

The book of Esther...Part 7

A tale of two decrees

We have been looking at this book...the people involved and asking what we learn from them

- What do we learn from Xerxes, Esther, Mordecai and Haman?
- What do we learn about responsibility, faithfulness and relationship?

But what is the 'big idea' in this story?

The most basic picture is one of salvation

The people were facing death. Esther together with Mordecai came up with a rescue plan

The world is under the judgement of sin and faces death

- Haman is the devil who is the accuser of humanity
 - Haman means magnificent
 - Lucifer means shining and brightness
- Jesus is the Esther, led by Mordecai the Holy Spirit, who approaches the king with His own blood to save the people from the destruction

Est 4:16 *"Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."*

Esther was willing to lay down her life...Jesus did lay down His life

That is why Mordecai is so urgent and desperate in his appeal with Esther. He knows what's at stake

The first decree

A decree is passed... a decree that is birthed in the heart of a very evil man called Haman

Est 3:13 *Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.*

This leads to terror; to hopelessness and helplessness

The second decree

A second decree that is birthed in the heart of humble Mordecai

Est 8:11 *The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the armed men of any nationality or province who might attack them and their women and children, and to plunder the property of their enemies.*

Est 8:12 *The day appointed for the Jews to do this in all the provinces of King Xerxes was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar.*

Authority was given to the Jews to defend themselves and it was very effective

- In the Old Testament kingdom advancement was counted in lives taken...nations conquered.
 - Exodus 17; the Amalekites
 - The OT always records deaths...the NT salvations
- In the New Testament kingdom advancement is measured in lives saved, nations reached

In the book of Esther the people were an army prepared and empowered to destroy their enemies

- They had been 'authorised' by the king

In Christ we have been authorised by the King of kings

- We are an army prepared and empowered to enforce the victory of Jesus
- We are an army empowered and prepared to see lives saved

We are not the 'saviours of the world'...but the 'Saviour of the world' lives within us

We are His light, His instruments, His messengers, the conduits of His healing and salvation

And just like Esther was a 'nobody'...and Jesus was a 'nobody'...we too are nobodies

Yet we carry the life, and love and glory of God

2 Corinthians

This book makes some seemingly absurd claims about believers

2Co 2:14 *But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.*

2Co 3:5 *Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.*

2Co 3:6 *He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

2Co 5:18 *All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:*

2Co 5:19 *that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

2Co 5:20 *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

We are ambassadors living in a foreign land

34 embassy's in Zim

- Do you think they eat 'sadza' in the Greek embassy?
- Do you think they speak Shona in the Russian embassy?
- Do you think they use eco cash in the American embassy?

What is the authority we have been given?

Remember David against Goliath

1Sa 17:43 *He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.*

1Sa 17:44 *"Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"*

1Sa 17:45 *David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.*

1Sa 17:46 *This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.*

The ammunition

1. The blood of Jesus
2. The name of Jesus
3. The word of God...the gospel

The weapons

1. Our worship
2. Our words
3. Our ways

