

“Enlargement & Deliverance”
Esther 8:7-14

Introduction:

1. Have You Ever Faced An Obstacle In Your Life:
 - That Seemed Insurmountable?
 - Something So Difficult, That You Felt Like:
 - You Were Unable To Overcome It?
 - **IE:** This Is The Point Of Some Obstacle Courses! Ever Watch The Show - “American Ninja Warrior”? For Some Contestants - There Is That One Obstacle That They Just Can’t Get Over!
 - This Is The Kind Of Obstacle:
 - That The Jews Faced:
 - During The Life & Times Of Esther!
 - Their Deliverance Seemed Impossible!
2. As We Head Back To Esther 8 This Morning:
 - Queen Esther Is Once Again:
 - Standing In The Presence Of Her Husband:
 - The King Of All Persia!
 - And She Was Finally Able:
 - To Pour Out Her The Burden Of Her Heart:
 - In 8:6 - “For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?”
 - But Now What?
 - What Could Be Done?
 - One Of The Cardinal Laws Of The Persian Empire Was This:
 - Any Writing Or Decree “Written In The King’s Name, And Sealed With The King’s Ring, May No Man Reverse!” (8:8b)
3. Esther & Her People:
 - Needed Deliverance!
 - But At That Point, It Seemed Impossible!
 - It Seemed Like Haman’s Device:
 - To Destroy The Jews – Would Stand!
 - But Once Again:
 - We See The Providence Of The God:
 - Intervene On Behalf Of His People!
 - God Was Able:
 - To Make A Way To Deliver His People From Destruction!
4. And We See This In:
 - 8:7-14 - “Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews. / 8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king’s name, and seal it with the king’s ring: for the writing which is written in the king’s name, and sealed with the king’s ring, may no man reverse. / 9 Then were the king’s scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language. / 10 And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus’ name, and sealed it with the king’s ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries: [Riding On Swift Horses That Were Used In The King’s Service - ESV] / 11 Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey, / 12 Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar. / 13 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies. / 14 So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out [Swift Horses Used In The King’s Service - ESV], being hastened and pressed on by the king’s commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace!”
5. In These Verses - We Find That:
 - There **IS** A Way Of Deliverance:

- For Esther And Her People!
 - Even Though It **Seemed** Like Their Backs Were Up Against An Imposing Wall:
 - Once Again - The God Of Israel Proved That He Was “Able To Deliver” Them!
- And This Is Important To Us As Well!
 - Because Through The Deliverance Of The Jews Would Come The Deliverer Of Sinners!
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And He Is Able To Deliver Us As Well!
- And - Beginning With 8:7 - We See:

1. ***The Great Mission Of Deliverance!***

- When Esther Made Her Final Appeal To The King:
 - Even Though He Seems To Be Moved By Her Stirring Words:
 - He Still Seems To Consider The Matter More-Or-Less Settled!
 - And Instead Of Trying To Help, The First Thing He Does Is Remind Her Of:
- The Generous Provision:
 - He Had Given To Her – And To Mordecai, Her Father!
 - 8:7 - “Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews!”
 - Now - For Others - This Might Have Been Enough!
 - But Not For Esther & Mordecai!
 - They Cared More For God’s People Than For Themselves!
 - I’m Sure That They Were Grateful:
 - For What The King Had Given Them:
 - But Their Mission Had Not Yet Been Finished!
 - They Could Not:
 - And They Would Not - Settle For Anything Less Than The Deliverance & Security Of Their People!
 - And So - The King Finally Offers:
- The Gracious Permission:
 - To Rescue The Jews:
 - No Matter What It Took!
 - 8:8 - “Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king’s name, and seal it with the king’s ring: for the writing which is written in the king’s name, and sealed with the king’s ring, may no man reverse!”
 - Now - Even Though The King Grants His Royal Permission:
 - To Accomplish Esther & Mordecai’s Purpose:
 - He Still Seems Very Dismissive & Passive In His Own Role In This!
 - This Seems To Have Been His Nature & Character!
 - In Order To Pacify His Wrath:
 - He Had Haman Killed!
 - In Order To Pacify His Guilt:
 - He Gave Haman’s Estate To Esther!
 - And Now - In Order To Pacify His Wife:
 - **IE:** You Know What They Say - “Happy Wife - Happy Life!”
 - He Tells Her & Her Father:
 - To Do Whatever They Want - “As It Liketh You!”
 - But Even Though His Motives May Have Been Selfish:
 - God Was Able To Use Them & Move Through Them To Ensure The Safety & Security Of His People!
 - The King May Not Have Known What To Do:
 - But The God Of Heaven Was On A Mission:
 - To Deliver His People!
 - And Nothing - Not Even An Irrational King Or Law - Could Stop Him!
- And Don’t We See The Same Thing In Our Own Lives?
 - The Bible Tells Us That:
 - Our Biggest Obstacle In Life:
 - Is Sin - And The “Wages” For That Sin - Which Is Death!

- And There Is No Way We Can Overcome Those Obstacles!
- We Are Utterly & Hopelessly Dead “In Trespasses & Sins!”
- But The God Of Heaven Had A Mission:
 - A “Great Mission Of Deliverance!”
 - And Nothing Could Stand In His Way!
 - Not Sin! Not Death! Not Even The Law Itself!
- And So - “God Sent His Only Begotten Son Into The World” With All Of The Authority Of Heaven:
 - So “That We Might Live Through Him!” (1 John 4:9)
 - When It Seemed Impossible For Us To Be Delivered From Our Sin - God Had A Way!
- Love found a way, to redeem my soul,
Love found a way, that could make me whole.
Love sent my Lord to the cross of shame,
Love found a way, O praise His holy Name!
- Jesus Christ Is God’s Way Of Deliverance!
 - Are You Trusting In Him:
 - For The Deliverance You Need From Your Sin?

* Back In Esther - We Also See:

2. ***The Great Method Of Deliverance!***

- When Esther & Mordecai Received The Permission Of The King:
 - They Wasted No Time To Devise Another Way:
 - To Deliver Their People From Haman’s Decree!
 - And We See This In - 8:9-10 - “Then were the king’s scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language. / And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus’ name, and sealed it with the king’s ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries!”
 - Now - 8:9 - Is The Longest Verse In The Bible!
 - But It Is Also Interesting - Because Most Of The Words Of The Verse - We Have Already Seen Before!
 - In Fact - Most Of The Words From 8:9-14 Are Repeated Nearly Word-For-Word From 3:12-15 - When Haman’s Decree Was Sent All Throughout The Persian Empire!
- Now - I Think We See In This:
 - The Kind Of Man Mordecai Was!
 - He Was A Man Of Great Wisdom & Skill!
 - By Using The Same Procedure & Even Many Of The Same Words As Haman:
 - He Was Able To Show The Intent Of This New Law - To Effectively Reverse The Decree Of Haman, Even Though It Was Not Possible To Do So Legally!
 - So - The Similarities Between:
 - Mordecai’s New Law:
 - And Hamans Old Law – Are Striking!
 - But The Differences Are Even More So!
- The Timing Was Different!
 - 8:9 - “Then Were The King’s Scribed Called ***At That Time!***”
 - In Other Words - Mordecai Wasted ***NO*** Time To Accomplish His Mission!
 - Whereas Haman Cast Lots To Determine The Right Day & The Right Time!
- The Motive Was Different!
 - 8:9 - “It Was Written According To All That Mordecai Commanded!”
 - Mordecai Was A Good Man:
 - Who Loved God’s People!
 - Haman Was A Wicked Man:
 - Who Hated God’s People!
- The Manner Was Different!
 - 8:10 - “And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus’ name, and sealed it with the king’s ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries!”
 - Last Part - Difficult To Translate - Instead Of Different Animals - More Than Likely Describes

- The Kind Of Horses Used - “Swift Horses That Were Used In The King’s Service!”
- There Was A Greater Urgency By Mordecai:
 - To Save & Deliver The Jews:
 - Than Haman Had To Destroy The Jews!
 - The Word Had To Get Out!
 - The Day Was Fast Approaching! And The Jews Were “Scattered Abroad & Dispersed!” (3:8)
- And Don’t We See The Same Thing In The Gospel?
 - God’s Mission Of Deliverance:
 - Hasn’t Changed Much Since Then!
 - God Still Has “Much People” In This Fallen World!
 - They Are Everywhere!
 - And God Has Given Us The Same Kind Of Method:
 - To Get The Word Of The Gospel Out:
 - To Those Who Will Believe In Jesus Along With Us!
 - The Timing:
 - Is Now! 2 Corinthians 6:2 - “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation!”
 - The Motive:
 - Is Love! 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 - “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. / For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him!”
 - The Manner:
 - Is Urgency! Romans 13:11 - “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed!”

* Also See In Esther:

3. ***The Great Message Of Deliverance!***

- Even The Content Of Mordecai’s New Law:
 - Is Similar To Haman’s Law - With Some Key Differences:
 - 8:11-12 - “Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey, / Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar!”
 - Need To Remember - To Show That The Goal Was To “Reverse” Haman’s Decree As Much As Possible!
 - And - “It Was Their Desire to Prevent, And Not Promote, The Shedding Of Innocent Blood!” (Lawson)
 - And So - Mordecai’s New Law Authorized The Jews To Do 3 Main Things:
- To Draw God’s People Together!
 - 8:11 - “Gather Themselves Together!”
 - To Assemble - “Safety In Numbers!”
 - But Also - To Foster A Greater Unity Among The Jews!
 - They Were **One** In This!
 - Perhaps This Was The First Time:
 - They Were Allowed To “Gather Themselves Together” & To See How Many Of Them There Were!
 - God Often Brings His People Together In The Same Ways & For The Same Reasons!
 - To Encourage & To Edify!
 - Need Each Other!
- To Defend God’s People!
 - 8:11 - “And To Stand For Their Life!”
 - Primary Mission - Defend Against Their Enemies:
 - Who Were Still Out There & Looking Forward To The 12th Month!
- To Destroy God’s Enemies!
 - 8:12 - Using The Exact Same Language As Haman - “To destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey!”

- And So The Jews Were Allowed To “Attack” - But Only Those Who Would “Assault” Them!
 - This Was Not Just A National War - It Was A Spiritual War - A Holy War!
- But - As We Will See - Even Though The Jews:
 - Could Have Used Aggressive Force:
 - Even To Destroy The “Little Ones & Women” Of Their Enemies & “Take The Spoil Of Them For A Prey”:
 - Did They? As We Will See:
 - They Did Not!
 - They Exercised Restraint:
 - And Demonstrated God’s Own Mercy To Their Enemies!
- God’s Message Of Deliverance Today:
 - Is Even Greater Than The Deliverance He Offered:
 - To The Jews In That Day!
 - When The Lord Calls You:
 - To Be His Child - He Draws You:
 - Into His Family - To Be United In Him!
 - And He Does So – So That:
 - He Can Defend You!
 - And So He Can Destroy Your Enemies!
 - And This Gives You Hope - When You Believe In & Belong To Jesus Christ!
 - 1 Corinthians 15:24-27 - “Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. / For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. / The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. / For he hath put all things under his feet!”
 - Do You Want To See:
 - The Destruction Of Your Enemies!
 - The Destruction Of Your Sin / Your Death / The Devil Himself?
 - Then - “Gather Yourself Together” With The People Of God Through Faith In Jesus Christ!
 - And Keep Getting The Message Out To Others!

* Then - Also See From Esther:

4. *The Great Meaning Of Deliverance!*

- 8:13-14 - “The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies. / So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king’s commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace!”
 - After The New Law Of Mordecai Was Enacted:
 - It Was Sent Out Quickly - And Spread Out Widely!
 - “Published Unto All People” In Their Own Languages – Especially The Jews! Why?
 - Again - Same Words Used To Describe Haman’s Law - But Some Key Differences Reveal The Meaning Of Deliverance!
 - Readiness!
 - The Law Was Sent Out - “That The Jews Should Be Ready Against That Day!” (8:13)
 - They Needed To Believe In This New Law:
 - And Then Respond & Act On This New Law!
 - They Needed To Be Ready!
 - Another Reason:
 - Reversal!
 - The Law Was Sent Out So That The Jews Could - “Avenge Themselves On Their Enemies!”
 - And - In Effect - Reverse The Law Of Haman!
 - And Only When They Were Ready:
 - Could The Effects Of Haman’s Law Be Reversed!
 - Now - What Would The Jews Do With This New Decree?
 - Would They Believe It?
 - Would They Apply It?
 - Would They Assemble On That Day?
 - But We Need To See That This Lesson:
 - Applies To The Effects Of The Gospel As Well!

- The Only Way You:
- Or Anyone Can Be Ready:
- To Have The Effects Of Their Sin Reversed:
- Is Through Belief & Faith In The Person & Work Of Jesus Christ & What He Did On The Cross For You!

Conclusion:

1. God Has Provided A Way To Deliver Us All:
 - From The Greatest Obstacle In Our Lives!
 - Our Own Sin! Your / My!
 - This Was The Mission Of Jesus!
 - This Is The Message Of Jesus!
 - And This Is The Meaning Of Jesus & His Gospel!
 - But Now - We Need To Respond:
 - With The Same Method:
 - As Esther & Mordecai - In Getting The Word Out!
 - 8:14 - "Being Hastened And Pressed On By The King's Commandment!"
2. Do You Need To Be Delivered?
 - Don't Waste Any More Time!
 - "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation!" (2 Corinthians 6:2)
 - What Are You Waiting For?
 - God Has Already Been So Good & Gracious To You!
 - Proverbs 27:1 - "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth!"
3. If You Have Been Delivered:
 - This Is How You Need To Help "Get The Word" Out To Others!
 - Because There Is A Need For "Haste" In This!
 - Because There Is Only One Way To Be Delivered!
 - Romans 8:1 - "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus!"
 - Jesus Christ Is God's Way Of Deliverance!

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