

“The Principles Of God’s Providence”
The Book Of Esther

Introduction:

1. Last Sunday - We Finished Looking At The Book Of Esther:
 - In A Verse By Verse Manner - Ending In Chapter 10!
 - But We Are Not Quite Done With This Book!
 - Because - For The Next 2 Sundays:
 - I Would Like For Us To Consider Together:
 - Some Of The Big Lessons That We Can Glean From Esther As A Whole!
2. And So - To Begin This Morning:
 - Lets Turn In Our Bibles - Not To The Book Of Esther:
 - But To The Book Of Proverbs:
 - Proverbs 3:5-6 - “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. / In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths!”
 - The Big Lesson We Are Going To Look At Today Is:
 - To “Trust In The Lord!”
 - No Matter What!
 - This Is Also The Lesson That The Jews:
 - Could Have & Should Have Learned:
 - Throughout All Of The Events That Took Place In The Book Of Esther!
3. Because - Even Though:
 - God Is Not Mentioned Even A Single Time:
 - Queen Esther Did Not Live:
 - And The Book Of Esther Was Not Written:
 - In A Vacuum!
 - There Was So Much In The History Of The Jews:
 - As The People Of God:
 - That Could Have & Should Have Helped Them:
 - Endure - Even Through The Great Dangers They Faced!
4. When We Come To The Book Of Esther:
 - We Often Speak Of The:
 - “Providence Of God!”
 - Or - The Hidden Hand Of God That Preserves & Governs All Of His Creation!
 - But Even God’s Providence Does Not Work In A Vacuum!
 - Because The Works Of God:
 - Are Always Consistent With His Character:
 - And His Nature!
 - There Are Certain “Principles Of God’s Providence” That God’s People Can Always Count On, No Matter What Is Going On Around Us!
5. And So - All God’s People Had To Do:
 - In The Book Of Esther:
 - Is Remember The Principles & Promises:
 - Of God:
 - That Had Been Given To Them & Passed Down To Them:
 - Through His Word!
 - And So - Even When It Seems Like God Is Missing:
 - Or - When It Feels Like God Is Absent:
 - We Can Still Trust In:
 - The Providence Of God:
 - Which Is Based Upon His Everlasting Nature & Promises!

* The First Thing We Need To Remember Is That:

1. ***God Is A Sovereign God!***
 - And We Can Trust In Him!
 - And So - Everything That Took Place:
 - In The Book Of Esther:
 - And Everything That Takes Place:

- Even In Our Lives Today - Is Under The Sovereign Control Of The God Of Heaven!

- And:

- He Alone Is Sovereign In His Reign!
 - As We've Gone Through Esther:
 - We Met One Of The Most Powerful Kings:
 - In All Of The World:
 - King Ahasuerus - Likely King Xerxes Of Persia!
 - From The Very First Verse:
 - We Are Confronted With The Greatness:
 - Of His Reign & Of His Realm!
 - 1:1 - "Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)"
 - And All Throughout The Rest Of The Book:
 - This King's Name Is Mentioned Over & Over & Over Again!
 - 28 Times!
 - Everyone In The Empire Knew Who Was In Control!
 - And - Even As We Looked At Last Week:
 - The King Could Exercise His Control & Authority Any Time He Wanted!
 - Like When He - 10:1 - "Laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea!"
 - But God's People Knew The Truth:
 - About The Reign Of King Ahasuerus!
 - They Knew - Psalm 22:28-29 - "For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations. / All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul!"
 - God Alone Is the True "Governor Among The Nations!"
 - God Alone Is Sovereign In His Reign!
 - They Would Also Have Known That:
- God Alone Is Sovereign In His Rule!
 - Psalm 75:6-7 - "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. / But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another!"
 - So - When King Ahasuerus Came To Power:
 - It Was God Who Set Him Up!
 - And - When Queen Vasti Was Deposed:
 - Ultimately - It Was God Who Brought Her Down:
 - To Make Way For His Own Queen!
 - And - When Haman Was Exalted & Eventually Hanged On His Own Gallows In Disgrace:
 - God Was In Complete Control:
 - Both Of His Promotion & His Demotion!
 - And When We Read - 10:1 - "For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed!"
 - Who Put Him There? God Did!
- And So - No Matter What Goes On In This World:
 - And No Matter Who It Seems Is In Control / In Charge:
 - Our God Is Sovereign:
 - Over Everything & Everybody:
 - And Is In Complete Control!
 - Even The Great King Of Babylon:
 - Nebuchadnezzar - Just A Few Years Before:
 - The Time Of Esther:
 - Learned This Lesson:
 - And In A Hard Way!
- Daniel 4:34 - "And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation!"

- The First Principle Of God's Providence:
 - God Is A Sovereign God!
 - And Is In Complete Control Over:
 - Everything & Everybody!
 - And So - God's People Can Trust In Him!
 - Are You?

* The Second Principle Of God's Providence:

2. *God Is A Sympathetic God!*

- That Is - He Always Cares For & Watches Out For:
 - His People:
 - No Matter Where They Are:
 - And No Matter What They Are Going Through!
 - And Even In Esther - We See:
- His Care Is Evident!
 - Just A Few Years Before The Events Of The Book Of Esther:
 - The People Of God - Under King Cyrus Of Persia - Had The Opportunity To Return From The Land Of Their Captivity:
 - And Go Home To The Promised Land Once Again!
 - And Though Many Jews Took Advantage Of This Opportunity:
 - Many More Stayed Behind - In Persia - In Babylon - In The 127 Provinces - From Ethiopia To India!
 - 9:30 - "And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth!"
 - Yet - Thomas McRie - "The Book Of Esther Bears Witness That Those Who Were Left Behind Were Not Forgotten!"
 - And God Even Used Those Who Were "Left Behind" To Minister His Care To His People!
 - Mordecai / Esther / Also Nehemiah!
 - His Care Was Evident! Also:
- His Care Is Eternal!
 - Just Before The Final Captivity Of The Jews:
 - The Lord Tells His People In Isaiah 43:1-2 - "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!"
 - Over & Over Again - All Throughout Their History:
 - God Has Told Them & Showed Them:
 - "I Will Be With Thee!"
 - God Was With His People:
 - When They Were In Egypt!
 - When They Were In The Wilderness!
 - When They Were In Canaan!
 - And Would Stay With Them - No Matter Where & No Matter What!
- And So - They Could Trust In:
 - The Lord - And His "Singular Care & Providence!"
 - And This Principle Of God's Providence:
 - Applies To You Today - If You Belong To The Lord As One Of His Children!
 - 1 Peter 5:7 - "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you!"
 - He Cares For You!
 - His Care Is Evident!
 - His Care Is Eternal!
 - And His Providence In Your Life:
 - Is Based On His Everlasting Promises:
 - Even His "Exceeding Great & Precious Promises!" (2 Peter 1:4)
 - So - Keep Your Trust In The Lord!

* A Third Principle Of Providence:

3. ***God Is A Scrupulous God!***

- God Cares About & Is In Control Of:
 - The Details!
 - The Details Of This World!
 - The Details Of Your Life!
 - Meticulous & Precise!
 - We See God's Meticulous Care Over & Over Again In The "Little Details" Of Esther!
 - For Example:
 - God Raised Up:
- Just The Right People:
 - To Preserve The Jews From Destruction!
 - The Right King – Ahasuerus!
 - The Right Villain – Haman!
 - Who Was One Of The Ancient Enemies Of God!
 - The Right Deliverer – Mordecai!
 - Humble & Wise!
 - The Right Queen – Esther!
 - Raised With Great Courage!
 - God Raised Up Just The Right People In:
- Just The Right Place!
 - The Lives Of All These People:
 - Converge In The City & Eventually The Palace Of Sushan!
 - God Raised Up Just The Right People In Just The Right Place At:
- Just The Right Period / Time!
 - Esther Was The Right Age:
 - To Go Before The King During His Prescribed Beauty Pageant!
 - Mordecai Was At The Right Place & At The Right Time:
 - To Overhear The Two Men At The King's Gate:
 - Conspiring To Kill The King!
 - The King Was Restless & Couldn't Sleep:
 - The Night Before Esther Would Plea:
 - For The Lives Of Her People:
 - And As The Records Were Read Before Him, The King Was Reminded Of Mordecai's Faithfulness To Him!
 - God Raised Up Just The Right People In Just The Right Places At Just The Right Periods / Times And To:
- Just The Right Positions!
 - In Order To Accomplish His Plan!
 - When It Was Time For Esther To Become Queen:
 - He Used The Pride Of Both The King & Vashti To Depose Her From Her Position:
 - And Make Way For Esther!
- Now - When We Look At All Of These "Little Details":
 - Come Together - We Wonder:
 - Is It Just An Accident?
 - Could It Just Be Coincidence?
 - Mordecai Wanted Esther To Consider These "Little Details" Herself - When He Said:
 - 4:14 - "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"
 - For The People Of God:
 - We Know The Answer!
 - It Is The Providence Of God At Work In The Every-Day Lives Of His People!
 - Psalm 139:1-3 - "O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. / Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. / Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways!"
 - This Is A Source Of Great Comfort:
 - For Those Who Belong To The Lord!
 - But - Can / Ought To Be A Source Of Great Conviction:
 - For Those Who Do Not Belong To Him!
 - You Can Trust In The Lord!

- Who Leaves Nothing To Chance!
- He Is Scrupulous With All Of The Details Of This World & In Your Life!

* The Fourth Principle Of God's Providence:

4. *God Is A Saving God!*

- God Uses His Providence:
 - In This World & In Your Life:
 - In Order To Bring You To A Greater:
 - And A Truer Knowledge Of Himself!
 - How Many Times:
 - In The History Of The Jewish Nation:
 - Did They Need To Be Rescued:
 - From The Hands Of Their Enemies!
 - It All Started Even Before:
 - They Were A Nation!
 - When The Family Of Jacob Was Threatened By Famine In The Land Of Canaan:
- God Raised Up Joseph!
 - In Order To Relieve Them & Rescue Them:
 - From Starvation - And To Give Them A Home:
 - In Egypt - Where God Could Form Them:
 - Into A True Nation!
 - But When They Became Great In That Land:
 - And Were Oppressed By Pharaoh:
 - God Raised Up Moses!
 - In Order To Rescue Them:
 - And Lead Them Out Of The Land Of Egypt:
 - And To Take Them Home To The Promised Land!
 - When They Were Finally In The Land:
 - And They Were At Ease - And Started Disobeying The Lord:
 - And God Would Chasten Them:
 - God Raised Up Judges!
 - In Order To Save Them:
 - From The Hands Of Their Enemies!
 - Until - Eventually:
 - God Raised Up David!
 - To Be Their King:
 - And To Lead Them Over Their Enemies!
 - In The Same Way - Even In The Far-Away Land Of Persia:
 - God Raised Up Esther:
 - And Mordecai:
 - To Be The Instruments Of His Deliverance!
 - God Is A Saving God!
 - Nehemiah Understood This Principle:
 - Nehemiah 9:17 - "But thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not!"
 - This Is One Of The Great Purposes:
 - Of God's Providence:
 - In Your Life!
 - To Lead You To Him!
 - Romans 2:4 - Don't You Know That Even:
 - "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"
 - And The Greatest Display Of His Goodness To You & To Me:
 - Was When:
 - God Sent Jesus:
 - To Be Born / To Live / To Die:
 - For You & For Me!
 - John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. / For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the

- world; but that the world through him might be saved!”
- God Is A Saving God!
 - And You Can Trust In Him To Save You!
 - The Deliverance Of Mordecai & Esther Was A Temporal Deliverance & Even A Temporary One!
 - Enemies Come & Enemies Go!
 - But Jesus Is The Only Deliverer:
 - Who Can “Save You To The Uttermost” (Hebrews 7:25) & “Take Away” Your Sin! (Romans 11:26-27)
 - And This Leads Us To:

* The Fifth & Final Principle Of God’s Providence:

5. *God Is A Steadfast God!*

- The Jews Who Lived During The Times Of:
 - Mordecai & Esther - Did Not Have To Live:
 - In Uncertainty & Fear!
 - Because They Knew The Nature & The Character Of God!
 - And So Can We!
 - When It Seems Like God Is Absent:
 - Or It Feels Like God Is Missing:
 - Don’t Need To Be Afraid Or Worried!
 - Because God Remains:
 - A Changeless God!
 - Malachi 3:6 - “For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed!”
 - He Is Immutable!
 - Always The Same!
 - We Can Always Go Back To The Bible:
 - To See Who God Is & How God Acts:
 - In Order To Calm Our Fears! He Is Also:
 - A Committed God!
 - That Is - A Faithful God!
 - Faithful In His Person!
 - Faithful In His Promises!
 - Faithful To His People!
 - Lamentations 3:22-23 - “It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. / They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness!”
 - God Is A Steadfast God!
 - He Is Changeless & Committed:
 - To All His People!
 - And This Is Why We Can Trust In Him!

Conclusion:

1. Do You Ever Feel Like You Are Living In The Book Of Esther?
 - As If God Is Absent & Missing In Your Life?
 - As If - “My Way Is Hid From The Lord!” (Isaiah 40:27)
 - Remember These Principles Of God’s Providence!
 - That No Matter What:
 - God Is A Sovereign God:
 - In Complete Control!
 - God Is A Sympathetic God:
 - “He Ever Loves & Cares For His Own!”
 - God Is A Scrupulous God:
 - Little Details!
 - Nothing Is By Accident!
 - Nothing Is Mere Coincidence!
 - God Is A Saving God:
 - “Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance!” (2 Peter 3:9)

- God Is A Steadfast God:
 - To All Who Come To Him:
 - By Faith In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - No Matter Where You Are:
 - No Matter What You Face!

2. And You Can Trust In Him!

- Proverbs 3:5-6 - You Can - "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. / In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths!"

* "Be Still My Soul!"

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