

“Confidence In The Providence Of God!”
Esther 6:1-11

Introduction:

1. As We Return To Our Study Through The Book Of Esther:
 - Please Turn With Me To Esther 6:
 - A New Chapter - But We Continue To Look At:
 - The One-Night-Long Intermission Between The Two Banquets Queen Esther Prepared:
 - For The King & For Haman!
 - Not Only Was There Something Going On:
 - In The Life Of Haman:
 - Who Had Just Determined To Get Rid Of:
 - Mordecai Once And For All!
 - But There Was Also Something Going On:
 - In The Life Of The King:
 - And Now Our Attention Is Turned To Him!
2. In Esther 6:1:
 - “On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king!”
 - Everything That We Will Look At This Morning – All Starts:
 - Because The King Had A Restless & A Sleepless Night!
 - Have You Ever Experienced This?
 - When Your Sleep Seems To “Flee” From You?
 - Have You Ever Considered:
 - That Maybe God Himself Was Working & Moving:
 - Even Through Your Sleepless Night?
 - We Might Not Know How!
 - We Might Not Know Why!
 - But - As We Will See Even This Morning:
 - God Is Always Working & Always Moving His Will & His Plan Forward!
 - Even In & Sometimes Through Our Sleepless Nights!
3. God Is Always In Control – Even Of:
 1. ***The Circumstances Around His Work!***
 - And We See This Going On In 6:1-4:
 - Where On That Single Sleepless Night:
 - God Continues To Work Out His Plan:
 - To Deliver His People & To Destroy His Enemies!
 - As We Read Through These First Several Verses:
 - Everything That Is Mentioned Seems So Small & Insignificant:
 - Yet Are All Of These Seemingly Random & Trivial Details:
 - Just Coincidence? Or Accident?
 - There Must Be A Hidden Hand At Work Through All Of This!
 - Consider:
 - The Timing Of These Circumstances:
 - 6:1 - “On That Night!”
 - The Same Night - After Esther’s First Banquet!
 - The Same Night - That Haman Was Plotting:
 - To Destroy Mordecai!
 - The Same Night - That The King’s Heart:
 - Would Be Moved To Remember & Reward Mordecai For His Loyalty & Faithfulness!
 - Was This Timing – Just Coincidence? Or What About:
 - The Trouble Of These Circumstances:
 - “On That Night – Could Not The King Sleep!”
 - His Sleep “Fled” From Him!
 - Again - Not Sure Why!
 - Was This A Common Problem For The King? Yet:
 - Was This Trouble – Just Coincidence? Or Consider:

- The Treatment For These Circumstances:
 - The Persian Kings Were Known To Love:
 - Their Entertainments!
 - And Ahasuerus Could Have Passed His Sleepless Night Any Number Of Ways!
 - He Could Have Called For His Musicians To Come In!
 - He Could Have Called For Queen Esther!
 - But Instead - What Did He Call For?
 - “To Bring The Book Of Records Of The Chronicles!”
 - The Official Journals Of The Important Events In His Empire!
 - Sort Of The “Congressional Record” Of The Day!
 - There Are Some Who Believe That:
 - The King Did This To Help Him Go Back To Sleep!
 - And This Is Possible - Because The Records Were Just Lists Of Names & Events! Very Tiring To Go Through! Feel Sorry For The Servants Who Had To Read For Him!
 - But Out Of All Of The Records Available To The King:
 - The One That Was Chosen Didn’t Put The King To Sleep:
 - Instead - It Aroused His Attention In An Even Greater Way!
 - Was This Treatment – Just Coincidence?
- And Then - 6:2 - “And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus!”
 - Now This Event - Which We Learned About:
 - All The Way Back In Chapter 2:
 - Seems To Have Taken Place Nearly 5 Years Before The King’s Sleepless Night!
 - And Yet - For Five Years - Mordecai’s Display Of Loyalty To The King:
 - Seemed To Go Unnoticed!
 - But Not For A Moment Longer!
- 6:3 - “And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king’s servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him!”
 - It Was Common In The Persian Empire:
 - For The Kings To Reward The Loyalty Of Their Subjects In:
 - Extravagant Ways!
 - Not Only To Show Their Own Power - But Also To Foster Even More Loyalty!
 - The Old Greek Historian - Herodotus - Explained How: “It Was A Point Of Honor With Persian Kings To Reward Promptly & Generously Those Who Had Benefitted Them!”
 - And Yet - What Had Been Done For Mordecai?
 - The One Who Had Even Spared The King’s Life?
 - “Nothing!”
 - This Would Have Disturbed The King:
 - And Now That He’s Entirely Awake - And The Morning Is Fast Approaching:
 - He Wants To Remedy This Immediately!
 - But Was This Transgression Of The King – Coincidence?
 - To Forget To Reward Mordecai For 5 Long Years?
 - And Yet - Mordecai Remained Faithful In His Service To The King At The King’s Gate!
 - And So - We Read In:
- 6:4 - “And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king’s house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him!”
 - Now - Once Again - The King Is Wanting Some Advice:
 - To Know What To Do For Mordecai!
 - Some Seemingly Random Advice From A Random Person:
 - But Who Was Already On His Way To See The King?
 - None Other Than Haman Himself!
 - And It Is Interesting That:
 - Both The King & Haman Have One Man:
 - The Same Man - On Their Minds!
 - Mordecai!
 - The King Is Thinking Of:

- Honoring Mordecai!
- But Haman Is Thinking Of:
 - Hanging Mordecai!
 - But Was This Meeting – Just Coincidence?
- No! Because Mordecai Is Also On The Mind & Heart:
 - Of Someone Else!
 - The Mind & Heart Of God!
 - And Even Though The King & Haman Are Thinking Opposite Thoughts About Mordecai:
 - God Himself Is Overseeing Everything As The Great Watchmaker Of This World!
 - **IE:** Even As The Gears Of A Watch May Run Entirely Opposite From Each Other – Yet They Function According To The Design & Plan Of The Watchmaker – To Tell The Time! God Is All-Wise & All-Powerful:
 - And Is Able To “Overrule The Passions And Free Actions Of Men [To] Promote His Holy And Wise Designs!” (McRie)
 - In Fact - There Is Only One Man:
 - Who Is Completely & Entirely Passive Through All Of This!
 - And That Is Mordecai!
 - And I Believe That God Is Reminding & Instructing Mordecai Through All Of This:
 - That Even In The Small & Secret Circumstances In His Life – God Is Still In Complete Control!
 - And This Is Something That We Need To Believe As Well!
 - If You Have Been Born Again Into God’s Family:
 - Every Circumstance That You Face:
 - Is Under The Watchful Eye & The Guiding Hand Of The Lord – Your Heavenly Father!
 - And Even If It Seems Like:
 - Noone Is Looking After You Or Everyone Is Forgetting You & Who You Are & What You Do For The Lord:
 - The Lord Is Not Like King Ahasuerus!
 - Hebrews 6:10 - “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister!”
 - God Always Remembers:
 - Your Service For Him!
 - So No Matter What Is Going On Around You! Your Circumstances! Remain Faithful & Loyal To Him!
 - God Is Always In Control Of:
 - The Circumstances Around His Work & In Your Life!
 - But We Also See That God Is Also In Control Of:

2. ***The Counsels Against His Work!***

- Which We See In 6:5-9:
 - “And the king’s servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in. / 6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself? / 7 And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, / 8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: / 9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king’s most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour!”
 - We See From These Verses:
- The Great Pride:
 - That Man Can Have Against The Work:
 - And the People Of God!
 - After The King Asks Haman For His Advice:
 - 6:6 - “Haman Thought In His Heart, To Whom Would The King Delight To Do Honor More Than To Myself?”
 - Once Again - Haman’s Proud Heart Rears Its Ugly Head!

- And So - With Every Word - He Is Not Thinking Of The King Nor Of Any Other Man - But Himself!
- Yet - In God's Providence Once Again:
 - Haman Is No Longer Thinking About Mordecai!
 - Haman No Longer Is Thinking About His Own Request To Kill Mordecai!
 - The Providence Of God Was Still At Work! We Can Also See:
- The Great Plans:
 - That Man Can Have Against The Work
 - And The People Of God!
 - The Advice Haman Gives The King:
 - Showed His Own Heart & Ambition!
 - In Chapter 5 - Haman Started Listing Off Everything He Had!
 - Great Wealth!
 - Great Family!
 - Great Position & Power!
 - Great Relationships!
 - There Was One Thing:
 - That Was Seemingly Out Of His Grasp:
 - And That Was The Crown Itself!
 - And So - His Advice To The King Was To Make The One To Be Honored Feel Like A King!
 - Wearing The Royal Apparel!
 - Riding The Royal Horse:
 - Wearing The Royal Crown!
 - It Is Likely That A Crown / Crest Was Placed On The Head Of The Horse - Based On The Text Itself - And On Inscriptions Found In Persia!
 - And Be Paraded Through The Streets Of:
 - The Royal City Of Shushan:
 - Led By "One Of The King's Most Noble Princes!"
 - For All To See & Honor Him!
 - This Would Have Been A Very:
 - Personal Honor & Public Honor!
 - But - From What We Know About Haman:
 - Would Even This Have Been Enough?
 - Would This Have Satisfied Him?
 - It Probably Would Have Inflamed His Ambition Even More!
- But Once Again:
 - Even Though God Is Not Mentioned In Any Of:
 - These Thoughts & Deliberations:
 - God Is Still In Control!
 - Psalm 33:10-11 - "The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. / The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations!"
 - How Much "Counsel" Goes On:
 - That Ignores God:
 - In This World? In Our Lives?
 - How Much "Counsel" Goes On:
 - That Defies God:
 - In This World?
 - Remember - "The Counsel Of The Lord Standeth For Ever!"
- And So – God Is Always Able To Redeem:
 - You From The Counsel Of Men!
 - Remember Joseph & The Counsel Of His Own Brothers To Sell Him Into Egypt?
 - Genesis 50:20 - "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive!"
 - Remember Jesus & The Counsel Of His Own People To Slay Him?
 - Acts 2:23-24 - "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: / Whom God hath

raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it!"

- You Can Trust In The Lord & Remain Faithful To Him:
 - Because God Is Even In Control Of:
 - The Counsel Against His Work!
 - He Is Also In Control Of:

3. ***The Completion Of His Work!***

- Now Imagine The Anticipation Of Haman:
 - Before The King Finally Speaks – In 6:10-11:
 - “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. / Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour!”
 - What A Shock To The System Of Haman!
 - The “Man Whom The King Delighted To Honor” Was The Same Man Whom:
 - Haman Desired To Hang!
- ***Mordecai:***
 - Would Wear The Royal Apparel!
 - Would Ride The Royal Horse!
 - Would Receive The Royal Honor!
- And ***Haman*** Would Be:
 - The One Who Was To Lead Him!
 - What A Shock!
 - What A Shame!
 - What An Outrage!
- Yet - Haman Did So To:
 - As The King Himself Described Him:
 - “Mordecai The Jew!”
 - Yes - The King By This Time Knew That Mordecai Was A Jew!
- The King Would Have Known That:
 - The Days Of Mordecai & His People:
 - Were Numbered - Yet He Sought To Honor Him Anyways!
 - Because - I Believe - It Was Not Just The King Who “Delighted To Honor” Mordecai - But God Himself!
- This Seems To Have Been:
 - A Providential Token Of God’s Grace & Favor:
 - To Mordecai!
 - **IE:** An “Earnest” To Him - To Show Him His Plan & Purpose!
- And Isn’t This What God Often Does To Us!
 - In A World Where His People:
 - Are All To Often Forgotten & Forsaken:
 - He Remembers!
 - He Redeems!
 - He Even Reminds Us Of His Goodness & His Grace!
 - With Providential Tokens To Show What He Has In Store For His Children!
- Romans 8:28 - “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose!”
 - When You “Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ” And Are Saved:
 - You Can Remain Completely Confident In The Providence Of God!
 - Even When You Don’t See Or Know Or Understand Everything That Is Going On ***Around*** You:
 - Or Even ***To*** You:
 - God Remains In Complete Control!
- He Is In Complete Control:
 - Of All Of Your Circumstances!
 - Of All Of Men’s Counsels – Even Against Him & You!

- Of The Completion Of His Own Work In This World & In Your Life!

Conclusion:

1. So - You Can Trust The Lord:
 - As You Remain Faithful To Him!
 - Psalm 37:5 - “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass!”
 - And - One Of The Great Things That He Will Bring To Pass:
 - Is His Great Reward!
 - Who Does The **Lord** “Delight To Honor?”
 - All Those Who Put Their Faith & Trust In The Lord Jesus Christ As Their Savior From Sin!
 - Mordecai Was Able To:
 - Wear The King’s Robe:
 - And Ride The King’s Horse!
 - But That Only Lasted For A Short Time! Because After Receiving All Of This Honor - Where Does Mordecai Return?
 - 6:12 - “And Mordecai came again to the king’s gate!”
2. But The Honor God Will Provide To Every Christian:
 - Will Last Forever!
 - 1 Peter 1:3-5 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, / To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, / Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time!”
 - So Be Faithful To The Lord!
 - No Matter What You Face In Your Life:
 - You Can Have Confidence In The Providence Of The Lord!

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