

The Bible Panorama – The History XII: Esther

“Our Dedication in God’s Reign”

Esther 4:1-17

Going Beyond the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on September 9, 2018

Entering In:

What do you think is the worst thing that has ever happened to you?

What do you think is the best thing that has ever happened to you?

1. For the following people, what was their motive for what they did/ decided/ decreed?

- King Xerxes (1:11; 3:10,11)
- Queen Vashti (1:12, cf.1:10)
- Mordecai (2:22, 3:2b, 4:1, 2, 13, 14)
- Haman (3:5, 6, 8, 9; 5:10b-14)
- Esther (2:22b, 23, 5:1-4, 7; 7:1-6a)

Who, or what, defined what is “good” (right vs. wrong) for the following people?

- King Xerxes (1:13ff)
- Queen Vashti (1:12a, cf.1:10,11)
- Mordecai (2:21ff, 3:2b, 4:1,2)
- Haman (3:2, 5)
- Esther (2:20, 4:16)

How do you know what is *good*? Is your behavior always consistent with this knowledge?

How does that knowledge affect your motives and your behavior?

2. Proverbs 14:12 (and 16:25) exhorts us, “There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” How did Haman’s plans validate this word of wisdom?

- plan: 6:6-9
- result: 6:10-13

- plan: 5:14
- result: 7:8b-10

- plan: 3:8-11
- result: 9:9-10 (cf.8:11-13)

3. In Romans 8:28, Paul encourages us, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Fill in the blanks in the sentences below to show how God turned Mordecai’s trials into deliverance.

Mordecai had been carried into (2:6) _____ *exile* _____ from Jerusalem, but was appointed (10:3) _____ by King Xerxes.

Mordecai clothed himself with (4:1) _____ as he sat in front of the (4:6) _____, but was later led through the city wearing the king’s (6:11) _____, riding on the king’s (6:11) _____.

Mordecai (4:16) _____ for 3 days because the king had set a date for all the exiled Jews to be killed, but later (9:17,18) _____ for 2 days with all the Jews to celebrate their deliverance from the king’s decree.

In what sense did God work for the *good* of Mordecai and the Jews living in exile?

In what sense was their living in exile God’s purpose (calling) for them?

What difficult time have you had to endure that you later recognized was for your own good? How did God use your suffering to accomplish his purpose?

4. What was the decree that went out in King Xerxes name? (3:13)

Do you think that this was a *just* or an *unjust* law? Explain.

How did Mordecai and Esther seek relief from this oppressive decree? [4:12-17; 5:1-4, 7-8; 7:1-6; 8:3-4]

How do people in our time seek relief from what they believe is government oppression?

What does Paul instruct us about complaining (Philippians 2:14-16)?

What are some forms that complaining takes (perhaps even how you do it)?

Living It Out:

Ask God to search your heart to help you glorify him in how you talk about things you do not think are just (fair).