

Esther Series

Message Five

God's Timeline

ESTHER 9: 1–32 *Now in the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's command and edict were about to be carried out, on the very day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, the reverse occurred: the Jews gained mastery over those who hated them.*

2 *The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could stand against them, for the fear of them had fallen on all peoples.*

3 *All the officials of the provinces and the satraps and the governors and the royal agents also helped the Jews, for the fear of Mordecai had fallen on them.*

4 *For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces, for the man Mordecai grew more and more powerful.*

5 *The Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and did as they pleased to those who hated them.*

6 *In Susa the citadel itself the Jews killed and destroyed 500 men,*

7 *and also killed Parshandatha and Dalphon and Aspatha*

8 *and Poratha and Adalia and Aridatha*

9 *and Parmashta and Arisai and Aridai and Vaizatha,*

10 *the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, but they laid no hand on the plunder.*

11 *That very day the number of those killed in Susa the citadel was reported to the king.*

12 *And the king said to Queen Esther, "In Susa the citadel the Jews have killed and destroyed 500 men and also the ten sons of Haman. What then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces! Now what is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what further is your request? It shall be fulfilled."*

13 And Esther said, "If it please the king, let the Jews who are in Susa be allowed tomorrow also to do according to this day's edict. And let the ten sons of Haman be hanged on the gallows."

14 So the king commanded this to be done. A decree was issued in Susa, and the ten sons of Haman were hanged.

15 The Jews who were in Susa gathered also on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and they killed 300 men in Susa, but they laid no hands on the plunder.

16 Now the rest of the Jews who were in the king's provinces also gathered to defend their lives, and got relief from their enemies and killed 75,000 of those who hated them, but they laid no hands on the plunder.

17 This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth day they rested and made that a day of feasting and gladness.

18 But the Jews who were in Susa gathered on the thirteenth day and on the fourteenth, and rested on the fifteenth day, making that a day of feasting and gladness.

19 Therefore the Jews of the villages, who live in the rural towns, hold the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a day for gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and as a day on which they send gifts of food to one another.

20 And Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,

21 obliging them to keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year,

22 as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

23 So the Jews accepted what they had started to do, and what Mordecai had written to them.

24 For Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur (that is, cast lots), to crush and to destroy them.

25 But when it came before the king, he gave orders in writing that his evil plan that he had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

26 Therefore they called these days Purim, after the term Pur. Therefore, because of all that was written in this letter, and of what they had faced in this matter, and of what had happened to them,

*27 the Jews firmly obligated themselves and their offspring and all who joined them, that without fail they would keep these two days according to what was written and at the time appointed every year,
28 that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, in every clan, province, and city, and that these days of Purim should never fall into disuse among the Jews, nor should the commemoration of these days cease among their descendants.
29 Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew gave full written authority, confirming this second letter about Purim.
30 Letters were sent to all the Jews, to the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, in words of peace and truth,
31 that these days of Purim should be observed at their appointed seasons, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther obligated them, and as they had obligated themselves and their offspring, with regard to their fasts and their lamenting.
32 The command of Esther confirmed these practices of Purim, and it was recorded in writing.*

ESTHER 10: 1–3 King Ahasuerus imposed tax on the land and on the coastlands of the sea.

2 And all the acts of his power and might, and the full account of the high honor of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?

3 For Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Ahasuerus, and he was great among the Jews and popular with the multitude of his brothers, for he sought the welfare of his people and spoke peace to all his people.

MESSAGE GOAL: The goal of this message is to help you “connect the dots” of your circumstances, so you can see the complete picture of God’s larger kingdom purpose in your life—even when He causes or allows things to take place that are negative, or even appear to be evil, to accomplish His will and plan.

INTRODUCTION: In Alaska, a story is told that they once put a large bounty on the head of every wolf that a hunter killed.

Some areas had become overrun with wolves and they needed to decrease their numbers, so they instituted this generous bounty program.



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A hunter named Bill called his friend John and said, “John, we can make a lot of money at \$5,000 for every wolf we kill.

Are you ready to go hunting with me so we can collect some of this money?”

John said, “Absolutely, let’s go.”

So, they got their equipment together to go to the place where they would begin their hunt the next morning.

They bunked down for the night in their tents.

But in the middle of the night, Bill was awakened by the sound of growling.

He turned his lantern on and looked outside to see the tent surrounded by about fifty hungry, snarling wolves, all baring their teeth with their tongues hanging out of their mouths.

Bill woke up John.

“John, John, get up, get up!”

Bill said, “Look outside, John. We’re rich!”

You see, It’s all about your perspective.

It’s all about how you see things.

Because sometimes you can be surrounded by circumstances that don’t look good, that don’t appear to be in your favor— circumstances that look like they’re going to devour you.

But it all depends on what you see.

THREE PROPER PERSPECTIVES

1. IF YOUR GOD IS TOO SMALL, YOU WILL LIVE WITH CONSTANT FRUSTRATION AND CONFUSION.

If your God isn’t big enough to handle your circumstances, whenever things go wrong, you spend all your time asking, “Why?”

If your God is too small, you need to expand your view of Him so you to be able to recognize His fingerprints moving in your life circumstances, even in non-obvious ways.

We need to be able to see God at work because, as we have learned in this study, sometimes God's providence allows for very unpleasant circumstances.

God does not commit or endorse evil, but He can use it to accomplish His greater purposes.

Our responsibility is to be so aligned with God that are aware that we are being moved as He moves us.

It all boils down to relationship.

Never take God for granted.

Always strive to be God conscious.

Against human logic, live a life of gratitude no matter what, because God is always at work in our lives and circumstances.

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2. GOD IS ALWAYS MOVING TO BRING HIS CONCLUSION ABOUT AT THE RIGHT TIME.

ESTHER 9: 1-6 Now in the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's command and edict were about to be carried out, on the very day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, the reverse occurred: the Jews gained mastery over those who hated them.

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In 1936, Hitler's Third Reich was ruling in Germany.

The Olympics were held in Berlin that year, and out came a young man, James Cleveland Owens, better known as Jesse.

Hitler said Jesse Owens wasn't human because he was black.

But at those Olympics, Owen showed himself to be super-human.



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He won gold medals in the long jump, the one-hundred-yard dash, and the two-hundred-yard dash.

Hitler got up and walked out, refusing to meet Owens and shake his hand.

But that's not all.

In the four-by-one-hundred relay, there was a Jewish runner from America.

The Nazis refused to let him run, so the American team had to make a decision.

They decided to pull out the Jewish runner and replace him with Jesse Owens in a race he had not run before.

He was to run the first leg of the relay, which meant handing off the baton, which takes real practice and skill.

But having never done that, Owens outran everyone on the first leg and did a perfect passing of the baton to the next runner.

The team won, and Jesse Owens earned his fourth gold medal in the territory of an enemy kingdom.

He showed what you can do when God is on your side.

God is situating the evil in the right place so that while He is delivering you, He is handling the evil.

God always has a bigger plan than what we are aware of.

You just haven't gotten to the day, yet, to see it worked out.

God is so precise in His movements that, as we are living under His rule, He will sometimes let things seem worse in order to make them better.

The tragedy today is that far too many Christians climb the secular ladder of success and don't make a kingdom connection to their reason for being there.

Every time God comes through for us, you and I must ask the question of God, "What spiritual influence do you want me to wield with the opportunity you've given me?"

God's will demands your involvement.

This is spiritual warfare, which means you must be involved.

Ephesians 6: 10-18 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

II Corinthians 10: 3-4 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

Exodus 17: 8-16 Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim.

9 So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand."

10 So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

11 Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed.

12 But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

13 And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven."

15 And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD Is My Banner, 16 saying, "A hand upon the throne of the LORD! The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

Waiting on God does not mean doing nothing.

However, It also means not going outside of God to do something on your own.

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2. GOD IS ALWAYS MOVING TO BRING HIS CONCLUSION ABOUT AT THE RIGHT TIME.
3. **DON'T GET RID OF JUST A PART YOUR SIN, GET RID OF THE CANCER OF SIN SO IT WON'T COME BACK ON YOU LATER.**

In a story with a bizarre twist, some years ago, health officials in South Africa were worried about plans to build a housing complex on the site of a long-closed hospital.

The facility treated people with infectious diseases, and several thousand smallpox victims were thought to be buried somewhere on the site.



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Since burial records were not clear, the possibility of a bulldozer accidentally opening a smallpox victim's grave raised the disturbing question of whether the virus of the once-dread disease may still be alive inside a casket.

This situation gives us a very good picture of sin.

In this case, there is no question that the virus of sin is still alive and well and likely to show up anywhere to do its destructive work if we don't deal with it radically.

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9 and Parmashta and Arisai and Aridai and Vaizatha,

10 the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, but they laid no hand on the plunder.

The fate of Haman and his sons is a vivid reminder of what God's judgment looks like when people cross the red line and are unrepentant.

The reason we're having such serious moral and spiritual issues today is because sins in the past didn't get fully dealt with, so they keep coming up again and again.

We've got to cut sin off in our lives.

If parents don't invest spiritually in their children, they are actually perpetuating sin.

We're seeing this nationally and generationally.

We're seeing it over and over again because people don't want to call it evil.

When we are obedient, when we have done what God has called us to do, we see His kingdom program advanced.

Then we can celebrate His power and providence.

Esther 9: 20-32 20 And Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, 21 obliging them to keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year,



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Victory over evil is cause for celebration.

We should be quick to testify and share the story of God's provision in our lives to everyone and pass the stories along to future generations.

The celebration of Purim was for the Jews to remind themselves that God was a providential God.

If we fail to pay attention to what God is doing, we can easily miss out on unforeseen blessings.

At a show in Tucson, Arizona featuring gems and minerals for sale, a gem dealer was strolling through the aisles when he spotted a blue-violet stone about the size of a potato lying in a bin with other stones.

He offered the seller fifteen dollars for the stone and was told he could have it for ten.

The stone turned out to be a 1,905-carat natural star sapphire, with an appraised value of \$2.28 million.

It's easy to overlook things of great value, if you don't know what to look for.

We should train ourselves to look for the activity of God even in seemingly commonplace situations.

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