

REVERSING THE IRREVOCABLE – A GOD ONLY THING (Esther 8)

- God is a God of great reversals and can change circumstances, a person, a marriage, a family, a nation, and even the world – in His time! Do you believe that?

A. Act I - Let's Understand the PRIMARY FACTORS that LED to the DETHRONING of QUEEN VASHTI. (1:1-22)

B. Act II - Let's Understand the PROVIDENTIAL PROCESS that LED to the DECIDING on QUEEN ESTHER. (2:1-18)

C. Act III - Let's Understand the PERSONAL PLOT by HAMAN to DESTROY TOTALLY the JEWS. (2:19-3:15)

D. Act IV - Let's Understand the PERSONAL CONVICTION of ESTHER to DECISIVELY INTERCEDE for the JEWS. (4:1-17)

E. Acts V - Let's Understand the WISDOM & COURAGE of ESTHER and the PROVIDENCE of GOD in REVERSING HAMAN'S PLOT to EXTERMINATE the JEWS. (5:1-7:10)

F. Act VI – Let's Understand How GOD Used QUEEN ESTHER and MORDECAI to COUNTERACT the PREVIOUS DECREE written by HAMAN. (8:1-17)

- This chapter centers around seeking to circumvent the previous edict engineered by Haman for the destruction of all the Jews in the Persian Empire, for though Haman is dead, his edict lived on.
- 1. Reversal #1: From Haman scheming to hang Mordecai on his gallows TO NOW Haman being impaled on his own gallows. (7)** What is still highlighted in vs.1 about Haman?
 - What happened to Haman's property on that day? Was this normal Persian governmental protocol? Why did the King do this to Queen Esther? (8:1a)
 - What is true of every believer in Christ the moment they are saved? (Eph. 1:3; Col.2:10)
 - 2. Reversal #2: From Mordecai having no direct _____ to the King TO NOW having freedom to _____ to him. (8:1a)** What should this remind us of? (Heb.4:16)
 - 3. Reversal #3: From Esther and Mordecai _____ their Jewish identity and relationship TO NOW _____ this to the King. (8:1b)** What should be true of us as believers? (Rom.1:14-17)
 - 4. Reversal #4: From the King giving his signet ring to Haman TO NOW _____ him with Mordecai as the prime minister / grand vizier of the Persian empire. (8:2a)** What should we remember from this?
 - 5. Reversal #5: From Queen Esther being the orphaned cousin of Mordecai and receiving his gracious benefits TO NOW her serving as his _____.** (8:2b) What can God's grace produce in our lives?

6. **Reversal #6: From Queen Esther previously not demonstrating any grief in the presence of the King TO NOW demonstrating _____ in his presence without any fear of retribution. (8:3a)** Must believers ever fear the wrath of God in their lives now or at the Bema?
7. **Reversal #7: From Esther thinking only of herself initially TO NOW continuing to _____ and have _____ for others in great need. (8:3b)** How many Jews were estimated in the Persian Empire in that day? Is God doing this in your life?
8. **Reversal #8: From Haman writing an irrevocable decree to annihilate all the Jews of the empire on a certain day TO NOW Esther and Mordecai writing an _____ decree that allows the Jews to defend themselves from any aggressors on that day. (8:4-8)** What must we remember about human laws and government?
- What things does God reverse or at least can mitigate in the life of a believer?
9. **Reversal #9: From the secretaries writing out Haman’s murderous decree in the various languages of the empire to be sent via letters by horseback TO NOW Mordecai’s decree being written down by secretaries in various languages and distributed by couriers on royal horseback. (8:9-10)** How should this remind and even convict us of the need to spread the Gospel far and wide with the means and opportunities of our day?
10. **Reversal #10: From Haman’s decree “to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions” (3:13) TO NOW “the king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the armed men of any nationality or province who might attack them and their women and children, and to plunder the property of their enemies.” (8:11)** Why was this needed? (8:12-13) How would this have been in complete harmony with the Abrahamic Covenant? (Gen.12”1-3) Does this still apply today?
11. **Reversal #11: From Mordecai being seen in sackcloth and ashes outside the King’s quarter’s TO NOW wearing royal attire. (8:14-15)** How has this become true spiritually of every believer through faith alone in Christ alone, and not by our works? (Isa. 64:6; 2 Cor. 5:21) How will something similar be true of faithful believers after the Judgment Seat of Christ?
12. **Reversal #12: From confusion in the city, great fear by the Jews, great delight by some in the Persian empire who hated the Jews or wanted to plunder their goods, along with Haman and the King sitting down to drink (3:15ff) TO NOW “the city of Shushan _____ and was _____ (8:15), the _____ had light and gladness, joy and honor” (8:16), and in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a _____ and a holiday. Then many of the people of the land _____, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.” (8:17)** Do you rejoice when you hear of the salvation of others and the spreading of the WOG?
- How does all of this apply to you?