

Chapter Eighteen

To Half the Kingdom

Esther 5:3 and 6; 7:2

“...It shall be given thee to *half* of the kingdom.”

The only other time this expression is used in Scripture is found in Mark 6:23. Herod, who stole his brother's wife, offered Herodias' daughter, Salome, up to half of his kingdom, when she danced before him.¹ She immediately went home to ask her mother what she should request. Let's face it, an offer like this doesn't come along everyday! Her mother, who had it in for John the Baptist (Mark 6:19), tells her to ask for his “...*just...and...holy...head...*” (Mark 6:20 and 24) [By the way, John the Baptist gets it in the *neck*, and *soon*, so will Haman. (Esther 7:10)]

Like Salome, Esther appears before *her* King in hope of receiving something *too*. And also like Salome, getting his *attention*, will be the very thing she needs to expose her (and her people's) *unjust* and *unholy* enemy to the King.

Notice: When Herod referred to his kingdom, he called it “*my*' kingdom”. (Mark 6:23) But, when Ahasuerus referred to his kingdom, he called it “*the*' kingdom”. (Esther 5:3, 6; 7:2) What's the difference? Not too much. All I know is that an evil ruler might not want to share his kingdom with others as

¹ There's your *lewd* dance! You remember, don't you-the one *you* accused Ahasuerus of asking Vashti to perform in Esther chapter one?! Shame on you for confusing this sleazy King with His Majesty Xerxes (Ahasuerus). Be assured, John the Baptist never made *that* mistake!! (Mark 6:18 and 22)

quickly as a righteous ruler would. An evil ruler might just want to keep the *whole* kingdom for *himself*. Don't forget; an evil man is usually *selfish* and *proud*. (Herod was willing to give his kingdom away-or so he *said*-for what he "got" from seeing Salome dance.) A good ruler rewards those in his kingdom; by not holding back the riches of his kingdom to those who have proven themselves worthy of reward. Jesus said, in Luke 12:32, "...*For it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*" In other words, a good king says, "How can I give (back) to *you*?...What can I do for *you*?...How can I serve *you*?" Christian, we have a wonderful God, who will spend all Eternity giving *things* (Colossians 3:2) to those of us who have proven by our faithful love and service truly deserve them.

"Esther, what can I give you, to show you how much I love you? I'm so glad you came to see me. That *alone* is worth giving you half the kingdom."

Esther answers, "Oh Your Majesty,...I'm trying out a new recipe. I'm sure you'll like it! It's an old family favorite. They're called latkes-potato latkes...and they're one of my favorite foods. Momma made them all the time-I remember her makin' some...oh, just before she..." (her voice, first, in falsetto, then, decrescendo to a faint whisper) "...she-oh I miss her so much." (With the King's undivided sympathy and attention, she continued) "I had hoped you could come and try *this one* out *in person*. If Momma were here, she wouldda wanted ya to try 'em too. And oh, by the way, in all my excitement, I made a double batch,...couldya *possibly* bring a guest...? Rumor has it that *Haman*² is a meat and 'taters man ...he'd make a good guest...*why not bring him?!!*"

² Esther let's Haman *think* she's honouring him (Esther 5:5 and 8), when all the while, she knows that Mordecai (in the sense of Galatians 2:11) is withstanding him to the face. (Esther 3:5; 5:9)

Potato Latkes

10 medium potatoes 2 medium onions
2 large or medium eggs Vegetable oil
1/4 cup unbleached all-purpose flour, breadcrumbs, or matzah meal. Salt
and white pepper to taste.

Peel the potatoes if the skin is coarse; clean them well. Keep them in cold water until ready to prepare the latkes.

Starting with the onions, alternately grate some of the onions on the large holes of the grater and some of the potatoes on the smallest holes. This will keep the potato mixture from blackening. Press out as much liquid as possible and reserve the starchy sediment at the bottom of the bowl. Return the sediment to the mixture. Blend the potato mixture with eggs, flour, salt, and white pepper. Heat 1 inch of oil in a frying pan. Drop about 1 tablespoon of mixture for each latke into the skillet and fry, turning once. When golden and crisp on each side, drain on paper towels.

Serve with yogurt, sour cream, sugar, or applesauce.

This seemed like a reasonable request to the King, especially since *giving* him and his guest something, was better than *taking* something, up to “...half the kingdom...”!

Speaking about *sharing* half the kingdom, I remember many years ago, when our newly established church in New York had just rented a store front, I got a call from a fellow Pastor who had just started a work *near* our area. (I was there for at least fourteen to fifteen years; at that point.) Of all things, he wanted to take *me* out for “coffee.” I said, “well, if *you’re* buying?!” He replied that he would not only pay for my coffee, but he would also buy me a meal to go along with it. This was an offer I couldn’t refuse, and one, I could literally sink my teeth into!

Since it was early in the day, we agreed on breakfast. As I was getting ready to meet him (*his* pick: a diner situated under the elevated subway, across from the Astoria Park), something dawned on me. “Finally...,” I thought, “...*finally*, I’ll get some of the recognition I *deserve* for being here *all these years!* *What a great thing to happen to me!* Breakfast, coffee, and some goooooood fellowship with my new Baptist Pastor *friend*. I mean...what else could he do, but honor a preacher

like me-who's spent all these years in the trenches of New York City!" [Look at Esther 5:9a and 12. Don't you think, when Haman found out he was the only "outsider" invited to this banquet, that he popped a few shirt buttons, like *me*?! Oh me, oh my, I guess I made *myself* out to resemble *Haman*-and what's worse-in a story *I'm* writing *myself*!]

Well, while we were dining at this particular restaurant, I quickly discovered something I hadn't foreseen, in that meeting. The honor I thought I would be receiving by now quickly became a political stratagem and ploy to get permission-my permission mind you-for him and his church to come into our area to evangelize. [Like he needed *my* permission, anyway. He later proved he really didn't want it. He was just covering all the bases, in case anyone ever asked him if he had permission from the *other* local Baptist church in town to set up shop nearby.]

What could I answer this savvy out of town-er-turned even savvier New Yorker? Shucks, there were eight million other New Yorkers. And let's face it, I couldn't reach them *all*. I mean, what could I say to this brother, who *also* had a burden to win the lost [and *ahem-build a church*].

Well you guessed it. It wasn't long before this *lovely* BAPTIST Brother bought a piece of property within blocks of our ministry and *BAPTIST* church, to establish his.

Haman didn't know it, but Esther was setting him up (Esther 6:14), *literally*-for the *kill*!!! (Esther 7:10)

The Big Sting or Setting a Trap for a Devil

For years now, law enforcement has used a simple sting to catch criminals who seem to easily evade arrest. Here's how it's done. The perpetrator receives a letter saying that he or she has recently won a sweepstakes prize or lottery. All they need to do to claim it is to come in person, show their ID, and pick up their winnings. Just *that* simple! The catch? There is *no* prize. The

sweepstake people are *really* the police. And, *they* get arrested on the spot, in return, giving the police a prize-them!

That's exactly what's going on in our story. Esther knew if she handled the situation wisely, Haman would swiftly be laid "before kings". (Ezekiel 28:17b)

Esther was no dummy, she knew she had to use the *right* bait to catch the *right* fish. She also knew, that the one thing Haman really loved, was *HIMSELF!* (Ezekiel 28:17a) In a stroke of genius, for bait, Esther uses Haman's own narcissism against *himself*. He buys it, hook, line, and sinker, or in this case we should say *gallows, rope, and tight noose!*

Hidden in the shadows, intensely listening for her response to the serpent's question; The Lord God heard every word that was uttered in The Garden. Oh yes, God was there. Where would His omniscience be; if He wasn't? God was there alright. He was waiting to witness the next turn of events.

Created with a free will, this was her moment to choose. Was this banquet of wine³-shared with this stranger, for purposes of refreshment, or a web of deceit?

Fitting it was, that TWO were rallied around the tree to watch and wait, seeing what the third form would do-what would the weaker vessel's request be-up to half The Kingdom? And even more fitting, for TWO-a serpentine figure, the son of an Agagite, and a King-to wait on the morrow to see verily what the banquet of wine was about.⁴ Will it be for purposes of refreshment, or a trap to ensnare? We shall soon see.

³ "...Like the poison of a serpent..." (Psalms 58:4); was this "...vine of wine..." a "...vine tree..." (Ezekiel 15:2) "...of strong drink..." (Numbers 6:3): the "...degenerate plant of a strange vine..." (Jeremiah 2:21), "...the vine of Sodom..." and "...the grapes of gall..."? (Deuteronomy 32:32)

⁴ How fitting indeed! And how *fair!!* The SERPENT used a banquet of wine to trap a WOMAN, and now a WOMAN, as *wise as a SERPENT* (Matthew 10:16), used the same kind of banquet to trap him!

Here, read Esther 5:8 to 14.

“Zeresh, come quickly-”

“Whatya want, can’t you see I’m busy?”

“You’re not gonna believe this, for all the money in the kingdom...”

“Try me...”

“Call *everybody* we know, and I’ll tell ya.”

“What, now your playing games with me...I told ya, I’m busy!”

(Later in the day, when all his friends and family were able to rally around him...)

“Well I’m sure it’s been no secret...how well things are going for me...and...and you won’t believe what happened to me just *today!* You won’t believe me-even...even *ten thousand years after I tell you!!*”

Zeresh interrupts, “I told you he went *crazy*...that job is just *too much* for him.”

Seraah, her best friend, interrupts her, “...’Resh, *give ‘im a chance*, stop interrupting ‘im.”

“Anyway-where was I-oh yeah,...Today I was summoned to go to a banquet of wine with *guess who*...”

“There he goes again-”

“*Let him continue!*”

“None other than the King *and* the Queen. *It was just the three of us!*”

Someone calls out, “And, ...so what happened?”

“You won’t believe it! Tomorrow they want *me* to come to ANOTHER banquet, *just me!*... And the two of them, of course...*Can you believe it?!!* (Thinking about Mordecai now, who neither moved nor stood up for him on his way from the palace gate, he continues...) *‘Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting in the king’s gate.’*”

In effect, Haman was saying, “No matter how exalted I am or become; if I can’t get this ONE *JEW* to bow down to me,

it won't mean anything!" (Remember Matthew 4:9 and 10? Isn't that what the Devil said about Jesus?)

His *whorish* [Whorish-because she will do *anything-even kill a man* who stands in the way of her husband's success. (I *do* realize the Bible says in verse fourteen, that she AND "all his friends" have the *SAME* idea, but who do you think gave them this idea *to begin with?*)] wife proposes a "cure" for his dilemma: GET RID OF THIS JEW. You see, all this "Jew hatin' stuff" is really about ONE Jew, *THE* Jew, The Messiah and King *of* ALL Jews: The Lord Jesus Christ! We learned about this; from reading Esther Three: While seeking to get rid of *one* Jew, we understand why all Jews affiliated *with* Him are in peril *because of* Him. Even the Jews in whose house He was wounded (Zechariah 13:6) will forever be connected with Him, because *THEIR* Messiah, believed on or not, remains to this day *their* "...despised and rejected..." (Isaiah 53:3) KING! (John 19:19; Esther 10:3)

She Devil

Here's something to think about. In Scripture, dancing, frivolity, and merriment seem to all be connected with the demise of Jewish leaders and prophets. For example, at *Herodias'* suggestion⁵, the head of John the Baptist in a charger was delivered; after...

"...the daughter of the said Herodias came in and DANCED, and PLEASED Herod...on his BIRTHDAY..."

Mark 6:21 and 22

What about the party in Revelation 11:7 to 10?...

⁵ This is the politically motivated woman who gave up her husband in order to marry his *brother*, the King. (Mark 6:17 and 18. See, Leviticus 18:16; 20:21.) You talk about being a *whore*! She's it!!!

“...And...the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them [the resurrected prophets: Moses and Elijah], and overcome them, and kill them...And they that dwell on the earth shall *REJOICE* over them, and make *MERRY*, and send *GIFTS* one to another because these two prophets...” were dead.

I wonder, *at whose suggestion*, the Beast will overcome these prophets? Will it be...

“...THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS...the woman⁶ drunken with the blood of saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus...”? Revelation 17:5 and 6

This Woman hates Jesus with the same passion that Zeresh⁷ hated Mordecai. Don't forget, it was *her* suggestion to hang Mordecai...

“Then said Zeresh⁸ his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow...’, just ask the King to bump this guy off. Nobody will even care! If he goes along with it, don't sweat,... **‘...then go thou *MERRILY*...’** [Do you see what I'm saying? *Merriment!-why? The death of a*

⁶ If you're still with me Doc..., this “woman” is the *FAKER* of Revelation 2:9 and 3:9. SHE IS THE BODY OF A FAKE *RELIGIOUS* SYSTEM, DELUDED INTO *THINKING* THEY ARE DOING GOD A FAVOUR (John 16:2) BY PETITIONING *THEIR* HEAD-SATAN TO WIPE THE *REAL* JEW OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

⁷ Hey Doc, one more thing: *In a story that correlates its characters exactly to the real characters of those in the Kingdom of Heaven; in your scenario the character of Esther is really Zeresh.* Now if that ain't confusing, I don't know what is!

⁸ Zeresh is a Persian name that means “Gold”! - Revelation 17:4.

*Jew-who typifies the prophet Jesus.*⁹ **“...with the king unto the banquet.”** Esther 5:14b

I wonder if Zeresh fancied herself one day to become *Queen*? Isn't that how the Devil's Wife views *her* destiny? The One Who searches *all* hearts (Hebrews 4:12 and 13), has, in His Book, *already* answered this question for us...

“...For she saith in her heart, I sit a QUEEN, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.” Revelation 18:7

But her fate will *not* match her presumption!

“Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.”
Revelation 18:8

Notice, *against* her own prophecy (Revelation 18:7), she becomes a widow laden with sorrow...

“...These two things shall come upon thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood....” Isaiah 47:9

The same thing happens to Zeresh...

“So they hanged Haman on the gallows....” Esther 7:10

This, made her a widow,...

⁹ Mordecai was a prophet too, you know (about as well known as, and similar to, the prophet Agabus, in the New Testament. Acts 21:10 and 11, with Acts 21:33). Do you want to see one of Mordecai's prophecies come true? See, Esther 4:8 and 14, with Esther chapters 7, 8, and 9.

“The ten¹⁰ sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they....” Esther 9:10. See, Esther 8:1

And *this*; gave her great sorrow.

“...And the thing pleased Haman....” (Esther 5:14b) “Gallows huh, I’ll get a crew working on it...first thing in the morning. I’ll do it all...the King won’t even hafta’ lift a finger.” (Under his breath) *“I’ll destroy that Mordecai-if it’s the last thing I do!”*

¹⁰ Like the TEN *Gentile* toes that Daniel (2:41 and 42-compare Revelation 17:12) saw in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. Those little “piggies” were NOT Jewish, Doc! Leviticus 11:7!!!! This is where it gets confusing Doc, and this is where *I believe* you’ve mixed things up. For Judas to have betrayed “...the Son of man with a kiss...” (Luke 22:48); he would have had to go undetected by *all* the Disciples. Don’t forget, Satan is a supernatural being, and, accordingly, has the power to “...deceive [even] the very elect...” (Matthew 24:24) The truth is, Judas (a natural born Syrian *JEW*) was really an ENEMY, who Jesus-with full knowledge-mind you-let infiltrate His “camp.” With this thought in mind, for the JEWS to accept the Antichrist as their long awaited Messiah, he himself must be a *JEW* (with Apostolic SIGNS-I Corinthians 1:22) who brings in peace and *RE*builds their TEMPLE for them. Don’t forget, the *first* white horse rider (like Haman-Esther 6:6 to 8) was a *counterfeit* (Revelation 6:2) who will please Israel by destroying her two main ENEMIES: ISLAM and ROME. Though these two powers have spent their entire careers endeavoring to abscond with Israel’s (*promised*) LAND and usurp her (*God given*) AUTHORITY, the Beast will be only too glad to sacrifice these two scapegoats, to win her confidence. This *will* happen; when he scrapes together TEN (*-like the sons of Haman*) nations to destroy her enemies! READ IT FOR YOURSELF! Revelation 17:16. That’s what’s mixing you up Doc. The Whore, with her popish head, is ROMAN. BUT the Antichrist-obliged to prove his friendship to Israel-*must* be a JEW. Though the Beast *himself* will be JEWISH, it doesn’t mean *ALL* Jews in Tribulation will become antichrists, anymore than the *WHOLE* nation of Israel (as you suggest) will take on the designation, “...BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH...” (Revelation 17:5)

