

Esther

God's Silent Sovereignty

When It Looks Like Evil Rules the Day

Esther 2:19 – 3:15

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / June 19, 2022

I. The Powers of This World Will Keep On Promoting Evil People

Esther 3:1 “After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and advanced him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him.”

Haman's promotion and Mordecai being overlooked is all a part of God's perfect timing for everything God wants to set up to accomplish His far-reaching and eternal purposes. God is always doing and seeing far more than we know.

II. The Accusations of This World Are So Often Slanderous and Unjust to Us

Esther 3:8 “Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, ‘There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king's laws, so that it is not to the king's profit to tolerate them.’”

The truth: “There is a certain people scattered abroad in your kingdom.”

The half-truth: “Their laws are different.”

The outright lie: “They do not keep the king's laws.”

Haman convinces the king that these people are different, difficult, and dangerous enough that they need to be shut down.

You can expect the same thing to happen to us today no matter how faithful or supportive you try to be in your job and in this world.

1 Peter 3:14-17 “But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.”

III. The Fury of This World Has Always Been Driven by Something Darker and Deeper

Esther 3:5-6 “And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury. ⁶ But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.”

There's someone behind Haman's fury that is deeper, darker, and filled with more malice than Haman could ever muster – Satan! He is trying to snuff out the nation through which the Messiah would come.

Haman's edict of annihilation is just a part of the spiritual warfare that's been going on since the Garden of Eden when God said to Satan:

Genesis 3:15 “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

See Revelation 12:1-12, 17

A. There's a Savior God Sent Despite All the Forces of Evil

Revelation 12:5 “She gave birth to a male Child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her Child was caught up to God and to His throne.”

The verse above is talking about Jesus and it's quoting from Psalm 2, which is referred to four different times in the book of Revelation.

Jesus is seated at the right hand of the throne of God, where He intercedes for us now, night and day.

B. There's a War that's Still Raging All Around Us

Revelation 12:17 "Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold the testimony of Jesus..."

Satan knows his time is short. He's furiously and frantically doing everything he can to wreak havoc on the people of God to keep them from doing the mission of God.

Revelation 12:12-13 "Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short! ¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male Child."

More than 360 million Christian brothers and sisters live in places where they face intense persecution just for following Jesus. That's 1 in 7 believers worldwide.

God's Word can help us understand what's really going on so that we can focus on the real enemy and fight with the right weapons.

Ephesians 6:10-13 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."

C. There's a Power We Have that Satan Can't Stop

Revelation 12:11 "And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death."

1. "The blood of the Lamb"
2. "The word of their testimony"
3. "They loved not their lives even unto death"

IV. The Worst They Can Do Can't Change What He's Done

Esther 3:13 "Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods."

In what looks like one of the most hopeless and horrific points in history right here, God sovereignly caused the dice to land so that this wicked man would choose the Eve of Passover to be the day for this wholesale slaughter of the Jews.

Proverbs 16:33 "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD."

Jesus' death on the cross looked like evil would triumph, but God was sovereignly working through their wicked plans to accomplish His sovereign purpose of paying our sin debt by the sacrifice of His Son so that men and women can be forgiven and brought into the family of God.

See Acts 4:23-29 and Psalm 2:1-12