

# MORDECHAI'S GREATNESS

## Esther 10

The book of Esther is a passion filled narrative. Each chapter contains intrigue and suspense, and as the plot thickens a careful reader is able to recognize the hand of God at work behind the scenes. Although it is supposed that the name of God is nowhere to be found within its pages his presence is keenly felt as each chapter is studied. Our book begins with King Ahasuerus hosting a banquet which becomes somewhat rowdy. His desire to entertain his men guests by means of his wife Vashti's beauty led to her refusal to come when he beckoned. In the end, through ill advice the king banishes her from his presence, only later to seek a new bride. In ancient days the acquisition of a woman for marriage was time consuming as well as political. These marital alliances forged tribal and communal relationships, so for Mordechai, he saw the quest for a new queen as an opportunity for his niece Esther to occupy a great and grand position, with the help of God.

Furthermore, the book of Esther demonstrates that the evil intended by others may not be accomplished if trust in almighty God is given time to advance. Haman was a close ally of the king, and he often spoke words of council into the ears of King Ahasuerus. As is declared in scripture, a promotion from the king led to his exaltation. As one who sought glory, fame and honor he was more than happy to watch as the throngs of people bowed in acquiescence as he rode by. His natural inclination for praise later led to his downfall, all of which began when he discovered that righteous Mordechai refused to do obeisance to him. It is here that our story takes shape for us because as we consider a few noteworthy points of consideration taken from Mordechai's life we need to remember that these illustrations are necessary today for the 21<sup>st</sup> century Christian.

First of all, *Mordechai, the Jew, kept his faith while in Persia*. This may seem a slight thing but remember, Esther 2:5,6 reveal that he was a baby captive taken from Israel, later raised on foreign soil. The religion of his fathers was early on embraced by him and molded his character as a man who kept to the Words of God. Esther 2:5-7 demonstrates that he kept the faith in his home because later in verse 20 of the same chapter Esther so respects her uncle that in adulthood she still adheres to his word. Many children today become adults and lose total respect for their family members because of the hypocrisy believed to have been existent. In this case a fine example was set for little Esther.

Then when a decree of the king signified the death of the whole of the Jews in the coming months—Esther 4:1-3-- , Mordechai kept the faith in

this difficult time period. All too often, God fearers turn their backs on the Lord when things do not go well. However, it is during times of adversity that real faith is tried and tested. And so, you must ask yourself “am I faithful to God in disagreeable situations?” But also notice in Esther 6:6-12 how Mordechai kept the faith despite the fact he was promoted in the kingdom. I have seen many a person backslide slowly (some quickly) when promotion came to them. A little more money or prestige can be intoxicating to say the least. All these examples illustrate one important feature; faithfulness to God is not a matter of geography but of the heart.

Anyone who names the name of Christ and considers himself to be a Christian must acknowledge that we are in this world but not of the world. So the culture of the present society should not influence how we respond or react to the will of God. A faithful God demands that we correspond with him in no less than a trustworthy fashion. As the United States Marines declare in their motto “Semper Fidelis--always faithful” should be our intention and our goal.

Secondly, *Mordechai sought the wealth of his people*. His goal was for their betterment. Who better to guide the Jewish nation than one whose motives were pure? Seeking the wealth of the people implies that their well being was of extreme importance. Mordechai consistently looked for blessings for his people, the captive descendants of Israel. As Christians should we do any less than do good all men but especially to those of the household of faith. Our example is found in scripture. People periodically inquire to me of how we can be a blessing to Jewish people or other nationalities of the world? My thoughts routinely turn to Acts 3:26. This verse speaks of how Jesus sought to bless the Jews by turning them from their iniquities. Here we encounter a new dimension of blessing from the New Testament perspective.

As Christians we are grafted into the Jewish tree, Christ being the true Branch. So it is that we must bless them primarily through our knowledge of Jesus who alone is able to atone for the transgressions of mankind. Literally, there just is no other way to deal with the “sin issue” apart from the blood of Jesus. As Mordechai, we seek the wealth of Israel in that Jesus is the treasure which bountifully supplies man’s needs. But the question arises, “if this wealth is related to Jesus, the Messiah, should we not share this blessing with all of the seed of the earth?” Absolutely! Jesus is seeking the wealth of the nations now as he sends believers into the uttermost parts of the earth to bless the inhabitants of the world by turning them from their iniquities too!

Finally, *Mordechai is said to have been “speaking peace to his seed.”* Although there is no mention of God’s name in the book of Esther I do tend to believe that this sentence is the closest. In Hebrew there are many names for God, some of which are used in English through the phrases the Lord, my healer, the Lord my banner, the Lord who is there. These are all fine and suitable as descriptive terms for the Lord. Yet, in the word PEACE we have what in some instances are nuanced ways of affirming God’s presence. JEHOVAH SHALOM, God is peace. In this sense of the meaning what Mordechai was speaking or declaring to his seed was information or data of the Lord. GOD OUR PEACE is the subject of his discussions with his progeny.

The love for God which so richly dwelled in his heart found escape through his speech as he announced the God who settles the soul, mind and heart in disturbing times. His message typifies the power that is able to strengthen feeble knees and lift up heavy hands. We too must speak peace to our seed, not a peace derived from this world’s system but one rooted in the knowledge of God. Jesus left us a peace that stands in contradistinction to the confusion offered by sinners. Our present age desperately needs to know the peace that passes all understanding and this can only be known as we converse about God.

If Mordechai could set such a fine example of true and faithful living in Persia should we not also demonstrate the life of God in an ungodly world? We must never bend nor bow to the sinful inclinations of this age but we should stand upright and firm upon the promises of God. If we turn from the truth and the positive promises of God in scripture, there will be no “seed” to speak peace to in the future. Therefore hold your head up high and believe that when the enemy advertises evil concerning you God is able to turn the bad into good. Mordechai saw in the papers that the Jews would be put to death on a certain date but in the end, God had reversed the cursed situation and it led to the death and destruction of Haman’s own house. This, my friend is where we must draw the line. Here is where the battle is fought, in the heart and mind.

Will you remain righteous despite the slander and libels hurled by the devil toward you or will you faint and give up? I think if you lean wholly upon the Lord you will find him a sure source of strength, and if no one else will help you, remember that God will bring deliverance from some quarter, because he is going to have a people that will serve him. If you have never found that peace that God Alone can give pray this prayer with me: “Father, forgive me for my sins. I do repent of them now and I trust that Jesus has died in my place, bearing all my sorrows and grief. At this time Lord, change my heart and help me to live clean, holy and purely for you and you alone, in Jesus name, amen.

