

“Greatness”
Esther 10:1-3

Introduction:

1. This Morning - We Come To The Final Chapter:
 - In Our Study Of The Book Of Esther:
 - Esther Chapter 10 - So Please Turn There With Me:
 - In Your Bibles!
 - Esther Chapter 10:
 - Where After Everything That Has Transpired:
 - For The Jews – God’s Own People:
 - And Their Ultimate Deliverance Through:
 - The Wisdom Of Mordecai & The Courage Of Queen Esther:
 - This Book Concludes With Just 3 Short Verses:
 - 10:1-3 - “And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea. / And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? / 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!”
 - At First Glance - This Seems To Be A Rather Anti-Climactic Ending:
 - To This Exciting Story & History Of Esther & Her People!
2. But As Our Attention Is Turned Back:
 - To The King Of The Persian Empire:
 - And His Greatness - We See That:
 - After All The Matters Of Purim:
 - And How They Affected Esther & Mordecai & All The Jews!
 - For The King & His Kingdom:
 - Life Goes On!
 - Life & Business:
 - Continue - Almost As If Nothing That Happened To The Jews Really Mattered To The King!
 - As King Ahasuerus:
 - “Laid A Tribute Upon The Land, And Upon The Isles Of The Sea” –
 - It Was Government & Politics As Usual!
 - 3. And Yet - As We Dig A Little Further:
 - Into These Verses - We See Another Contrast:
 - Enter Into Our Vision:
 - An Even Greater Contrast Than The Eclipse That Will Be Overhead In Just A Few Weeks!
 - **IE:** Where The Dark Figure Of The Moon Will Block Out The Brightness Of The Sun!
 - And To God’s People:
 - Who Have Read These Same Words:
 - In Esther 10 - The Greatness Of One Of The Greatest Kings In All Of World History:
 - Is Eclipsed By The Greatness Of A Common Man – A Jew:
 - Raised Up To Greatness By The Providence Of God – “For Such A Time As This!” (4:14)
 - 4. And So - This Morning:
 - I Would Like For Us To See:
 - The Contrast Between:
 - The World’s Definition:
 - Of Greatness – And The Lord’s Definition:
 - Of Greatness!

* The First Thing We See Is:

1. ***The World’s Definition Of Greatness!***
 - As Illustrated By King Ahasuerus:
 - In 10:1-2 - Where We See Very Little Impact & Very Little Change:
 - After The Remarkable Events That Took Place In The Previous 9 Chapters!
 - We See:

- The Mark Of The World's Greatness:
 - In 10:1 - "And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea!"
 - What Is One Of The World's Mark Of Greatness?
 - Money!
 - The More Money You Have - In The World's View - The Greater You Are!
 - This King's Greed:
 - Was The Measure Of His Greatness!
 - After All - Money Was One Of The Things Haman Used In Order To Bribe The King To Destroy The Jews!
 - Remember - 3:9 - "If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries!"
 - And So - This Is What King Ahasuerus:
 - Continues To Pursue!
 - More Money & More Men!
 - He "Laid A Tribute" – A Levy & A Tax – That Applied To Everyone In His Empire - Both Near & Far!
 - However - Instead Of Showing His Greatness:
 - It Shows To Us Even The Limits Of His Greatness!
 - The Limit Of His Worth!
 - He Wanted More!
 - He Was The Most Powerful Man In The World At That Time - Yet He Wanted More!
 - He Probably Needed More!
 - To Pay For His Luxurious Living!
 - The Limit Of His Wisdom!
 - Back In 2:18 - "He made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king!"
 - King Ahasuerus – Likely Xerxes:
 - Was A Very Impulsive Man:
 - Whose Greatness Was Marked By His Greed!
 - But According To The Standards Of The World – He Had It All!
 - But Did He?
 - Mark 8:36-37 - "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? / Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"
 - We Also See:
 - The Might Of The Word's Greatness!
 - In 10:2a - "And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him!"
 - This Verse Displays To Us:
 - The Great Achievements Of King Ahasuerus!
 - The "Acts" That He Was Able To Perform:
 - Because Of His Position Of "Power" And:
 - Because Of His Strength & "Might!"
 - He Had Both The "Right" & The "Might" To Accomplish Many Great Things In The Eyes Of The World!
 - He Was Able To Expand:
 - The Military Of Persia!
 - The Control Of Persia!
 - The Wealth Of Persia!
 - **IE:** If There Was A Stock Market - It Would Have Been Soaring To New Heights - Even As It Is Today!
 - But As Impressive As His "Power" & "Might" Was:
 - He Could Not Have Done These Things:
 - By Himself! He Needed Others!
 - He Needed Their Resources / Their Wisdom!
 - And So - Even The Greatness Of His Might:
 - Was Limited!

- Not As Great As He Thought He Was!
- Also See:
- The Mention Of The World's Greatness!
 - 10:2b - "Are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?"
 - The Writer Of Esther Directs Us:
 - To Another Record To Read About The Greatness Of King Ahasuerus!
 - "The Book Of The Chronicles Of The Kings Of Media And Persia!"
 - Now - At The Time Esther Was Written:
 - That Record Existed!
 - But Where Is It Now?
 - It Has Been Lost To History!
 - We Do Have Some Other Histories - But Very Few Of The Original Sources!
 - And So Much Of His Greatness:
 - Has Also Been Lost To History!
 - Buildings & Palaces Burned!
 - Monuments Torn Down & Destroyed!
 - But - What We Have Just Read:
 - From The Book Of Esther Itself:
 - Has Survived!
 - In Fact - The Book Of Esther:
 - Is The Most Ancient & The Most Authentic Record We Have Of The Life & Times Of King Ahasuerus!
 - Esther Is Not Just Another Story Or History:
 - But The Inspired & Preserved Word Of God!
 - Isaiah 40:8 - "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever!"
- As Great As King Ahasuerus Was:
 - According To The World's Definition:
 - His Greatness Is Gone! Has Faded Away!
 - His Money!
 - His Might!
 - Even His Mention!
 - In Fact - Even The Greatest Thing:
 - That He Is Known For:
 - Is What He Did In Relation To God's People!
 - Especially - "The declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him!"
 - We Need To Learn From This:
 - And Not Seek After The World's Definition:
 - Of Greatness!
 - In Our Lives / Careers / Families / Even Our Church!
 - Because - James 1:11 - "For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways!"
- But After Just A Mention Of The Passing Greatness Of King Ahasuerus:
 - The Lord Wants Our Final Thoughts Of This Book To Be:

2. ***The Lord's Definition Of Greatness!***

- Illustrated For Us By Mordecai:
 - In 10:3 - "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!"
 - This Verse Displays To Us:
 - The Mark Of True Greatness!
 - And What A Difference It Is To The Greatness Of The King!
 - King Ahasuerus Was Great According To The World's View:
 - Because Of How He **Was** Served – By Others!
 - But Mordecai Was Great In The Lord's Eyes:

- Because Of How He **Served!**
- Service Is The Measure Of True Greatness!
 - Matthew 20:25-28 - “But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. / But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; / And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: / Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many!”
- Yes - King Ahasuerus – Or King Xerxes:
 - Was Great In One Sense!
 - But Mordecai Was Greater:
 - Because He Was God’s Servant!
 - And He Possessed The Spirit Of An Even Greater Servant – The Greatest Servant – The Lord Jesus Christ!
- And We Can See:
- The Faithfulness Of His Service!
 - “For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus!”
 - As The Second In Command:
 - A Position That Was Given To Him:
 - By The Hidden & Providential Hand Of God!
 - Mordecai Sought To Serve:
 - And Discharge His Duties Faithfully:
 - To The King & His Kingdom!
 - But Mordecai Also Saw The Opportunity:
 - He Had Been Given:
 - To Use His Influence In Order To Be A Blessing:
 - To God’s Own People – The Jews!
 - To Be Great In The Eyes Of The Lord:
 - This Is How You Are To Serve!
 - You Are To Be Faithful In Your Service To Him & His People!
 - 1 Corinthians 4:2 - “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful!”
 - Also See:
- The Favor Of His Service!
 - “And great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren!”
 - There Was A Special Affinity & Affection:
 - Between Mordecai & The Jews!
 - He Did Not See God’s People As His Own Personal Servants & Subjects!
 - Instead - He Considered Them:
 - “His Brethren!”
 - And There Was A Mutual Respect & Honor & Esteem!
 - To Be Great In The Eyes Of The Lord:
 - This Is Who You Are To Serve As Well!
 - God’s Own People!
 - Seeing & Treating One Another As Brothers & Sisters In Christ!
 - Philippians 2:3-5 - “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. / Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. / Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus!”
 - Also See:
- The Focus Of His Service!
 - “Seeking the wealth of his people!”
 - The “Wealth” & Welfare Of His Own People:
 - Whom He Was Not Ashamed To Be Identified With:
 - Was His One Great Purpose & Priority & Passion!
 - He Wanted Their Absolute Best!
 - Mordecai Loved His People – God’s People!
 - And Always Thought Of Them & Their Needs!
 - Physically / Materially / Even Spiritually!
 - To Be Great In The Eyes Of The Lord:
 - This Is Why You Are To Serve!

- Out Of Love!
- Galatians 5:13 - "By love serve one another!"
- Is Your Focus The Welfare Of Others!
- Not Just Physical / Material / But Spiritual? Also:
- The Fruit Of His Service!
 - "And speaking peace to all his seed!"
 - Mordecai Became A True Statesmen & Patriarch:
 - To His People!
 - He Took His God-Given Responsibilities To Heart - And Promoted The "Peace" Of God's People In Any & Every Way He Could!
 - After All - The Jews Had Already Been Through So Much!
 - Not Just The Recent Threat By Haman!
 - But Their Long Captivity:
 - And Oppression By Their Enemies!
 - They Needed Time For Healing:
 - And Peace & Unification!
 - And So - The Jews Became To Mordecai:
 - His Own "Seed!"
 - Even As He Adopted Esther To Be His Daughter:
 - He Adopts The Jewish People To Be "A Common Father To Them All!"
 - And He "Spoke Peace" To Them All!
 - Tending / Caring For / Helping As Father!
- To Be Great In The Eyes Of The Lord:
 - The Fruit Of Your Service:
 - Is To Be Peace As Well!

Conclusion:

1. What A Contrast – What A Difference:
 - Between Greatness:
 - In The Eyes Of The World – And Greatness:
 - In The Eyes Of The Lord!
 - It's the Difference Between:
 - Being Served & Serving!
2. But As Mordecai Was Serving:
 - Faithfully - And "Speaking Peace To All His Seed"
 - But What Else Could Have Been:
 - Mordecai's Words Of Peace?
 - He Would Have Been Pointing The Hearts Of His People:
 - To The "Prince Of Peace" That Was To Come!
 - The One Who Would Come – "Not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many!" (Mark 10:45)
3. The Mark Of True Greatness Is Service!
 - And Jesus Christ – The Son Of God – Is The Greatest Servant:
 - And Paid The Greatest Sacrifice:
 - For Your Greatest Need!
 - The Need Of Salvation From Your Sin!
 - And He Came:
 - To "Speak Peace To All His Seed!"
 - A Peace That Is Great & A Peace That Will Last!
 - A Peace With God & A Peace In Your Heart!
 - Psalm 85:8 - "I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly!"
4. Even As The Jews:
 - Responded To The Greatness Of Mordecai:
 - And His Service To Them:
 - 10:3 - He Was "Accepted" Of Them!
 - We Need To Respond To The Greatness Of The Lord:
 - And His Service To Us!

- We Need To “Accept” Him!
 - Accept His Word!
 - Accept His Will!
- The Jews Esteemed & Loved Mordecai:
 - As The Savior Of Their Nation!
 - Let Us Esteem & Love The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - As The Savior Of Our Souls!
 - John 10:26 - “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me!”

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