

SERMON 3

“Then Esther the queen answered and said, Let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request” Esther 7:3.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” 2nd Timothy 3:16.

Taking this as our guide, we shall have to show, in the first place, why the queen asked for life, and then for her people; and, in the second place, show the spiritual instruction from the temporal circumstance.

We find that one Haman, whom the king Ahasuerus promoted, setting his set above all the princes that were with him: because that Mordecai, a relative of queen Esther, would not bow down to him nor do him reverence as all the king’s servants did, the king having so commanded concerning him; that Haman then sought an opportunity to cause Mordecai and the Jewish people to be slain, and he came before the king and offered him money to obtain the power of destroying them, saying, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king’s laws: therefore it is not for the king’s profit to suffer them (Esther 3:1-9).

We find also that king Ahaseurus had a law, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except those to whom the king shall hold out the golden scepter, that he may live; so that when Mordecai desired queen Esther to go before the king and entreat for the lives of himself and her kindred the Jews, she was afraid. But when Mordecai showed to her that she herself would not

escape, forasmuch as she also was a Jewess, she then made up her mind to venture her life for herself and her people and to go in before the king, contrary to the law.

These, then, being the temporal circumstances which caused Esther to petition for her own life and for that of her people, we now proceed to show, in the second place, the spiritual instruction.

Taking king Ahasuerus as a figure of Jehovah, and Mordecai as a figure of Jesus, the woman's seed, and Esther, the queen, as a figure of the Heavenly Jerusalem, resting on those who seek for her, and Haman as a figure of Satan, let us show the work of the restoration of fallen man.

In the creation what do we find? That Satan succeeded in accomplishing this sentence, to be passed by God, the Almighty King, upon man: "*Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return*" Genesis 3:19. This sentence was pronounced upon his body; but then we find the promise of the woman's seed to get this sentence reversed (Genesis 3:15) as we here see that it was the intercession of queen Esther which caused the king to grant unto the Jews that they might stand for their lives against their enemies.

We find that at the appointed time came the woman's seed, Jesus, to withstand Satan, the destroyer of the creation of God, the Almighty King, as Mordecai sought for the deliverance of his people, and he sought for the assistance of the woman and by her help he accomplished their deliverance, and Jesus Christ also himself is waiting for his bride before He is glorified (John 17:10,22; Revelation 19:7-9; Jeremiah 33:16), for the Immortal Spirit coming down to Israel will cause them to utter the same petition as Jesus when He said, "*I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil*" John 17:15, and their petition agreeing together will be heard (Matthew 18:19); and Jesus also says, "*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that*

they might have it more abundantly” John 10:10, signifying the life of the body as well as the soul.

We find that Esther, the queen, fasted for three days and nights, with her maidens, being figurative of the three dispensations in which the whole creation has groaned and travailed in pain, waiting for the redemption of their bodies (Romans 8:22,23); and all the Jewish people fasted for her, and she said, And so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law, and if I perish I perish. And we find that neither she nor her people did perish, for the king granted her petition, for she obtained favour in his sight; and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand, so Esther drew near and touched the top of the scepter (Esther 4:16,17; 5:2).

And we find that the craft of Haman was defeated, by his being hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai (Esther 7:10); and the people he would have slain were preserved from destruction by the destruction of himself.

Then did not Satan, in man, seek the destruction of the woman’s seed, Jesus – did he not cause the erection of the cross as Haman did the gallows? And though Satan succeeded in taking the life of the blood, wherein in man is that evil which he has power to attract, but which the blood of Jesus was free from, it being shed for a ransom for all souls, and to give remission of sins from the second death – the soul that sinneth shall die (Hebrews 9:22; Revelation 20:6; Ezekiel 18:4); yet do we find that the Almighty King had given him power over his body, and though he presented it a living sacrifice for those who will live, yet had he power to lay it down and power to take it again (John 10:18). And did he not take the same body and it never saw corruption (Acts 13:37)? And did he not thus become the father of the immortal world, as the first Adam became by the fall the father of the mortal world?

But who at His first coming stood with him? For He stood alone for His life, though willing to do the will of his Father when he said, *“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless*

not as I will, but as thou wilt” Matthew 26:39. “And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me” Isaiah 63:5.

We find that Esther’s people stood with her for their lives, that for thirty days she was not to go in unto the king in the inner court.

So now the people of God are called to stand for their lives, for they will now be as the children of the bridechamber, mourning when the bridegroom is taken from them (Matthew 9:15), their eyes being now opened to see the state they are in by being born of the flesh and not of God, and they will now stand for their lives and seek for the intercession of Jesus to be answered where he says, *“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil”* John 17:15, and they will stand, and perish not. And the time when the church of Christ is to stand for their lives we find is pointed out in the Scriptures, for Hosea says, *“After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight”* Hosea 6:2. And Jesus says, *“Behold I cast out devils and do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected”* Luke 13:32; He being born in the fifth thousand years, and in the sixth thousand years he will be perfected by receiving his bride – the one hundred and forty four thousand. The two days during which he cast out devils being the two thousand years of the dispensation of the gospel.

Now, we find that Jesus, the woman’s seed, came after two dispensations (or two days), had passed away: and this was the time when God revived the hope of immortality in the church; and at the age of thirty the Spirit of the Godhead descended, and abode upon him three years, afterwards dwelt fully in him (Colossians 2:9), he then having entered into the inner court, which is being immortal; and the almighty King, his Father hath given him *“power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him”* John 17:2. *“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish”* John 10:28, their bodies – which will now shortly be

fulfilled, for we are now in the third day, when *“He will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight”* Hosea 6:2.

Here, then, we see the same power given to Jesus, the woman’s seed, as king Ahasuerus gave power to Queen Esther over her life, and the lives of her people.

But, we find, as it was then the people were a scattered people, so now the people or seed of God are a scattered people – scattered to the four winds of heaven (Matthew 24:31).

They know not but that they must die, for Satan, as Haman, persuades them, *“It is appointed unto men once to die”* Hebrews 9:27. He persuades them yet to bow down to the evil, in which bondage has held man since the fall; but now the time is come, *“the Lord looks down from the height of his sanctuary in heaven, beholds the earth, hears the groaning of the prisoner* (which was Jesus, the woman’s seed at his first coming) *and looses those that are appointed to die”* – those that are the seed of Israel at his second coming (Psalm 79:11). And like as the sentence which Haman persuaded the king to pass on the Jews fell on his own head, so will the sentence of death now fall on Satan, and men be freed from it, if they agree for his power to be taken from them.

The disciples knew of this great salvation (Jude 3) but did not obtain it, because the time of deliverance was not then come; yet they had the first fruits of the Spirit, and were waiting for the adoption, *“to wit the redemption of our body”* Romans 8:22,23.

And as Esther obtained power from king Ahasuerus for the Jews to slay their enemy, so does Jesus, the woman’s seed, now give power to the mortal and immortal woman to slay the evil in man, that man should live as Jesus liveth; for he says, *“Because I live, ye shall live also”* John 14:19.

And this gospel testifies unto the people of God scattered abroad that the decree or sentence of death obtained by Satan is to be now withdrawn; it calls them to awake, for now their redemption is nigh, even the redemption of their body (1st Thessalonians 4:23) and they are now called to go on unto perfection, if God permit (Hebrews 6:1-3).

Therefore, if there be no vision, how can there be sight? Or how can it be received? For it says, "*Where there is no vision, the people perish*" Proverbs 29:18. But the seals are being broken open, for the lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed to open and loose the seals (Revelation 5:5). And as the wise men and Zeresh, the wife of Haman, said unto him, "*If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou has begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him*" Esther 6:13.

Then, reader, fi thou be of the seed of Israel, which light the Spirit of God will give thee, if thou seek for it; for we are now in the time spoken of by the prophet. "*The days of visitation are come*" Hosea 9:7; it being the last day, being the sixth thousand years, to give immortality to those who will be found standing with him, being of the seed of the Jew, against whom Satan, as Haman, shall not prevail: though he uses the wisdom of the evil that is in man to say he will. For this is the will of the Lord "*That ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God*" Romans 12:1, the Almighty King.

Then seek that ye may have them cleansed from the evil, that they may be found vessels fit for the master's use (2nd Timothy 2:21), that he may show his power dwelling in you; for the Scripture says, "*Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power*" Psalm 110:3. Which day we have now approached unto.