

Esther Series

Message Four

God's Providential Kaleidoscope

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2 And on the second day, as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king again said to Esther, "What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."

3 Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be granted me for my wish, and my people for my request."

4 For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have been silent, for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king."

5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has dared to do this?"

6 And Esther said, "A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

7 And the king arose in his wrath from the wine-drinking and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that harm was determined against him by the king.

8 And the king returned from the palace garden to the place where they were drinking wine, as Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. And the king said, "Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?" As the word left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman's face.

9 Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Moreover, the gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, is standing at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that."

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king abated.

ESTHER 8: 1-17 *On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her.*

2 And the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

3 Then Esther spoke again to the king. She fell at his feet and wept and pleaded with him to avert the evil plan of Haman the Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews.

4 When the king held out the golden scepter to Esther, Esther rose and stood before the king.

5 And she said, "If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and if the thing seems right before the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let an order be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king.

6 For how can I bear to see the calamity that is coming to my people? Or how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?"

7 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows, because he intended to lay hands on the Jews.

8 But you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked."

9 The king's scribes were summoned at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day. And an edict was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded concerning the Jews, to the satraps and the governors and the officials of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, 127 provinces, to each province in its own script and to each people in its own language, and also to the Jews in their script and their language.

10 And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed it with the king's signet ring. Then he sent the letters by mounted couriers riding on swift horses that were used in the king's service, bred from the royal stud,

11 saying that the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to gather and defend their lives, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, children and women included, and to plunder their goods,

12 on one day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

13 A copy of what was written was to be issued as a decree in every province, being publicly displayed to all peoples, and the Jews were to be ready on that day to take vengeance on their enemies.

14 So the couriers, mounted on their swift horses that were used in the king's service, rode out hurriedly, urged by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Susa the citadel.

15 Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced.

16 The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor.

17 And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.

MESSAGE GOAL: The goal of this message is to help you learn to believe and trust in God even when life doesn't make sense or seem to be fair, because God can reverse circumstances that seem irreversible and make sense out of life when nothing seems to add up.

INTRODUCTION: If I were to give you a **four-piece puzzle**, you could put it together in no time.

If I gave you a **fifty-piece puzzle**, it would take you a little longer to solve, but you would manage it okay.

But if I gave you a **five-hundred-piece puzzle**, that's going to be a lot more complicated because there are so many more pieces.

However, if I handed you a **five-thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle**, you would probably refuse to tackle it because it just has too many pieces.

And if puzzle were **five hundred thousand**, **five million**, or even a **billion pieces**, you would say, **"It's way too much! I can't figure all this out."**

Trying to figure out God is like trying to put together a billion-piece puzzle.

There are too many pieces to His plan, and the Bible says His thoughts and ways are infinitely higher than ours anyway.

Isaiah 55: 8-9 *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.*

9 *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

So, trying to figure out infinity with our finite minds is a waste of time.

To be sure, God has revealed many things about Himself in His Word.

But there are also the secret things that belong to Him alone, which we will never figure out.

Deuteronomy 29: 29 *“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

In fact, it is going to take eternity to come anywhere near understanding God.

That’s one reason we will live forever, because it’s going to take us that long to make sense of the uncreated Creator and Sustainer of all things.

And our God, who doesn’t miss a micro-second or syllable of any subject that has been known, is known, or will ever be known, is so brilliant in His capacity that He can take things that look totally unrelated and disconnected, and put them together like a giant jigsaw puzzle to make sense out of them.

And there is no time when we wish God would put the pieces of our life’s puzzle together more than when we are going through a rough time and things don’t make sense.

But before He does this, God often let’s us find ourselves with our backs to the wall so that we can discover that He alone is God.

This is what happens in the story of Esther—but it is also one of the finest biblical examples of God putting a seemingly impossible, too big-to-solve puzzle together.

1. GOD CAN USE NEGATIVE CIRCUMSTANCES AND PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS ULTIMATE PLAN.

If you don't know that, when you get hit by the devil, you're only going to react to what you see.

Don't miss the good that God may be doing through your bad experience.

The story is told that an **Army sergeant** was testing his men to see how far they had progressed in their training.

He told them to run and leap over a small body of water without falling in and getting wet.

Some soldiers made it halfway, others made it two-thirds of the way across, but they all fell in the water.

The sergeant told them that his is unacceptable.

We're going to do this again tomorrow, and you'd better jump all the way over!"

When they came back the next day, the soldiers discovered that the sergeant had put alligators in the water.

They all made it over!

God sometimes lets bad situations swim in the water of your life in order to take you to a place you would not naturally go.

2. WAITING ON GOD MEANS WAITING ON HIM TO PUT THINGS TOGETHER THE WAY HE WANTS THEM TO BE.

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We can’t know how long it will take for God to put everything together in our situation.

There are too many pieces to the puzzle—too many people and things that God needs to arrange.

But you will know it when God shows up!

It will be sudden and in so many unexpected ways.

In the meantime, it may seem that God may let things get worse before they get better.



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He may take you to rock bottom so you can discover that He is also the God of the rock bottom as well as the mountain top.

When my children were growing up, we didn't always have time for a big breakfast, so we would grab **Pop-Tarts** and drop them in the toaster.

But sometimes, they would pop up before they were ready.

They weren't crisp enough, so you had to push them back down in the toaster for more heat.

Just because they popped up didn't mean they were ready.

We want to pop up after a while in God's toaster and say, "We're ready!"

But God looks at us and says, "No, you aren't done yet."

The situation you're in isn't finished."

3. WHEN GOD IS READY TO MOVE, HE CAN REVERSE THE MOST IRREVERSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES.

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A farmer's dog fell into a deep well one time, so the farmer decided just to bury him in it.

He started throwing in dirt, but every time the dirt hit the bottom, the dog would shake it off and stand on the new pile.

This went on until the dog had been lifted high enough that he was able to climb out of the well and escape, even though the farmer kept on throwing dirt into it.

The moral of the story is, God may allow the devil or other people to throw some dirt on you, but if you know Him you can shake it off and keep on climbing because God knows how to reverse the irreversible!

Because, Thankfully our God is a God of reversals.

He can change seemingly irreversible circumstances in a moment:

1. Economic Reversal

The Scripture says the inheritance of the wicked will be laid for the righteous.

Job 27: 16-17 Though he heap up silver like dust, and pile up clothing like clay, 17 he may pile it up, but the righteous will wear it, and the innocent will divide the silver.

2. Political Reversal

You may think your boss, the powers that be or those unscrupulous co-workers who are plotting against you have the final say because they have the name, the money and the position.

But they don't have anything unless God gives it to them, and He can take it away according to **Daniel Chapter 4**.

Nobody has the final say over a Christian living by the Spirit in the will of God but God Himself.

3. Legal Reversal

No edict or court ruling against you can stand when God decides to reverse it.

He may allow it to be issued for His purposes, because His kingdom plan is bigger than one person.

4. Emotional Reversal

When God reverses your circumstances, He can wipe away tears and turn sadness into joy.

5. Spiritual Reversal

God may allow you to enter a bad situation so that He can give you a supernatural deliverance that will cause other people to want to attach to the God who delivered you.

When life goes left on us, when it doesn't make sense, when it seems unfair, when it's seems definitely wrong, we're still called to believe in this God who can make the incomprehensible make sense.

But too often we try to illegitimately take matters into our own hands to control our circumstances.

If we're paying attention, we often wind up making our situations messier.

God not only wants you to do the right thing, He wants you to do the right thing at the right time.

Timing matters to God.

He does things with precision, not only related to events but also related to time.

In Esther's case, there were many other things God wanted to happen to set the stage for the good He wanted to do that had not yet happened.

Remember as a Christian, you only have one source.

If you ever get that in your head, if it ever burns into your heart and mind that nobody, I don't care who they are, has the final say over a Christian living by the Spirit in the will of God, then you'll understand that you never have to live a threatened life.

God has an override button that He can push to thwart what Satan has planned against you, the people he has raised up against you, or the circumstances that look hopeless.



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When God pushes override, it doesn't stop the evil from being evil, but God gives you something to conquer it."

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