

Chapter Eight

She Required Nothing

Esther 2:16

“So Esther was taken unto the King Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF HIS REIGN.” Esther 2:16

Consider this: The *Gentile* King marries the *Jewish* Queen “...in the SEVENTH year of his reign.” Our story begins “In the *THIRD* year of his reign....” (Esther 1:3) Subtract *three* from *seven*, and you get *FOUR*. There are FOUR thousand years from Adam to Christ, and TWO thousand years from Christ’s First Coming to His Second. At the start of the Millennium, He will reign for a period of ONE thousand years. The sum of those three numbers equals SEVEN thousand years. Going by Saint Peter’s calculations (II Peter 3:8), the number *SEVEN* (multiplied a thousand times) corresponds exactly to the time the *Jews* (Jehovah’s Bride) will gather together in the Promised Land to live in peace and harmony with their King. In our story, Esther the *Jew* becomes Queen in the *seventh* year.

Under the reign of the first Adam (Romans 5:17a and 21a), there are SIX thousand years of human history. SIX days out of the week, the Jews were allowed to labour (Exodus 20:9), “But the SEVENTH day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God...” (Exodus 20:10) The seventh day, is a *day* of REST, and corresponds to the ONE thousand year REST found in Revelation 20:1 to 7.

[Leviticus 25:1-6 pictures the Millennial rest for the *land* of Israel.] It also corresponds exactly to the *release*-or REST¹ that was made by King Ahasuerus during “...Esther’s *feast*...” (Esther 2:18)

AFTER *the seventh year* is ended, the Jews’ enemy (called “...the dragon...” in Revelation chapter twelve) will be cast alive into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:7 to 10-notice the beast and false prophet are *already* in the fire.) And, sometime AFTER *the seventh year* is ended, Haman, the Jews’ enemy, will also be cast down swinging from the gallows. (Esther 7:9 to 10)

If all this seems coincidental let me point out one *more* thing. In First Kings chapter ten, KING Solomon showed off his kingdom *exactly* THREE thousand years after Adam’s creation! Isn’t that when KING Ahasuerus showed off his? (Read Esther 1:3) Wasn’t that kingdom rejected, because the Queen was no good? (I Kings 11:1 to 11) Right before we are introduced to Ahasuerus-who marries *Vashti*, didn’t Nehemiah say, “...nor take their...” *gentile* “...daughters unto your sons...”? (Nehemiah 13:25b) Wasn’t Vashti a GENTILE? Then Nehemiah continued...”Did not SOLOMON king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him...nevertheless even

¹ This SABBATH REST is pictured in the *feast* of trumpets (Leviticus 23:23 to 25), which prophetically looks to the future re-gathering of Israel (Joel 2:15-32), and falls on the first day of the SEVENTH (!) month. Interestingly, right after the first temple is built, Esther’s feast looks very similar to Solomon’s “...feast...” (I Kings 8:65) This great *Jewish* King establishes *peace* and *rest* while sitting on his father’s throne in the kingdom. This feast lasted “...seven days and seven days...” The first SEVEN days typified the Millennial REST. Notice: “ON the EIGHTH day, he sent the people away: and they *blessed the king*, and went unto their tents *joyful and glad of heart* for all the goodness that the Lord had done for David his servant, and for Israel his people.” (I Kings 8:65 and 66) The EIGHTH day began *the second set of seven days*. Eight, if you remember, is the number of NEW BEGININGS. Most likely, this *second* seven days picture ETERNITY. Don’t forget; seven is the number of *completion*. Therefore, once the Kingdom is established (taking the *full* thousand years to equal every “tale”-Exodus 5:8-of the *full* seven), Eternity can then *begin*.

him did OUTLANDISH...” (like, out of the land or NON-JEWISH) “...women cause to sin. Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying STRANGE wives?” (Vs. 26 and 27) Isn’t that what King Ahasuerus did when he married Vashti? Didn’t he take a STRANGE wife? Isn’t that the idea behind The Book of Nehemiah? Doesn’t God cleanse the land of STRANGE women who caused Israel to sin, and replace them with Jews who had a heart to obey God and REdo His commandments?

Nehemiah finishes his book by saying; “Thus cleansed I them from all STRANGERS...Remember me, O my God, for GOOD.” (Vss. 30 and 31) Turn the page; the next thing you see is “The Book of *ESTHER*”. This Book tells the story of a King who marries a STRANGE wife-*Vashti*, and later gets one that’s GOOD-*Esther*!

While we are adding and subtracting years to find these underlying truths, we should take time to consider Esther 2:12. By adding “...six months...and six months...”, we get ONE full year. If we allow at least a year for the King’s wrath to be “...appeased...” (Esther 2:1-which brings us to the FOUR thousand year mark), and then add the above year (two six month periods), we land on the number FIVE. This number is significant, since Christ came at the *start* of the *FIFTH* millennium to set up His *JEWISH* Kingdom. Obviously, that Kingdom has not *yet* been realized, nor has it “...come...” (Matthew 6:10a) If we are going to follow our story numerically, TWO *additional* millenniums will have to pass till He comes to reign. (FIVE plus TWO equals SEVEN.) Those two millennium will accommodate the Church Age. (See: Acts 1:6 and 7) Don’t lose heart dear friend, on the SEVENTH day this King will come to set up His Kingdom and receive His Jewish Bride. “*For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*” (Hebrews 10:37)

When God views this story, He doesn't see any difference between the FIVE thousand year mark, or the SEVEN thousand year mark. Since The Messiah wasn't accepted by the Jews at the FIVE thousand mark (John 1:11), God simply moves the calendar forward TWO days. (Hosea 6:2) Christ's VICTORY over His enemies is disjunctive (marked by breaks or disunity), because it is presented in TWO stages. The first stage gains a *spiritual* victory (The Kingdom of God), while the second stage gains a *literal* victory over the Enemy (The Kingdom of Heaven). Please allow me to give you a few examples of this system.

“...The mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the SHEPHERD,...” -Christ's *first* coming, **“...the STONE of Israel:...”** -Christ's *second* coming. Genesis 49:24. *The First, and Second Coming of Christ is separated only by a COMMA!*

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR of the Lord,...” -Christ's *First* Coming, **“...and the DAY OF VENGEANCE of our God...”** -Christ's *Second* Coming. Isaiah 61:1 and 2. *In Luke 4:18 to 20, notice that Christ CLOSES the Book right after the COMMA that divides His First Coming, from His Second!*

We find a similar phenomena in The Book of Esther: Esther chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6 deal with Christ's *First* Coming...COMMA...Esther chapters 7, 8, 9 and 10 deal with Christ's *Second* Coming.

First Coming:

Esther chapters 3 and 4 present Christ's struggle with the Devil.

Esther chapters 4 and 5 show us Christ was willing to suffer unto death for righteousness.

Esther chapter 6 shows Christ's "triumphal entry." (John 12:12-15)

* * * * * **COMMA** * * * * *

Second Coming:

Esther chapter 6 shows Christ's "Second Coming." (Revelation 19:1-16) [The "overlap" of the First and Second Advents are viewed simultaneously; in Esther chapter six-chapter *nineteen* of this book.]

Esther chapter 7 shows us Christ's defeat of the enemy (especially vs. 10).

Esther chapters 8 and 9 show Christ's vengeance on His enemies.

Esther chapter 9 shows the enemy's family defeated. (Haman's ten sons are types of principalities and powers).

Esther chapter 10 shows Christ's exaltation as second ruler in the Kingdom.

Exam Room 101

Under the Law, animal sacrifices, was Jehovah's way of purifying His people. Purification, made The King's wife (Israel) *clean*. Could that be why the Pentateuch was laden down with so many divers offerings?! (Numbers chapter nineteen, for example.)²

² Though they were necessary, under the Law, animal sacrifices could NOT *remove* sin, only *temporarily cover* it. (Hebrews chapter ten)

“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the PURIFYING of the flesh....” Hebrews 9:13

“...Purifying...the flesh...” is exactly where we pick up our story. (Esther 2:9 and 12) Esther’s flesh has literally been soaking in a tub, day after day, week after week, and month after month, for the last year. (And you think it takes *your* wife a long time to get ready!)

Sitting in spices was not *Esther’s* idea; it was the brainchild of kingdom officials who set this system in motion, followed by a decree from the King. (Esther 2:1-4) The rules were firm. Purification was achieved only *after* a beautiful virgin bathed her flesh in selected spices for a period of one full year. Participation in this process qualified these maidens to meet and possibly marry the King.

Concerning God’s ELECTION (Romans 9:11); Esther the *JEW*, like Cinderella, was a “shoe in.” We are reminded of God’s omniscience, when we read Esther 1:19b. This verse implies King Ahasuerus *knew* a “Resurrected Star” was near by, and went to great lengths to find her. Let’s face it; Scripture gives NO OTHER CHOICE in the matter. THE *JEW*, and ONLY the *resurrected* Jew, will marry this Great Gentile King.

“O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his CHOSEN. He is the Lord our God: his judgments are in all the earth. HE HATH REMEMBERED HIS COVENANT FOR EVER, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. Which COVENANT he made with Abraham, and his OATH unto Isaac; And CONFIRMED the same unto Jacob for A LAW, and to Israel for an EVERLASTING COVENANT: Saying, UNTO THEE will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of YOUR inheritance....”

Psalms 105:6 to 11 (By the way, there was no question whether or not Esther was a child of the kingdom. *She was already living in the palace, close to the King!*)

Continuing the theme of purification...

...Had Esther *rejected* this system, she would have resembled the fate of *unregenerate* Israel today, who *nationally* needs a BETTER system of purifying. Her present system is "...old..." and "...ready to vanish away." (Hebrews 8:13)

While soaking in that cleansing tincture, someone on the outside is pacing back and forth like an expectant father. (Galatians 4:19) We soon learn; that *someone* is Mordecai, her cousin.

“And Mordecai walked EVERY DAY before the court of the women’s house, to know HOW ESTHER DID, and WHAT SHOULD BECOME OF HER.” Esther 2:11

The above verse mirrors the *present* ministry of The Lord Jesus Christ. Much like Mordecai, our High Priest today is PURIFYING "...unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works..." (Titus 2:4-See: Hebrews 3:1; 5:1 to 10) Since "...judgment must *first* begin at the house of God..." (1 Peter 4:17a), one day it will be *our* turn to see how we did in the tub. Saint John had this in mind, when he penned...

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we KNOW that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him PURIFIETH himself, even as he is pure.” 1 John 3:2 and 3

TODAY, and *EVERY DAY* *our* Mordecai sits on High, peering over the precipice of Glory to see how well we are handling The King’s purification system. He knows the final outcome is determined by *our* success in the program. This truth should convince every member of the bride of Christ to wash daily in The King’s palace, under "...the custody of Hegai, keeper of the woman." (Esther 2:9) The Blood that saved us has the same power to keep us clean and pure.

The desire to meet and marry a purified bride doesn't end at Shushan. King Jesus demands one, too. Even before the wedding plans begin, we who are "...espoused...to one husband...", will be presented "...as a chaste virgin to Christ." (II Corinthians 11:3)

Esther's purification has two time periods, and so does ours. Any impurity not removed down here (on earth) will be removed AFTER the Rapture, and BEFORE the Marriage Supper of The Lamb. Any Christian refusing purification now (I Corinthians 11:31 and 32), will have it done for Him later on! Therefore, the Christian who examines himself, and judges his sin today (I Corinthians 11: 28), will fare far better than he who waits (for Christ to do it) tomorrow. Roman Catholics-believing their sins will be purged by fire-mistakenly call this process, *purgatory*-[thus, PURGatory]. *True* Believers-on the other hand-know *Calvary* is where their sins were judged and purged. Could that be why Bible Believing Christians are so CONFIDENT about being SAVED?!

Scripture calls the Believer's purification process "...*the judgment seat of Christ*..." (Romans 14:10b) Its goal is to make us CLEAN *after* we are saved, and *before* we go to wed *our* King (Jesus). At this judgment, no one's ETERNAL STATE is jeopardized. The fire will burn a man's *work*, NOT *the man!* (See, how close our *work* is related to *who we are*?! This judgment might seem confusing to an unseasoned student of Scripture, but a quick study of I Corinthians 3:11 to 15, for someone who sincerely wants the truth on this subject, should straighten it right out for them.)

Doin' Hard Time in the Tub

(Three Points and a Prayer)

The reason for her purification:

Purification brings us on the *same level* as the King. (Hebrews 2:11 and Romans 8:29) What king in his right mind would want a Queen who was not clean and pure?! Wouldn't a "...comely..." king (Song of Solomon 2:14; 6:4) desire a *comely* queen? (Vss. 1:5 and 10) Didn't the King

recently rid himself of a Queen who was found with “...*some* uncleanness...”? (Deuteronomy 24:1) [Here’s a thought: Could the opposite of purifying be *putrifying*? (Isaiah 1:6)]

The reality of her purification:

Properly pursued, the *purification process produces purity*. The King didn’t require results *above* purity; he required *purity*. “...True holiness...” (Ephesians 4:24) can be a reality for every believer that wants it. You say, “That can’t be done.” God says, “...Be ye holy; for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15) Holiness may be accomplished when we become “...partakers of his holiness.” (Hebrews 12:10) Then, like our King, we are made “...holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners...” (Hebrews 7:26) Let me add; True holiness is not Phariseism. We are holy when we are purged from sin and washed “...whiter than snow.” (Psalms 51:7) Following Hegai’s plan made Esther pure, clean, undefiled, and unpolluted. This leads to my last point...

The result of her purification:

The result of Esther’s purification is found in verse fifteen of chapter two. “...*She required nothing* but what Hegai the king’s chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed.” In other words, SHE PASSED THE TEST!!! NOTHING MORE was required. Undefiled, this young contestant was now ready to meet the King.

The prayer:

Thank You Lord for saving us, and gently washing us from our sins, so that we may enter your presence and live in Thy Kingdom ever more. Amen.

If an *Earthly* king required this much to purify his queen, wouldn’t a *Heavenly* King ask MORE? Wouldn’t God require MORE than just purifying the flesh? To answer that, let’s read Hebrews 9:13 again. This time we will *include* verse 14...

“For if the blood of bulls and goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling THE UNCLEAN, sanctifieth to the purifying of the FLESH:...” [Don’t forget, under The Law, salvation was only temporary. The *unclean* Jew could only purify his soul (stuck to his *flesh*) by “...divers washing, and carnal ordinances...” which were “...imposed on them until the time of reformation...” (Hebrews 9:10)] **“...HOW MUCH MORE shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”**

“...The blood of Christ...” (which is BETTER than animal blood) guarantees us betrothal to our King. Before the actual marriage begins though, we have an audience with Him, to see how the purification process worked. (Esther 2:16 and 17) This process begins, the moment someone is saved. The Believer who daily confesses and forsakes sin (Proverbs 28:13), will experience great joy “...in his sight...” (Esther 2:17) Esther had *daily* help to accomplish her purification, and so do we. Redeeming blood (Titus 3:5) is readily available to cleanse and sanctify us, daily. (Hebrews 13:12)

Esther was given “...things for her purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet...” (suitable or proper-See, Genesis 2:18 and 20) “...to be given her, out of the king’s house...” (Esther 2:9) The *common* goal of each contestant was purity. Since individual needs varied from maiden to maiden, the success of that purity hinged on things that were “meet” and “belonged to” each maiden alone. Unique help from Hegai, the King’s appointed SERVANT, was available to every contestant. His job was to personally work with each maiden, to help her become pure. A maiden who saw Hegai had not yet seen the

King, but a maiden who saw the King³, had *no more need* of Hegai's services. Jesus said of *His* Servant, "...*if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*" (John 16:7) Hegai's job was similar to "the Comforter's" job, in this respect: He *reproved* sin, *remembered* righteousness, and *received* judgment. (John 16:8 to 11) A conscientious Hegai was faithful to pronounce judgment against every maiden's impurity.

Last, please notice with me that her purification was accomplished with "...six months with *oil of myrrh*, and six months with *sweet odours....*" (Esther 2:12)

Oil of myrrh speaks to us of suffering and death.

Thirty years after receiving myrrh as a baby (Matthew 2:11), He, who was born *to die*, had it offered to Him again on Calvary's cross. (Mark 15:23) This scent of bereavement (mixed with aloes) was present once more when a willing Nicodemus carried it to his Saviour's tomb. There, it was used to embalm His sacred body. (John 19:39-42)

The Day the Spirit led our Saviour to say, "...If any man will come after me, let him DENY himself, and TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY, and follow me..." (Luke 9:23), I wonder if His ruddy "...cheeks..." resembled "...a bed of spices...dropping sweet smelling myrrh..."? (Song of Solomon 5:13)

I wonder if that scent was stuck in Paul's nostrils, when that *same* Spirit led Him to write, "I am crucified WITH Christ..." (Galatians 2:20), and "...I die DAILY..."? (1 Corinthians 15:31)

Esther discovered that the first six months of her purification was NEGATIVE. Washing in myrrh taught this young maiden *how to DIE* to her former life. Uncomely habits and desires had to be abandoned if she was to become a *purified* Queen. Dying to self was the only way Esther's FLESH (the second enemy) could be defeated. Every time Esther felt like quitting, and giving up, the *former* Queen came to mind. "Vashti was

³ Any question of impropriety should be dispelled by verse nineteen of chapter two. These maidens were virgins before and *after* they saw the King.

banished for yielding to the enemy,” she thought, “by God’s grace I will not capitulate!” (Esther 1:12)

As the (dead) beaten body of Christ provided the body used for His resurrection, the beaten plant of myrrh provided the sweet oil to accomplish the first part of this maiden’s purity. Resurrection power is available only *after* DEATH. *Without* Him FIRST dying, Christ’s resurrection would have never taken place. Without FIRST dying to SELF, a Christian cannot undergo daily purification.

The second six months of purification was POSITIVE. Those special *sweet odours* remind us of the resurrection fellowship Christians have with their Saviour and King. Paul spoke about this (second) fragrance when he wrote, “For we are unto God a *sweet savour* OF CHRIST....” (II Corinthians 2:15)

Did you know the second smell *erases* the first? Isn’t “...death...*swallowed up* in victory...”? (I Corinthians 15:54) The King’s purification process reminds us of He who “...was dead...” (THE *FIRST SIX MONTHS*), and is now “...alive forever more...” (THE *SECOND SIX MONTHS*). (Revelation 1:18) Praise God, the sweet essence of the resurrection has so permeated the second bath, the stench of death has been forgotten! Isn’t this what Paul meant when he said, “...if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection...”? (Romans 6:11)

I imagine that some of the sweetest words that Esther ever heard were spoken by “...Hegai the king’s chamberlain...” (Esther 2:15) “You’re done Esther...you’re done! The purification process is complete, and you’re ready to meet the King.” Welllllll Glory!!!! Ain’t that gonna be a day, when the purification process is over, and “...a voice...” comes “...out of the throne, saying, Let us be GLAD and REJOICE, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, AND HIS WIFE HATH MADE HERSELF *READY*.” (Revelation 19:5 and 7)

