

Chapter Thirteen

Doomsday

Esther 3:15 to 4:3

“Thirteen, *thirteen*, ohhha THIRTEEN!!!!!!!!!!”

“Slow down. What es it Star? Why are you crying?”

“*Thirteen*, Papa...*we're ALL gonna die on thirteen-Papa!*”

“*Vhat* do you mean?”

“It’s all over town Papa. Everyone is saying we’re gonna die-and no one can stop it! I even heard Tante¹ Sally say so Papa...at the door-oops.... I’m sorry Papa for disobeying you again...I know you told me I shouldn’t ever again listen at the door...but this time it was different! Tante Sally was cryin’-she was cryin’ to the postman. Papa, is it true,...do we *all* have to die?”

Jahleel, clearly shaken by the news, reaches down to comfort Star. “Honey,” he softly answers, “Jehovah vill protect us.”

“But Papa, I’m *too little* to die...what did *I* do wrong Papa?”

With a sore lump in his throat, Jahleel couldn’t find the words to answer.

Star’s countenance suddenly changed; almost like Jahleel *had* answered. With a smile on her face she continued, “Papa, I remember what I learned in Hebrew School! The Rabbi said, ‘God *has* shown us favour!’ He taught us a

¹ Aunt

song Papa. Listen. ‘It is better to trust the Lord; Yes, it’s better to trust the Lord; Oh, it’s better to trust the Lord,...than to p-ut con-fidence in man!’”²

“Honey that vas vonderful!”

“Wait Papa there’s more. Hmm-a-hm-hm-hm-hm-hm-hm, oh yeah, that’s where I was at. ‘They compassed me about like bees; Yes, they compassed me about like bees; Oh, they compassed me about like bees,...in the name of the Lord they’ll be destroyed!’ Ain’t it good Papa? There’s still one more.... ‘Th-e Lord is my strength and song; Yes, the Lord is my strength and song; Oh, the Lord is my strength and song,...I shall n-o-t *die*, but I shall *live*....’” Sobbing now, “*Papa I don’t want to die*. Please Papa-can you stop it?”

“Star, when you were born,...oy, that vas five years ago-to me, like yesterday!... just before Momma died, she kissed you, and named you *little* Esther-after the new Queen. She said,...when you grow up...she vants you to be beautiful and strong...like Esther. You don’t remember that, but Papa does! Honey, I don’t vant you to be afraid.... Let me go...I vill find out myself...yoouu’ll see...everything vill be fine. Go to bed now...rest alittle...Papa will be back soon. Tell me again...how does it go? ‘Yit is better to trust the Lord;’ ...Hmm-a-hm-hm-hm-hm-hm-hm; Hm-a-hm-hm-hm....”

Pandemonium in the Kingdom

Everywhere “...the posts went...” (Esther 3:15), terror and anguish followed! Eerily, “...weeping, and wailing...” (Esther 4:3) was the order of the day. For answers; some entreated the authorities, others turned to prayer.

Mordecai “...was perplexed....” (Esther 3:15) “Does *every* Jew have to die,” he thought, “for something...something that *I* did?” His quandary prompted him to pray a very simple

² From Psalms 118

prayer. “Lord please, show me Thy will...I’ll do it Lord, just show me!” Moments later, his prayer was answered. “I see it, I see it! Thank You Lord...I understand. *Until* every Jew is delivered;...by *Your* strength, I’ll remain strong!” Now keenly aware of his Lord’s will, Mordecai again bowed his head to pray. “Oh Lord,...I beseech Thee, give me *Thy* strength ...strength *Lord* to live, and *if need be*, strength *Lord* to die. And please *Lord*,...deliver these, Thy people from this, their enemy,...*that* wicked Haman. Amen.”

“And he...fell on his face, and prayed,...O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” And he prayed...“...the second time...saying, **O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, THY WILL BE DONE.**” Matthew 26:39 and 42

By prefiguring the suffering Saviour, Mordecai here is true to form. Like Christ, he *learned* God’s will *through* PRAYER, and like Christ, he *fulfilled* God’s will *through* SUFFERING. (Philippians 2:8; I Peter 3:18)

“When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, put on sackcloth with ashes, and WENT OUT into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud [Like Christ-Matthew 27:50] and bitter cry; And came even before the king’s gate: for none might enter into the king’s gate clothed with sackcloth.” Esther 4:1-2

“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered WITHOUT [OUTSIDE] THE GATE...WITHOUT the camp....” Hebrews 13:12 and 13!!!

LET’S HERE, INTRODUCE JOB-THE CROWNING HERO, WHO OVERCAME SATAN! [While examining the similarities between Mordecai and Christ, we would do a great injustice not to include Job-the FIRST (chronologically) to “...sit down among the ashes...” (Job 2:7b and 8), and SECOND attacked personally by Satan’s cold hand of affliction.] The sufferings of Job, studied alongside the sufferings of Mordecai, will give us a greater appreciation for the sufferings of Christ.

“Then Job answered and said...HE TEARETH ME IN HIS WRATH who hateth me; HE GNASHETH UPON ME WITH HIS TEETH; mine enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me. THEY HAVE GAPED UPON ME WITH THEIR MOUTH;...” [Psalms 22:13] **“...THEY HAVE SMITTEN ME ON THE CHEEK REPROACHFULLY;...”** [Matthew 27:29 to 31] **“...they have gathered themselves together against me. God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked...he hath...SET ME UP FOR HIS MARK.”** VERSE THIRTEEN... **“HIS ARCHERS COMPASS ME ABOUT...”** [Psalms 22:16. “...They pierced my hands and my feet.” Five, in Scripture, is the number of DEATH. Jesus (five letters) bore five bleeding wounds to save us from death (five letters-see Hebrews 2:9 and 14). May I remind you that this was “...the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus...” (Esther 3:7), who was married “...in the seventh year of his reign.” (Esther 2:16) Twelve minus seven equals FIVE! In other words, DEATH (every JEW’S fate in the kingdom), was proclaimed on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, in the FIFTH year of Esther’s marriage to Ahasuerus.] **“...I have sewed SACKCLOTH on my skin...[There’s the sackcloth!** Though NOT mentioned in the New Testament, prophetically, Christ wore

sackcloth too. (Psalms 69:11 and 12-Compare with Esther 4:1 and 2!!!)]...on my eyelids is the shadow of DEATH...”! Job 16:9 to 16

When speaking about the sufferings of Christ; do you see why it’s so important to include Job?! Look at verse 17; he might typify Christ more than you think...

“NOT for any injustice in my hands: also my prayer is pure.” Job 16:17

Isn’t that what The Lord also said about *Noah* and *Daniel*, in Ezekiel fourteen? “Though these three men...were in it, they should deliver but their own souls *by their righteousness.*” If these three men were able to be delivered by their own righteousness, why did the pure and spotless Son of God have to die? That’s simple. He died, under the wrath of God, *to save us.* (Luke 19:10) Like Job (who was on the receiving end of an *unsolicited* test), Jesus didn’t suffer for His *OWN injustices*, He suffered for *ours.*

In their given crucibles, Job³, Mordecai, and even Jesus (Psalms 22:20; 35:17), had all patiently waited for Jehovah’s strong and mighty arm to come and deliver them from the hand of the enemy. (Psalms 56:9)

Our story resumes, “...with a loud and a bitter cry...” heard deep *within* the courtyard of “...the king’s gate....” (Esther 4:1-2)

A Time to Mourn

“There it is again,...did you hear it *that* time...I told you I wasn’t just hearin’ things. What do *you* think it is my Queen,...an animal or something?”

“Naaaah, that ain’t the sound of en animal. Dat’s a human. It almost sounds like...”

“Queen Esther, come quick!”

“What is it? *What’s going on?!*-You’ve interrupted me!”

“Many apologies my Queen. I thought to inform thee *my Queen...*”

“Of?”

“Well, it’s quite private...my Queen....”

“Everyone out...only my maids stay. *Out quickly!* (Moments later) Okay, they’re all out...what’s so important?!”

Pulina, the least shy of Esther’s maids and chamberlains, spoke quickly. “May we freely talk, Esther? You know we’ve all been your friends from the beginning...*and that’s why we wish to tell you...*”

“Tell me what?”

Now, almost in a huddle, whispering, with everyone listening in, “I remember the day you told me to keep it a secret...and believe me I did!...But, it looks like...well, it looks like...soon everyone’s gonna know.”

“Pulina honey, you’re my best friend,...you can tell *me* what’s going on!”

Pulina bravely replies, “Okay, but *remember, YOU...asked me!! Ya know that sound* we’ve been trying to figure out.... Well...we did!-And it’s not an animal! It’s *your* cousin-Mordecai! Someone said he’s been wearing sackcloth and ashes.... And he’s

³ Here’s a passing thought.... Could the three Crowning Heroes of Ezekiel 14 all typify the Trinity: Noah-The Father, Daniel-The Spirit, and Job-The Son?

been howling and crying-right outside the King's gate. It's pitiful! And that's the other thing.... Words out...he's *your* cousin.... Your *secret*, my Queen, soon will be *common knowledge!*"⁴

"...Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and take away his sackcloth from him: but he *received it NOT.*" Esther 4:4

This reminds me of something Jesus said in John 18:11. "...The cup [of suffering] which my Father hath given me, *shall I NOT drink it?*" Like Job, who endured suffering and affliction (James 5:10b and 11a), Mordecai did not charge God foolishly. (Job 1:22) He believed, why ever he was being tempted, this was God's will, and was bound and determined to *see it through!* And of Job's resolve? "Though he [God] *slay me*, yet will I trust him...For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me...." (Job 13:15; 23:14a)

Here's a good question. Out of all the people (throughout history) that could have been chosen for a contest between God and Satan, did you ever wonder why *both*, AGREED on *Job*? In a word: Worship! Job worshipped God, from the beginning...

"...Job...rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings...Thus did Job continually." Job 1:5

The question then comes in, what, if anything; will keep Job from worshipping God?
Not death (Job 1:13-19)...

"Then Job arose, and *rent his mantle* (Esther 4:1 and 4), and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and *WORSHIPPED.*" Job 1:20

...nor suffering (Job 2:5), neither the suggestions of a "...foolish..." wife (Job 2:9 and 10a)....

"In all this did NOT Job sin with his lips..." (Job 2:10b), he just *continued* to worship God!

Fear Factor

Though Job complained repeatedly about his problems (which, I'm sure, enlarged the size of his book), his crown was won for *enduring* pain, not *deflecting* it! By withstanding the full blow of Satan's attacks, he became the *litmus test* for everyone before and since. [I'm amending what I said earlier-that Satan only attacked three people and one nation in Scripture-to *INCLUDE* Born Again Christians; for the following four reasons: (1) *EVE* stood in relation to Adam; in the same place the Church stands with Christ. (2) *JOB* worshipped God like we do. (3) We are the *BODY* of *CHRIST*. (4) *NATIONALLY*, we are *spiritual ISRAEL*. Therefore, anyone of us can be attacked, at any time! (1 Peter 5:8 and 9)]

When we least expect it; "...trouble..." comes! (Job 3:26) Job *feared* this would happen, and it did!

⁴ Esther 4:13

“For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.” Job 3:25

The loss of a job, divorce, cancer, suffering, or death; the very thing you and I fear, is many times exactly what we have to face! When Mordecai woke up that day, he had no idea his faith would be tested (or at least tested to *this degree*).

Like Job, Mordecai was confident that God would get him through.

“...When he hath tried me I shall come forth as gold.” Job 23:10

Temptation brings three kinds of *results*:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>I Corinthians 10:32</u>
Eve.....	<i>Gave in.....</i>	Church (Ephesians 5:30)
Job.....	<i>Endured.....</i>	Gentile
Christ.....	<i>Victorious....</i>	Jew

How did Job overcome his enemy? He ENDURED; he put up with him! “...We count them *happy* which *endure*...”! (James 5:11-Job in the context!)

May I remind all Christians, since “...in heaven...” we have “...a better and an *enduring* SUBSTANCE...” and “...REWARD...” (Hebrews 10:34b and 35b), God calls us to “...*endure* afflictions...” (II Timothy 4:5) No one is exempt, not even *Christ*! Look what was said to Him; hanging on Calvary’s cross...

“...Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, *save thyself*. If thou be the son of God [Sound familiar? Satan said it *first*. (Matthew 4:3, 6, 9b)], *come down from the cross*.” (Matthew 27:40)

How did Christ endure “...such contradiction...” (Hebrews 12:3), and affliction? The way Job did. They both enjoyed a hope better than life itself. The Resurrection!

“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh I shall see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another....” Job 19:25 to 27

Along with Job and Jesus, Mordecai [*whose weight of responsibility for the life of every Jew in the kingdom was now greatly bearing down on his shoulders*] looked past his grief, to see his own RESURRECTION!

Every loud and bitter cry she heard overtake the gate inside the courtyard seemed to match the overwhelming despondency being created in Esther’s soul. “Is *this* the sound,” she thought, “a broken heart makes, before it dies?” The reply came quickly. “...The Lord blessed the *latter end* of Job *more than his beginning*....” (Job 42:12) “This *must* be the answer,” she thought, regaining her composure. This time praying out loud,... “Lord, whatever the nature or severity of Mordecai’s predicament, in your mercy, please bless him

MORE in the latter end. ...And Thank You Lord for restoring my hope...with *the kind, Job had.*”