

Chapter Twenty

The Last Laugh

Esther 7:1 to 10

If there was ever a time when Esther should have used her womanly powers to change the course of history, it was now! But she didn't do that. Nor, may I add, did she appear before her *King*, as the *Queen*. At "...the second...banquet of wine..." (Esther 7:2), Esther appears before the King, *as a JEW!* (Esther 7:3 and 4)

Esther knew full well that the Jews were being persecuted, and [like Moses] closely identified herself with her people. [*I'm sure-also like Moses (Exodus 2:11 and 12)-the thought crossed her mind more than one time, to use her frying pan-you know, the one she made latkes in-on Haman!*] Brothers and Sisters, we too are closely identified with someone who was persecuted before us. We even bear His name. That *someone*, of course, is *Christ*. And the name we bear, *Christian*. (Acts 11:26)

Aren't Christians called to *follow* Christ? Doesn't that require them to *stand up and be counted*? Isn't that exactly what Esther does; when she could've *concealed* her true identity? [Remember, up to this point in the story, she had a lot of experience hiding the fact that she was a Jew. Esther 2:10 and 20.] Once she stands up and is counted alongside her people; won't the *real* reason for the meeting be revealed? And last, won't the second banquet of wine both test, and prove her strength and courage?

Did you know that the name *Job* means, "one persecuted"? Since he loses his family, finances, and flesh at the hand of *Satan* [*Look quickly: Haman*]; that's a fitting name for him,

wouldn't you say? One thing Job *doesn't* lose though is his *integrity!* (Job 2:9) Integrity means, INCORRUPTIBILITY. Do you know *where* incorruptibility comes from? It comes from *God!* Well then, after being stripped of everything this world had to offer him, what was *left* for Job? I can answer that in two words. His integrity! What Job *has* then, is *God!* (Job 1:8) *That's the reason* it was so necessary to test him!!!! [Here, please read Job 1:8 to 12; and 2:3 to 7] Satan's temptation only helped to enhance the proof of Job's *TRUE motive* for SERVING God. And it certainly wasn't because he received things at His (God's) hand. The *only* reason Job served God, was because *he loved Him.* If Job was alive today, he would make the following declaration. "A good home and family are *great.* And possessions are *swell.* But I'll lose them ALL, *to HAVE GOD!*" Given the chance, isn't that what the *new* Queen of Persia would have said? We'll give her that opportunity, right here. "Having the royal treatment is *grand.* And possessions, *not a few.* *But my love for my God and my people mean much much more to me than ALL those things combined.*" "Skin for skin", Esther, like Job, would have perished; before she gave up *her* God. (Job 2:4; Esther 4:16b)

Job was attacked *directly* by Satan, and every time Haman [a *front* for Satan-who, *humanly* speaking, didn't realize Esther and Mordecai were related] persecuted Mordecai the Jew, he was persecuting Esther *the JEW*, too. Haman-Satan hated Mordecai-Jesus so much that he set a date to wipe him and his people off the face of the earth. (Esther 3:13) That *date*, by the way, is still *SET!* See, Revelation chapter twelve. If Haman succeeded to triumph over Mordecai and all the Jews, he would have certainly [*though inadvertently*] *ALSO* destroyed Persia's Queen. (Esther 4:13 and 14; 7:4a) Notice: Since Mordecai *survives*, Esther also *survives!* With no resurrection of Mordecai (Esther 6:1 to 11); there would have been no resurrection of Esther. And in that sense, Christian, don't *we* live, because *He* lives too?! Isn't our resurrected Saviour *alive* in our hearts?! Don't we sing about Him in our

churches? Doesn't one of those songs say, "He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives to-day...You ask me *how* I know He lives?...He lives...*with-in my HEART...*"¹ In that sense, wasn't Mordecai also in Esther's heart? Didn't she finally tell the King "...*what he was unto her...*"? (Esther 8:1) And finally, wasn't *the King's* saviour, *REALLY* her saviour, *too*?!!! (Esther 2:7b)

Job, Jesus, and Mordecai

If you didn't know any better; it *SEEMED* like **Satan**, who was once EXALTED by The King, was an *invited guest*, to have a conversation with him. His *real* purpose? To *betray Job*.

If you didn't know any better; it *SEEMED* like **Judas**, who was EXALTED by The Lord to be "...numbered with..." (Acts 1:17) the Twelve, was *invited* to join our Saviour in the garden, to have a conversation with him. His *real* purpose? To *betray Jesus*. (Luke 22:48)

And if you didn't know any better; it *SEEMED* like **Haman**, who was EXALTED by the King, was also an *invited guest* for conversation. His *real* purpose? To *betray Mordecai*. (Esther 5:14)

Did you know, that the last thing God talks about in the END of the Book of Job, before He resurrects and exalts him (**Job**)-making all things new (Job 42:10b to 16), is **Leviathan**? (Job chapter 41)

Did you know, that the last thing God talks about in the END of the last Book of The Bible, before His Son (**Jesus**) is exalted, and makes "...all things new..." (Revelation 21:5), is **Satan**? (Revelation chapter 20)

And, wouldn't you know it, the last thing God talks about in the END of the Book of Esther, before **Mordecai** is exalted, making all things in the kingdom new [*even making a NEW holiday out of it*-Esther 9:20 to 26] (Esther 10), is **Haman**! (Esther chapters 7, 8, and 9)

¹ *He Lives*. By Alfred H. Ackley, copyright 1933.

“What do you mean, ‘Let my life be given me’...and your PEOPLE too...? I’m confused Esther, tell me more.”

“For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail² the king’s damage.”

“Was *THIS* your request of me,...YOUR LIFE? Esther I would never let anyone harm you...I love you.” His Emotion quickly turned to rage, “‘Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?’ Hurt my Queen will ‘e...Oooh, I’ll fix him! ...I can’t wait to get my hands on that #*&#@+.³ Honey-just point ‘em out...Ooh, I’ll *finish* him!!!!”

Wistfully desiring to point her finger in the *King’s* face for signing the edict in the first place, Esther chooses rather to direct the King’s royal wrath in another direction-the direction of the edict’s originator, Haman. “The adversary and enemy is *THIS* wicked Haman.”

Suddenly and without warning, the King walks out of the banquet into the palace garden, to cool his inflamed temper. (*Do I hear some knees knocking? Esther 7:7b*) A short intermission follows.

From the *Garden* to the *Gallows*

Returning to the banquet of wine, Ahasuerus starts looking for Haman, who just moments before, while attempting to

² Counterbalance. Esther 8:2

³ Yes Virginia, God *DOES* CURSE. And He *SWEARS* too! (While cursing is negative, swearing, on the other hand, is positive-usually involving an *oath*. Hebrews 6:13; Genesis 26:1 to 3.) These are not *DIRTY* words; these are words with *POWER*. Ahasuerus *curses* Haman here, in the sense that Jehovah cursed the Serpent in Genesis 3:14 and 15, sealing both their fates.

flee, *accidentally* tripped onto the Queen's bed. Nothing from *Laurel and Hardy*, *The Three Stooges*, or *Keaton*, would be any funnier, or make you laugh any harder, than watching this bumbling fool trying to escape the King's wrath. [For music that will perfectly compliment this chapter (and, for your listening enjoyment), *please* pick up a CD called, "Divisions on a Theme of Paganini", by English composer, Philip Lane (1950). You can purchase it from Marco Polo, Catalog # 8225185, ARKIV Music.Com, for \$9.49. Remember to play it ⁴, *as you read this chapter*. You won't be disappointed!]

Rolling up his sleeves, and still furious, Ahasuerus continues, "*I knew that snake Haman was up to no good...!*" Then shouts out, "'Force the queen also before me in... my own house? Mess with me and my wife will ya'-*you devil*,...I'm gonna '*clean your plough!*'"

Then one of the guard's shouts out, "'*Angra Mainyu*'⁵...he's trying to get away...come *quickly!*'"

And as the King yells out, "*help me...*", two of them caught him and...

"...They covered Haman's face. And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows

⁴ *The whole piece runs for less than fourteen minutes.* From start to 2:45 minutes: Esther and The King, in the banquet of wine. From 2:45 to 3:45 minutes: Esther explains to the King what's going on. From 3:45 to 6:45 minutes: The King goes into the palace garden to cool down and figure out what to do about this situation. From 6:45 to 8 minutes: The King comes back to the banquet displaying his wrath, and begins looking for Haman. From 8 to 11:30 minutes: Esther has pleasant thoughts of a world *without* Haman. From 11:30 to 12:30 minutes: Back to *reality*. Calling the guards to look for Haman. And last, from 12:30 to (*the end*) 13:45: Haman's Doom!

⁵ In Zoroastrianism [remember, these Persians were NOT Jews but *HEATHEN* Gentiles], Persian for "Prince of darkness." Haman didn't fool *everyone*, you know. *This* guard (a little writer's liberty here-please) knew exactly *who* and *WHAT* he was, and said so!!!

fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai [If Haman knew that each nail that was being pounded into the wooden gallows-built to hang Mordecai (Esther 5:14)-would ultimately be the ones used to hang *himself*, he might not have used them to build it. If Judas knew that the nails that were pounded through the flesh of The Son of Man onto a Roman cross would have made Him a *Saviour*, instead of a defeated foe, he might not have turned Him into the authorities. (I Corinthians 2:8) THE ONLY ‘...WEAPON THAT...’ WAS ‘...FORMED...’ (Isaiah 54:17a) TO HURT JESUS, WAS THE *ONE* THAT GOD *ALLOWED!* AND *THAT WEAPON*, expertly administered, BOUGHT US ETERNAL LIFE!], **who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.**” Esther 7:8b and 9

Like the penalty under the Law of Moses for false witnesses, the deception and *false* testimony that Haman supplied to the King concerning Mordecai and the Jews (Esther 3:8), will be the very punishment meted out to him, *in EXCHANGE for their freedom*. (Read Deuteronomy 19:15 to 21) In this case, it was “...life...for life....”

“So they hanged *Haman* ON THE GALLOWS⁶ THAT HE HAD PREPARED FOR *MORDECAI*.” Esther 7:10a. [SEE THE EXCHANGE?!] **“Then was the king’s wrath pacified.”** (Esther 7:10b)

At the end, the Hunter became the hunted who was captured and killed. Final judgment on the *last* enemy brought hope to every Jew in the kingdom that the mischief and destruction pronounced against them would cease before it was too late.

⁶ Notice, these gallows were “*fifty cubits high*” (Esther 5:14), or FIVE (the number of *DEATH*) times TEN (the number of the *GENTILES*). Also notice verse *TEN* of chapter nine: “The *TEN* sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, *SLEW* they....” (*TEN* x Death [*SLEW*] = *fifty*)

