wore was of the very best and the finest of linen. Est. 8:15 The Apostle Paul likened true water baptism to an act where the individual puts "on Christ." Gal. 3:27 If we are to reap the benefits of the

kingdom of heaven, while still here on this earth, then we must wear that which has been provided for us. According to the Prophet Isaiah, the garment of salvation is provided. Those who are progressing in Christ have received the robe of righteousness and have a vision for the ultimate, the Bride of Christ. Isa. 61:10

ESTHER. 74

The royal colors worn by Mordecai were significant of his high rank and authority. Blue is the color which is symbolic of the vastness, the endless scope of the Holy Spirit. Our atmosphere, our sky, seas, lakes and all waters appear to be blue, until we are called the blue planet. In Hebrew, the word air (ruach) and in Greek (pneuma) may be translated, both, breath and spirit. No wonder Paul said; in Him we live, move and have our being. Acts 17:28 Blue was used extensively in the tabernacle and the temple as well as the garments of the high priest. Blue represents the presence and person of the Holy Spirit. We find a variety of uses of this color throughout the tabernacle Ex. 26: 1,4,31,36 Ex. 27:16 Likewise the garments of the high priest which were for glory and beauty. Ex. 28:2 Ex. 28:6,8,15,28,31,33,37. The Spirit of the Lord was upon Mordecai having directed him in the deliverance of his people.

White was preferred by the leaders in Babylon. It is symbolic of the purity and righteousness of the Lord. We have an example in the invitation of the Lord through Isaiah to be cleansed from sin and to be made as white as snow. Isa. 1:18 The redeemed of the Lord are seen in His kingdom arrayed in white robes. Rev. 7:9 They are those who died for Christ during the great tribulation and by the blood of Christ were cleansed and made white. Rev. 7:14 The Lamb's wife will be clothed in white. 19:8 Heavens throne is white. Rev. 20:11 However the word translated white from the Greek is the word leukos, or light. The return of the Lord will be with a white cloud of saints all clothed in light and will be transported at the speed of light, by the light of the Lord. Rev. 19:11-14

The color and sign of royalty. Also found in the tabernacle and the temple. Jesus, mockingly was clothed in purple as they ridiculed Him, and declared Him to be the king of the Jews. John 19:2 Purple is also to be seen as part of the clothing of the harlot church of the last days. In every way, she is

such utter deception, that even some Christians will follow her. Rev. 17:4
18:16

ESTHER. 75

The fact that the whole of the city rejoiced, with shouts of joy and were exceedingly glad and filled with cheer, gave further evidence of the oppressive rule of Haman. They looked forward to a new beginning. There certainly was cause for this season of joy and rejoicing. Prov. 11:10 The cosmopolitan composition of the kingdom would find people of the various races scattered throughout the nation. The population of the city of Shushan would have had this mixture of peoples. Therefore they rejoiced in having a foreigner as second in command in the palace. Est. 8:15

No segment of that society had cause to rejoice in the series of the immediate past and current events than the Jews. After all, it was all about them. They had been living under the shadow of the sword and now they were set free from that death sentence which had been imposed on them. Beyond that, they could now arm themselves for self defense and even to attack those who had plotted against them. What a tremendous turn of events. Nothing but the hand of the Lord could have made it possible. The payoff for their fasting, prayer, mourning and wearing sackcloth was manifest in their deliverance. Truly, their mourning had been turned into dancing and their sackcloth into gladness. Ps. 30:11

Four joyous elements are evident in their transition from death to life. They had light, the long night of oppression had passed. That heavy weight and fear of the future was removed. Now they were basking in the light of freedom. Worry and heaviness were replaced with exceeding great gladness and pleasure. Life became worthwhile for them once again. Joy, the joy of freedom and of the Lord was their portion. Their honor, their dignity, in all actuality their whole life was restored unto them. They were like one who had been resurrected from the dead. Life took on a brand new prospective. It is safe to say that they were more interested and involved in spiritual matters after all of this. Est. 8:16

ESTHER. 76

Like the weaves of the rolling sea a swell of great rejoicing followed the decree as it made its way across the land. It touched every city and province in the kingdom. The Jews broke out into exceeding great and fullness of joy. Tremendous joy and mirth among the Jews was the order of the day. It was a time of feasting in contrast to the fasting which had been their portion. It was the good day of good news and what could they do but take full advantage of it and rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. It was revival time. Where there had been many people who had looked down on them and despised them there were those who now wanted to join them. For now, there was a great respect for their God and for them. They knew that this was a demonstration of the mighty power of the Lord. What is more convincing than a display of His capabilities. Est. 8: 17 The Lord in a marvelous way fulfilled His promise to them by causing the nation to fear them. Deut. 11:25

The day arrived, very likely too soon for those who had previously expressed their opposition to the Jews, and their intentions of taking advantage of Haman's decree, by slaughtering them and taking their possessions. The whole situation had been completely reversed, where they had anticipated ridding themselves of a hated people, they were now to reap the rewards of their thoughts of murder and pillage. The enemies of the Jews were to pay the extreme price for their dislike and hatred. Est. 9:1

It was a day of domination for the Jews. Est. 9:2 They gathered as units prepared for battle in all the cities and provinces of the country. The fear that the Lord placed upon their enemies was so great that no one stood up against them. All those who had rejoiced at the news that they could kill them and confiscate their wealth were destroyed. Est. 9:2 Furthermore, they were assisted by the political leaders because they feared Mordecai. Est. 9:3

ESTHER. 77

This was a situation in Babylon where the Lord placed His people in absolute control. When the Lord is on the side of anyone, there is no opposition. Even when there are those who will rise up and will resist and

create problems, their ability is as nothing, when they are found resisting or fighting against the Lord. On the appointed day, the battle was not to the many but to the few. Not to the mighty conquerors but to the nation which was in captivity. On the appointed day, the thirteenth of the twelfth month, the Jews month, Adar, which was the twelfth of their ecclesiastical year and the first of the civil year. It is comparable to our February-March. Est. 9:1 From this the feast of Purim was instituted as is celebrated on the fourteenth and the fifteenth days of the month.

The promises of the Lord may always be found and applied in circumstances such as this. He has promised that there can be no weapons used against His own which will be effective. Isa. 54:17 When His people rely on Him and do His will they may have absolute confidence in His ability to completely alter the things plotted against them. To the enemy He has already declared that when they join together and prepare themselves against His people that it will be brought to naught. The Lord is a formidable enemy having and using weapons which are extraordinary and not of this world. Isa. 8:9-10 This is a case where the fulfillment of His promise is glaringly obvious. His fear entered into the hearts of the opposition, causing them to be incapable of battle and to turn their backs. Ex. 23:27

Mordecai was mightily blessed of the Lord and increased in authority and power. His reputation was well known throughout the country. When the righteousness of the Lord is present in the heart of a man like Mordecai he is exalted and lifted up. It happens, not only to a nation but also to the individual. Prov. 14:34 A word picture of a man of the Lord may be found in Ps. 1:1-3 A person totally dedicated to the Lord. Looking for advancement, surrendered to the will of the Lord.

ESTHER. 78

The Jews who at one time in this account faced utter annihilation at the hands of their enemies, as a unit rise up and destroy their enemies. The complete reversal of the circumstances demonstrated the hand of the Lord being displayed in might and power. The Lord had sent them into Babylon as a punishment from Him due to their disobedience to the Word. It was not His intent that they cease to exist as a nation. Est. 9:5 Like David they

could rejoice in the Lord knowing that He had subdued and delivered them from their enemies. Ps. 18:47-48

The number of those slain who were of the king's palace was five hundred. That is an amazing number. His staff must have been immense. Then to find such a large number who were of the nature and spirit of Haman so close to the affairs of the kingdom, they would have had a tremendous effect on the decisions being made in the palace. The leaders of the nations have always been in the hands of the Lord. He works through them to accomplish His will on earth. Paul said; that the power which are in existence are ordained of God. Rom. 13:1 Changes of times and seasons are in His hands. He removes national leaders and He establishes them. Dan. 2:21 There is no question of His involvement in the affairs of men. He is in absolute control.

Among those to be slain were the ten sons of Haman. Thus the possibility of a return to a government such as that which existed during the time of Haman became difficult. Est. 9:7-10 It is certainly noteworthy that contrary to what would have taken place, had it been the Jews who were slain, the Jews took none of the spoils. Their object in slaying their enemies was to bring them freedom from those who hated them. Ahasuerus was well aware of the number slain in the palace. Nevertheless he extended his offer of complete cooperation with Esther in any request that she might present to him. She had found full and complete favor in his sight. Est. 9:12

ESTHER. 79

The decree extended a second day. For what ever reason, some of those in the palace had escaped punishment the first day. They were the remnant of those who hated the Jews and had plotted against them. King David had experienced the same thing and wrote in Psalm twenty one his encounter with his enemies. David's trust was in the Lord therefore he was assured that he would be victorious in his battle against those who wanted him destroyed. He anticipated the Lord participating in the struggle against his enemies. Their fruit, or offspring were to be eliminated from off the face of the earth. The parallel happening is so obvious that David's Psalm could almost have been written by Esther and Mordecai. In both instances, the enemy was destroyed. Ps. 21:7-12

The ten sons of Haman were hanged on the gallows. Thus the ultimate disgrace and shame was heaped upon the house of Haman. Even though these actions were taken in a heathen nation, the Word of the Lord declared that those hanged on a tree were accursed of God. Deut. 21:23 Ten is generally considered to be the number of the Law. The analogy is obvious. Jesus was nailed to the tree in an expression of the fullness of enmity and hatred they felt toward Him in that day. The motive of the Lord was that Jesus take the Law and nail it to the cross together with Him. Thereby freeing all from the curse of the Law. Gal. 3:10 The Law is the enemy of faith, therefore Jesus took it out of the way by fulfilling its demands and nailing it to the cross together with Him. Col. 2:14 In His death on the tree He blotted out the ordinances, removed them out of the way by completely eradicating their effectiveness and authority.

Paul likewise wrote of the accomplishment of the cross as being a work of deliverance from the Law of commandments. Eph. 2:15 He used a strong term to show it as having been abolished, rendered entirely ineffective. By having been fulfilled, it has now been replaced by the new man which is of faith in Christ Jesus.

ESTHER. 80

Victory over their enemies was not fully accomplished in one day. Therefore the second day or the fourteenth day of the month was necessary for the eradication of all their enemies. On this day another three hundred were slain. Est. 9:15 A thorough, double cleansing was necessary to rid the palace of those who had the spirit of Haman. Haman had spread his venom throughout the palace staff. Bitterness had ruled his life so strongly that it destroyed everything that he loved in life. He aptly demonstrated the scripture through the root of bitterness which ruled his life. Heb. 12:15 It is impressive that the things of value possessed by those who were slain was not touched by the Jews, thus demonstrating that their purpose was none other than to rid themselves of their enemies. The total number of those who were killed amounted to seventy five thousand. Est. 9:16

Under the first decree, that of Haman, the Jews were targeted to be utterly eliminated and their wealth confiscated. The second edict, that of Mordecai, gave the Jews permission to resist, to fight against those who hated and persecuted them. The Jews were able to assemble and were united against their enemies to do battle against them. They gathered themselves together. "They stood for their lives." Thus indicating that it was not a lop sided battle. The enemy was determined to carry out Haman's wicked decree. Under the authority given them by Mordecai's edict they had the right to resist and destroy all those who would have destroyed them. Est. 9:16

Their victory brought them to a time of rest and celebration. It was to be a time of great feasting and joy. Est. 9:17 In the provinces they celebrated on the fourteenth day of the month but in Shushan they had to wait until the fifteenth day of the month. Consequently they ended up celebrating for two days, both the fourteenth and the fifteenth.

ESTHER. 81

This is the origin of the Jews feast of Purim. Certainly, it was important to them that they celebrate their deliverance and victory over their enemies. It was a day of gladness and joy to memorialize that very special day with great thanksgiving. They also sent portions to one another thus sharing their blessings with others. Est. 9:18-19 While it was not one of the feasts appointed by the Lord we still find significance in it. The Lord has promised a last day mighty outpouring of His Spirit which will be a time of great spiritual victory and joy in the Spirit. Joel 2:27

The feast followed the pattern established by the main feast of Israel. The full moon was the time when it was customarily to take place. The moon is a type of Christ in its waxing and waning. It speaks of the death burial and resurrection of Christ every month in its journey from light to darkness and then back to fullness of light. The moon is noted as being the faithful witness in the sky. Ps.89:37 Jesus is specifically called the faithful witness. Rev. 1:5 Before, (please note that is before He returns), the return of the Lord Jesus the full witness of His atoning work will be displayed as the moon is turned into blood. Joel wrote of this taking place. Joel 3:15 Jesus mentioned it. Mt. 24:29 Peter preached about it stating that before His

coming the moon would be turned into blood. Acts 2:20 John on Patmos saw it take place in a vision. Rev. 6:12

There are four things which mark the day and for which they celebrated. They had rest from their enemies. It was a matter of the Lord manifesting His mercy as expressed in the words of Isaiah. They found relief from suffering, turmoil and bondage. Isa. 14:1 They were clothed with joy. Ps. 30:11 Their day of mourning turned in into an excellent day. Their days were now days of feasting and rejoicing for the Lord had given them a great victory over their foes. Est. 9:22

ESTHER. 82

A happy turn of events for the Jewish inhabitants changed what would have been their complete end, to an annual season of joy and rejoicing. Day which had been chosen for evil became a day of great rejoicing. A perpetual time of the giving of thanks and commemoration of the deliverance of the Lord. Ironically, Purim has as its root the Persian word *pur* which means to choose by lot. The Lord's actions are never by chance. His work of deliverance for the Jews was deliberate and accurate. He knows exactly what He is doing. Est. 9:27-32

The book of Esther is the record of another historical event showing the mighty hand of the Lord being manifest on behalf of His people. He raised up a deliverer, out of absolutely impossible situations, who brought about extreme changes to the benefit of the people of Israel. We think of Joseph, Daniel and now Esther and Mordecai. The circumstances were not always pleasant by any means, but after many trials and difficulties, they were exalted to high positions of leadership in heathen countries. They were blessed of the Lord and were responsible for the deliverance and preservation of the people of Israel.

We can only conjecture as why Ahasuerus would at this time lay a tax upon the people. The act, located as it is, in this particular setting, would have to be in connection with what had taken place and would have been to the benefit of the Jews. Est. 10:1

All the deeds quoted in relationship to Mordecai indicate that he was a very active leader in the kingdom. He is noted as being a man of power, of authority and beneficial leadership. He was mighty or forceful in his decisions and saw to it that they were carried out. He must have been a popular leader for his greatness was known throughout the kingdom. He was advanced by the king and given full authority to direct the whole country. He was a man in whom the people of Israel took great delight for many of his actions were for their benefit. Est. 10:2-3 (end)