



QUEEN ESTHER

Part Two

**Final Study From Old Testament Historical Books
DANIEL - NEHEMIAH - EZRA - ESTHER**

Wednesday / June 13, 2018

First Assembly of God

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SUPPLEMENT TO THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL
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QUEEN ESTHER - WHO SAVED THE JEWS FROM ANNIHILATION
Part II

GENOCIDE - The intentional action to destroy a people (usually defined as an ethnic, national, racial or religious group in whole or in part). The word *genocide* is a combination of the Greek word *genos* (race, people) and the Latin suffix *cide* (act of killing).

1
2
3 Genocide has been attempted on numerous occasions throughout history. In this cases,
4 it was at the hands of a leading figure in the Persian Empire around 480 years before
5 Christ.

6
7 Just as Hitler was the prime mover in his hatred of Jews with the Nazis in our lifetime, it
8 was a man named Haman in the Persian Empire. His hatred was primed by a number of
9 things, but perhaps the chief reason was his personal animosity toward a Jew named
10 Mordecai. Mordecai, a leading figure in Persia, saw right through the hypocrisy and
11 viciousness of Haman and refused to honor him by standing whenever Haman passed by.

12
13 In the meantime, Mordecai had uncovered a possible assassination attempt against King
14 Xerxes (Ahasurus) which saved the monarch's life. Esther 2:19-23 **And when the**
15 **virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate.**
16 **[20] Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had**
17 **charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was**
18 **brought up with him.**

19 **[21] In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's**
20 **chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and**
21 **sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. [22] And the thing was known to**
22 **Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in**
23 **Mordecai's name. [23] And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found**
24 **out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the**
25 **chronicles before the king.**

26
27 Today we begin in chapter 5. Mordecai has learned of the treachery of Haman. But
28 how to break this news to the King? That was the dilemma. Remember, Haman had
29 already had the law passed which meant genocide for the Jews and the Persian Law could

1 not be changed.

2
3 The only hope for the Jews was Queen Esther, who unknown to the King and Haman was
4 herself a Jew. But for the Queen to enter the King's throne room without invitation
5 could be fatal. Esther knew the fate of her people was in her hands, so: Esther 4:1
6 **Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, [16] Go, gather together all**
7 **the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink**
8 **three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in**
9 **unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.**

10
11 Chapter Five (continues the drama)

12
13 Esther 5:1-8

14 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and
15 stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the
16 king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.
17 [2] And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she
18 obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that
19 was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. [3] Then
20 said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it
21 shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom. [4] And Esther answered, If it
22 seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet
23 that I have prepared for him. [5] Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste,
24 that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet
25 that Esther had prepared.

26 [6] And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition?
27 and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom
28 it shall be performed. [7] Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my
29 request is; [8] If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king
30 to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to
31 the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath
32 said.

33
34 Esther is cleverly setting up the trap for Haman. In the meantime, the King, who has
35 learned of the plan against his life, wants to honor Mordecai who discovered it. Without
36 knowing it was Haman setting up an effort at genocide, the King asks him what could be
37 done to honor Haman (without mentioning him by name). Even as Haman unknowingly
38 comes to the throne room by invitation of the King, he has already planned for
39 Mordecai's death: Esther 5:14 **Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto**
40 **him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the**
41 **king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king**

1 **unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be**
2 **made.** Then Haman heads for the throneroom in answer to the King's summons.

Chapter Six

6 King Xerxes is now going to ask Haman his opinion of how to honor Mordecai (but does
7 not mention Mordecai's name so Haman thinks some kind of honor is headed his way).

9 Esther 6:6-14

10 **So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man**
11 **whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom**
12 **would the king delight to do honour more than to myself? [7] And Haman answered**
13 **the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, [8] Let the royal apparel**
14 **be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon,**
15 **and the crown royal which is set upon his head: [9] And let this apparel and horse**
16 **be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array**
17 **the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback**
18 **through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the**
19 **man whom the king delighteth to honour. [10] Then the king said to Haman, Make**
20 **haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to**
21 **Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast**
22 **spoken. [11] Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai,**
23 **and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before**
24 **him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.**

25 **[12] And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house**
26 **mourning, and having his head covered. [13] And Haman told Zeresh his wife and**
27 **all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh**
28 **his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast**
29 **begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him. [14]**
30 **And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened**
31 **to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.**

34 Haman's wife Zeresh must have known more about the Jews than he did for she warned
35 him in verse 13: **If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast**
36 **begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.**

37 Apparently Haman didn't pay much attention for he was off to the fancy dinner with the
38 King and Queen - so blissfully unaware of his dangerous situation. *That is, I think, the*
39 *way we are in America - so unaware of all that is taking place - plus the big one, the*
40 *coming of the Lord.* In the meantime....it's get the tux on, hire the uber driver, and let's
41 get to the party!

Haman's Downfall Begins

When the King questioned Haman about what reward should be given to a certain hero, Haman thought it was himself. The King surely was talking about him! "Well," he said, drawing himself up to his full stature, "I think you should put a royal robe on this fellow....yes, one you have worn yourself, your majesty. And....and one of your crowns! Yes, what a nice touch that would be. And then from the royal stable bring one of your favorite horses, one you ride, and let this fellow ride it through the streets with some fellows alongside crying out, 'This is the way our beloved King honors people!'"

But what a shock it must have been to then hear Xerxes command: Esther 6:10 **Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.** Imagine Haman's anger, having to honor Mordecai publicly when all the time he is planning to kill him and all Mordecai's race!

CHAPTER 7 - HAMAN IS HANGED

Haman woke up for what would be the last several days of his life, thoroughly anticipating dinner with the King and Queen, little realizing he was headed for his own execution.

Esther 7:1-2

So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. [2] And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.

That must have been quite the layout. For at least two days, the food was served to the royal couple and the unsuspecting killer. However, Haman probably was still grouchy, miffed that he had to honor Mordecai instead of hanging him (which he still intended to do).

Perhaps it was out of exasperation that the king finally asked his queen, "OK, what's this all about, Esther? What do you want? Half my kingdom? You got it!" Now she lowers the boom (try to imagine Haman and his shock!)

Esther 7:3-4

Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: [4] For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and

1 **to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my**
2 **tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.**

3
4 Remember Haman wants genocide for the Jews *not knowing that his queen is a Jew!*
5 Apparently Xerxes, her king-husband didn't know it either. You will recall that
6 Mordecai had warned Esther not to reveal her nationality.

7
8 Esther said, "Although you, my king, would have suffered a great loss if all the Jews had
9 been sold into slavery, the situation is far more grievous! All of my people - myself
10 included - have been marked for genocide! On such and such a day, the order has been
11 given and the killing will start! I, too, will be slain!"

12
13 Xerxes was stunned! Esther 7:5 **Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto**
14 **Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do**
15 **so?**

16
17 Can you even imagine the horror that must have crossed Haman's mind? **HE IS THE**
18 **CULPRIT - HE IS THE KILLER!**

19
20 Now a word about Xerxes: he didn't seem to mind the Jews being killed; he just didn't
21 know his queen, his lover, his wife, was also a Jew! Well, that brought the issue home,
22 didn't it? Human life, in general, was no big deal to this Persian monarch. He had lost
23 thousands of soldiers in his recent armada against Greece, but then, human life was
24 cheap. But now – this is MY QUEEN! Anger surged through him! His wife was in
25 mortal danger. Who dares do this? he thunders!

26
27 Here it comes: Esther 7:6 **And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this**
28 **wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.**

29
30 Now there is an understatement! "Haman was afraid!" And - and Xerxes was so
31 stunned he left the table. After all, he was complicate in this monstrous crime against
32 humanity! He had signed the decree (which could even now not be changed).

33
34 Esther 7:7 **And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the**
35 **palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen;**
36 **for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.**

37
38 Haman felt now what Hitler must have felt in late April 1945, deep in his bunker in
39 Berlin, sixty feet below the Reich chancellory. All the crimes Hitler had committed must
40 have plowed through his brain, even as the Walther .77 bullet blew through it as well.
41 Haman knew his show had just ended.



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20 A soldier examines the ruins of Hitler's bunker in Berlin in May of 1945, just weeks after the German dictator took
21 his own life in that very room with a pistol. Hitler is considered one of the worst practitioners of genocide in
22 human history.

23
24 Deep emotions were controlling Xerxes at that moment: (1) Guilt for his gullibility in
25 signing the death warrants for Jews; (2) Overwhelming anger at Haman and (3) and
26 panic at the possible loss of his new Queen. And Haman was begging Esther for his
27 life. Perhaps he was on his knees before Esther and had even touched her somehow in
28 his pathetic plea for clemency; at any rate, it was a very inappropriate place he found
29 himself as the King re-entered the room:

30
31 Esther 7:8

32 **Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of**
33 **wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king,**
34 **Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the**
35 **king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.**

36
37 Haman was apparently clawing at the Queen's couch (it was the custom to recline on
38 couches while enjoying such banquets). Xerxes considered Haman's position as a sex
39 attack on the queen and made short work of him:

40
41 Esther 7:9-10

42 **And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the**

1 **gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken**
2 **good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him**
3 **thereon. [10] So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for**
4 **Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.**

5
6 Haman had thought he was going to a party honoring him; instead, he was headed for a
7 hanging - his! Psalm 37:35-36 **I have seen the wicked in great power, and**
8 **spreading himself like a green bay tree. [36] Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not:**
9 **yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.**

10
11 I have stood at the graves of men such as Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev and others who
12 apparently never heard or actually failed to believe Galatians 6:7: **Be not deceived; God**
13 **is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**

14 15 Chapter 8 - THE DEATH THREAT REMAINS

16
17 Remember the laws of the Medes and Persians: they could not be changed. So despite
18 the fact Haman had been unmasked a killer, the indictment against Persia's Jews
19 remained in effect. How to deal with it?

20
21 Esther 8:1-2

22 **On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy**
23 **unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told**
24 **what he was unto her. [2] And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from**
25 **Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of**
26 **Haman.**

27
28 Haman not only lost his life but his family lost their palace; it was given to Queen Esther
29 by her husband, Xerxes, the King. But the death sentence still hung over Persia's Jews.

30
31 Esther 8:3-6

32 **And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and**
33 **besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his**
34 **device that he had devised against the Jews. [4] Then the king held out the golden**
35 **sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king, [5] And said, If it**
36 **please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right**
37 **before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters**
38 **devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy**
39 **the Jews which are in all the king's provinces: For how can I endure to see the evil**
40 **that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my**
41 **kindred?**

1 What a dilemma! Nothing could be done to change the decree as prepared by the vicious
2 Haman. His hanging changed nothing as far as the decree to kill the Jews was
3 concerned. However, the Jews could be prepared to defend themselves upon receiving
4 the warning of what was coming.

5
6 Esther 8:10-12

7 **And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and**
8 **sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young**
9 **dromedaries: [11] Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to**
10 **gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to**
11 **cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them,**
12 **both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey, [12] Upon one**
13 **day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the**
14 **twelfth month, which is the month Adar.**

15
16 That was a big undertaking for there were 127 provinces throughout the empire. *The*
17 *kingdom employed all means of communication common to that day. Heralds were sent*
18 *out on horseback, on mules, on camels, and on dromedaries – across the Arabian Desert,*
19 *up the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, down into India and some into Africa. The heralds*
20 *were riding in every direction getting this decree out as quickly as possible into every*
21 *village and hamlet in the kingdom. This new decree provided a way of escape for the*
22 *Jews. If they receive the message in time - and believe it - they can save their lives.*

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24
25 Two issues immediately come to mind:

- 26
27 1. This is the reason why Israel exists today - to be a protection for the Jews against all
28 their enemies.
29
30 2. The decree in spiritual terms represents the Cross! It is a chance to escape eternal
31 death - if we believe it!

32
33 Just as there was a need for haste to get the Persian decree to all the provinces in order to
34 save the Jews, so today there is a desperate need for speed to get the Gospel out to all
35 people!

36
37 Esther 8:17

38 **And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment**
39 **and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And**
40 **many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.**
41 **And today the Gospel brings joy and liberty to those who hear and accept it!**

CHAPTER NINE / The Feast of Purim

Esther 9:1-2

Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar (usually in March), on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;) [2] The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.

The 1967 Six Day War of Israel against an amalgamation of surrounding nations is almost a mirror image of what happened in chapter 9. It seems that it has always been so. Here, in other ages and other wars on the great valleys and hills of Israel, had come the elephants of Antiochus, the caravans of Cleopatra, the eagle-flying legions of Pompey and Marc Antony, Vespasian and Titus. In those Galilean hills - that checkerboard of green and brown kibbutz (communal farm) lands, along the Via Maris (the road along the Mediterranean Sea that connected Africa to Europe and Asia) Deborah, the Lady General had vanquished the chariots of the Canaanites. Here King Saul had met disaster at the hands of the Philistines and Israeli King Josiah was slain by the Egyptians and Gideon's trumpet-blowing commandos blew a nerve assault that wiped out the Midianites. Now the Jews would fight for their lives and their Queen Esther and they would win, wiping out the evil plot of the now-executed Haman. *

* Taken from various articles by the Associated Press

Esther 9:3-4

And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. [4] For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.

What an amazing turn-around! Haman the proposed executioner was dead; Mordecai his would-be victim is now a high official in the Persian Empire.

Esther 9:26-28

Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them, [27] The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon

1 **their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail,**
2 **that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to**
3 **their appointed time every year; [28] And that these days should be remembered**
4 **and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city;**
5 **and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial**
6 **of them perish from their seed.**

7
8 The word “Purim” is a difficult word to define but it has to do with “breaking into
9 crumbles.” Also - “casting lots.” If so, it would certain fit what happened to the
10 Persians who wanted to destroy the Jews. Please note: not ALL Persians wanted that to
11 happen.

12
13 The book of Esther concludes in chapter 10 with this short statement:

14
15 Esther 10:1-3

16 **And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea.**
17 **[2] And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the**
18 **greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in**
19 **the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? [3] For Mordecai the**
20 **Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the**
21 **multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all**
22 **his seed.**

23
24 With this glorious summation we conclude our study on Daniel, Nehemiah, Ezra and
25 Esther and close the historical books of the Old Testament.