

“O Yes, He Cares!”
Esther 2:1-11

Introduction:

1. **IE:** Frank Graeff Was A Methodist Pastor Who Lived From 1860-1919. He Was Known For His Positive Attitude And Cheery Disposition, So Much So That He Was Eventually Given The Nick-Name - "The Sunshine Minister!" One Would Think That An Individual With Such A Cheery Disposition Had A Problem-Free Life And Had It All Together! In Frank's Case, The Contrary Was Actually True! The Reason For His Being Such A Cheerful, Positive, And Encouraging Person Was Not Because He Had No Problems, But He Displaed These Attitudes In Spite Of His Problems - And His Problems Were Severe Many Times! During One Period In His Life, Frank Was Experiencing Some Serious Physical Issues, And Even As A Pastor, He Began To Doubt The Reality Of God's Presence In His Suffering. He Needed Some Real Encouragement And Strength - So He Started Looking Through The Bible. He Quickly Stumbled On 1 Peter 5:7 - "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you!" He Was Especially Touched By The Words - "He Careth For You!" And As He Meditated On Those Words, He Found The Encouragement & Assurance That He Was Looking For! Eventually, He Was Inspired To Write These Words: (florentintise.com/hymn-story-does-jesus-care)
 - Does Jesus care when my heart is pained
Too deeply for mirth or song,
As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?
 - And Then, Based On What He Had Learned About The Lord From 1 Peter 5:7 - He Answers His Own Question!
 - Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.
2. This Morning - As We Continue Our Series:
 - Through The Book Of Esther:
 - We Are Going To See The Providential Care:
 - That God Has For His People!
 - So - Please Head Back With Me In Your Bibles:
 - To Esther Chapter 2 - Where:
 - After Spending An Entire Chapter Looking At A God-Less King & His Kingdom:
 - We Will Find The People Of God Living Right There Among Them!
 - We Will Find:
 - A Certain Jew Named Mordecai:
 - And His Cousin & Adopted Daughter Esther:
 - Who Were Still Living In The Land Of Their Captivity:
 - Even Though It Had Been Nearly 60 Years Since The First Persian King – King Cyrus Allowed Jews To Resettle In Their Homeland & Rebuild Their Temple To God!
3. So - If The Jews Were Permitted To Go Home:
 - Why Were Mordecai & Esther Still In Persia:
 - And Even In One Of The Great Capitol Cities Of Shushan?
 - Would The Lord Still Care For Them:
 - As They Remained Behind?
 - In The Words Of Frank Graeff:
 - We Will See This Morning This Answer:
 - “O Yes, He Cares! I Know He Cares!”
 - And If God Can Show His Ongoing Care To His People – Even When He Is Not Even Named Or Identified In This Book:
 - God Still Cares For You – If You Are His Child:
 - No Matter Where You Are & No Matter What You Face & Are Going Through!
 - “O Yes, He Cares!”
 - And You Can Trust In His Continuing Care!
 - Even As 1 Peter 5:7 Tells Us - “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you!”
 - And We Can Learn This Lesson Through Esther 2:1-11! Read Text!

4. Now - Many Times - This Passage Is Made To Look Like:
 - A "Beauty Pageant" - Like Miss America Or Miss Universe!
 - But Even Though Some Of The Elements Are The Same:
 - It Is Really Nothing Like It At All!
 - In Today's Pageants - Each Contestant Enters Willingly:
 - But In This Great Persian Pageant:
 - The "Contestants" Were Little More Than A "Collection" Of Living Dolls:
 - Taken From Their Families To Satisfy The Whims & Lusts Of A Lonely King:
 - Who - If You Will Remember - Was Lonely Because Of His Own Hasty Action Against His Queen!
 - And Once They Entered The King's House:
 - They Belonged To Him - And Likely Were Never Permitted To Return Home Or To See Their Family Ever Again!
 - It Was Not So Glamourous After All!
 - And So - From The Aftermath Of The King's Rash Decree Against Vashti The Queen:
 - We See Even More:

1. *The Need For God's Care!*

- O How The People Of God Always Need His Care!
 - Because The World In Which We Live:
 - Is Not So Different Than The World In Which The Jews Lived There In Persia!
 - Make No Mistake - The World Cares Nothing For God!
 - And So - The World Cares:
 - Very Little For God's People!
 - And King Ahasuerus Is A Great Example Of This!
 - The World Only Cares For:
 - Its Own Problems!
 - Like The Problem Of The King!
 - 2:1 - "After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her!"
 - After Everything That Happened In Chapter 1:
 - It Appears That The Great King Of Persia:
 - Was Lonely - And Was Even Starting To Feel Some Remorse / Regret For Deposing & Divorcing His Queen!
 - But He Was Powerless To Do Anything About It!
 - So Much For His Greatness!
 - But - An Unhappy King Could Easily Mean:
 - An Unhappy Kingdom - And So - His Servants Were Ready To Move Heaven & Earth To Get The King Out Of His Mood & Depression!
 - And Even From This - We Learn That The World Only Cares For:
 - Its Own Peace!
 - Like The "Peace" That His Servants Would Experience:
 - When The King Was Happy Again!
 - It Is Likely That The Interest Of "The King's Servants That Ministered Unto Him" - In Verse 2 - Was Their Own!
 - Some Of Them Were Probably The Same Counselors:
 - That Suggested That The King:
 - Get Rid Of The Queen!
 - And Now That He Was Missing Vashti & Regretting What He Did:
 - Who Else Could He Get Back At - But Them?
 - And So - To Appease The King:
 - And Probably To Redeem Themselves:
 - They Came Up With A Plan For A "Beauty Contest" Like None Other!
 - Showing Once Again That The World Only Cares For:
 - Its Own Pleasure!
 - 2:2-4 - "Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king: / 3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of

- Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them: / 4 And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so!"
- Everything Was Planned & Performed:
 - For The Pleasure Of The King!
 - There Appears Little Concern For The "Fair Young Virgins" Or Their Families
 - Just The King!
 - And - These Young Ladies:
 - Who Were Likely In Their Teens:
 - Would Have Been Taken From Their Homes & Families To Become The Property Of The King!
 - And Though These "Fair Young Virgins" Would Be:
 - Well Taken-Care Of For The Rest Of Their Lives:
 - Most Of Them Would Never Truly Experience The Care & Love Their New Husband!
 - This Is The Kind Of World We Live In As Well!
 - A World That Only Cares For:
 - Its Own Things!
 - Own Problems / Peace / Pleasure!
 - And There Is A Great Need:
 - For Someone To Truly Care For Us & Our Souls!
 - And That Is What Leads Us To See:

2. ***The Nature Of God's Care!***

- Because - Within This Persian World Of Self-Interest:
 - We Are Introduced To Some Of God's Chosen People!
 - 2:5-7 - "Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; / 6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. / 7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter!"
 - Mordecai & Esther Were Jews!
 - And - If You Remember From Our First Look Into The Book Of Esther:
 - The People Of God Are Just One Of His "Fingerprints" That Can Be Found All Throughout Its Pages!
 - And Where The People Of God Are:
 - There God Is! And So We See:
- God's Own Presence With His People!
 - And His Care For Them!
 - The Lord Told Them / Promised Them - Even Before Their Years Of Captivity:
 - That He Would Be With Them!
 - Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness!"
 - Isaiah 43:1-3 - "But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. / When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. / For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour!"
 - And These Special Promises Applied To:
 - Mordecai & Esther As Well!
 - God Would Care For Them & Be With Them & Never Forsake Them!
 - But He Would Also Care For Them By:
 - By His Protection!
- God's Own Protection Of His People!
 - In Verse 6 - We Are Reminded 3 Times:
 - That The Family Of Mordecai & The Jewish People:
 - "Had Been Carried Away!"
 - "Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with

- Jecooniah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away!”
 - And Yet - Even Though They Had Been:
 - “Carried Away” - What Did We Read In 2:5?
- A List Of Mordecai’s Family Line!
 - He Was The “Son Of Jair, The Son Of Shimei, The Son Of Kish, A Benjamite!”
 - God Had Protected His Family:
 - Through All Those Years Of Captivity!
 - God Had Protected His Identity:
 - Through All Those Years Of Captivity!
- And Now - God Would Protect Him & His People:
 - Through One Of The Most Difficult Challenges:
 - They Would Face In That Foreign Land!
 - But We Also Learn From These Verses:
- God’s Own Provision For His People!
 - When God Used Mordecai:
 - To Care For A Young Jewish Orphan Girl:
 - Named Esther - Who We First Meet:
 - In 2:7 - “And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle’s daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter!”
 - We Are Not Sure What Happened To Esther’s Parents:
 - But - An Orphaned Girl In Ancient Times:
 - Was Very Vulnerable & Most Times Unwanted!
 - But Mordecai:
 - Made A Commitment To This Young Girl:
 - And Provided Her A Home!
 - His Home!
 - It Would Have Been A Home Of:
 - Great Love!
 - Great Leading!
 - Great Looking After!
 - How Could We Possibly Know This?
 - Because - After Growing Up In Mordecai’s Home:
 - There Were No Signs Of “Worry” That Crossed Her Face!
 - She Remained “Fair & Beautiful!”
 - She Was Well Cared-For By Mordecai!
- And Through His Care For Esther:
 - Mordecai Was Reflecting The Heart & The Care:
 - Of God Himself!
 - Who Is - “A Father Of The Fatherless!” (Psalm 68:5)
 - And This Is The Kind Of Care:
 - That God Always Has For His People!
 - He Often Uses Other People - Like He Used Mordecai!
 - But The Greatest Display Of His Care:
 - Is Through The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Jesus Himself Promises:
 - His Presence With His People!
 - Matthew 28:20 - “And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen!”
 - His Protection Of His People!
 - 2 Timothy 2:19 - “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his!”
 - So - Even When We Feel So Lost In This Selfish & Self-Interested World:
 - “The Lord Knoweth Them That Are His!”
 - His Provision For His People!
 - Matthew 6:31-32 - “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? / (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things!”
- Nothing Can Compare / To The Care Of The Lord / For His People!

- Can This Be Applied To You This Morning?
 - Are You One Of His People?
 - Have You - Like Esther - Been Adopted Into His Family?
- You Can Respond To His Promises Of Care:
 - By Turning To Him & Trusting In Him:
 - For The Greatest Demonstration Of His Care & Love For You!
 - Romans 5:6-8 - "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. / For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. / But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!"
- And When You Believe In Him:
 - Jesus Says - John 6:37 - "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out!"
 - And He Will Fulfill Your Great Need For Care!
- Does Jesus care when my way is dark
With a nameless dread and fear?
As the daylight fades into deep night shades,
Does He care enough to be near?
 - Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.

* We Also See In Esther:

3. ***The Nurture Of God's Care!***

- 2:8-11 - "So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women. / 9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women. / 10 Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it. / 11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her!"
 - To Understand What Is Going On In These Verses:
 - We Need To Remember Mordecai's Adoption Of Esther Into His Own Family!
 - This Gives Us A Peek Into His Character!
 - Because - One Thing We See In The Book Of Esther Is That:
 - The Author Is A Master At Masking The Motives Of The Characters In The Story!
 - But When We Come To These Verses:
 - Esther Is Now "Carried Away" Into The King's House – Even As Her People Had Been "Carried Away" Into Captivity!
 - Esther Did Not Enter This As A Competition:
 - She Was "Brought" Like Another Doll:
 - For The King's Collection!
 - It Does Not Appear That This Is Something She Wanted For Herself!
 - But - When She Found Herself In This Situation:
 - She Did What She Could To Make The Most Of It!
 - 2:9 - "And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him!"
 - Makes Us Think Of Some Other Jews:
 - From Her History:
 - Like Joseph - Enslaved & Then Accused & Imprisoned For A Crime He Did Not Commit In Egypt!
 - Genesis 39:3-4 - "The LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. / And Joseph found grace in his sight!"
 - Was Not God With Esther As Well?
 - Even Though God's Name Is Not Mentioned:
 - Do We Not See God's Providential Care For Esther & Mordecai - And All Of His People?
 - And So - Even In Her "Personal Captivity" - As Plush As Her Surroundings May Have Been:

- The Hidden Hand Of God's Providential Care:
 - Continued To Nurture Esther! We See:
- A Relationship Of Continual Blessing!
 - Ultimately, God Would Have Been The One Who Turned The Heart Of Hegai Toward Esther!
 - And So, Through Him - God Provided Esther With Everything She Needed!
 - 2:9 - "She Obtained Kindness Of Him!"
 - We Also See:
- A Relationship Of Continual Trust!
 - 2:10 - "Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it!"
 - Now - We Do Not Know Why Mordecai:
 - Instructed Esther To Not Tell Anyone That She Was A Jew!
 - Some Believe It Was Out Of Fear!
 - Others Believe It Was Out Of Faith!
 - Like The Faith That Moses' Parents Had When They Hid Him For Three Months To Spare His Life!
 - Either Way - Esther Trusted Mordecai:
 - And His Judgment & Wisdom In This Matter:
 - And So - She Kept Her Lips Closed:
 - In Regard To Her Nation & Her God!
 - She Would Not Be Able To Identify With Her People:
 - Publically – But Would Have To:
 - Privately! But She Had An Implicit Trust In The One Who Had Cared For Her All Those Years! Also See:
- A Relationship Of Continual Attention!
 - 2:11 - "And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her!"
 - **IE:** Reminds Me Of When Paige First Drove On Her Own To School!
 - Now - We Don't Know What Motivated Mordecai To Do This:
 - Was It Out Of Worry & Lack Of Trust?
 - Or Was It To Lovingly Watch Out For Esther, As He Had Done All Those Years!
- I Believe That These Verses Show:
 - The Mutual Relationship Of Love & Trust That Mordecai & Esther Had Toward Each Other!
 - A Relationship That Reflects A Christian's Relationship With God Through Christ!
 - Think Of His Continual Blessing!
 - Think Of His Continual Attention!
 - And Think Of How You Can Continue To:
 - Trust In Him – And Obey!

Conclusion:

1. God Displayed His Providential Care:
 - For His People Through Mordecai & Esther!
 - How Will You Respond To:
 - God's Continuing Care For You?
 - You Need To:
 - Rely On His Care For You!
 - Matthew 6:25-26 - "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? / Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"
 - You Need To:
 - Reflect His Care To Others!
 - Even As Mordecai Did!
 - James 1:27 - "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world!"
 - Think Of People You Can Show God's Care!
 - Think Of Ways You Can Show God's Care!
 - And Never Forget Why You Can Show God's Care!

- "For He Careth For You!"

2. Does Jesus care when I've tried and failed
To resist some temptation strong;
When for my deep grief there is no relief,
Though my tears flow all the night long?
- Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.

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