

Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup> 2008  
Esther – Part Seven

1). Es 3:1 ¶ *After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him. 2 And all the king's servants who were within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.*

2). Chapter 3 of the Book of Esther begins with statements concerning the promotion of Haman the action of the king's servants with respect to Haman and Mordecai's attitude towards him.

a). The opening three words, 'after these things', draws our attention back to the events we had witnessed in the first two chapters of the Book.

b). And in these first two chapters, we will remember, is presented, in a type/antitype structure, the complete history of Israel covering some 3500 years from its inception as a nation following Moses' return to his brethren a second time to that time when the One greater than Moses will return to His brethren a second time and on into the Millennial Kingdom.

c). We saw the rejection of Israel, as a result of a history of unfaithfulness and disobedience, typified for us in the rejection of Vashti as Queen - Es 1:10 ¶ *On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus, 11 to bring Queen Vashti before the king, wearing her royal crown, in order to show her beauty to the people and the officials, for she was beautiful to behold. 12 But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command brought by his eunuchs; therefore the king was furious, and his anger burned within him.*

d). We saw the anger of the King burning within him because of Vashti's refusal, denoting the outpouring of the wrath of God upon Israel in a progressive intensification, just as was prophesied in Leviticus chapter 26 because of the nation's disobedience with regards to the 7<sup>th</sup> Day - Le 26:18 *'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.*

e). And yet within the horror of the outpouring of God's wrath we need to see the love and the mercy of God. The intensity of the suffering Israel has endured and is yet to endure is always for a specific purpose – to bring the nation to a place of repentance in order that it might be restored to the position for which it was created – to rule at the head of the nations within a theocracy - Zec 13:8 *And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one -third shall be left in it: 9 I will bring the one-third through*

*the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"*

f). And we saw the cessation of the king's anger - Es 2:1 ¶ *After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus subsided, he remembered Vashti, what she had done, and what had been decreed against her.*

g). And all of God's actions in respect of this are typified for us in the preparation and selection of Esther, a Jew, to be queen instead of Vashti –

h). Es 2:12 *Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months' preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women.*

i). Es 2:17 *The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.*

3). We had also seen reference to Mordecai sitting within the king's gate, denoting the place of governance, thereby typifying the dual aspect of Israel's calling – that of consort queen and also that of firstborn son - Es 2:21 ¶ *In those days, while Mordecai sat within the king's gate,*

a). Within God's economy, set in place in the opening chapters of Genesis, rulership over the earth can only take place within a marriage relationship – and this is added to further in scripture with only firstborn sons having the right to rule over the father's household and receive a double portion of the inheritance.

b). Hence Israel remains God's firstborn son, by adoption, and will again become the wife of Jehovah, thereby fulfilling both requirements for rulership.

c). And the same of course is true for us – those found worthy at the Judgment Seat of Christ will qualify as the Bride of Christ and will also be adopted as firstborn sons - Ro 8:23 *Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

4). And so at the conclusion of chapter two we have Esther crowned as consort Queen with a feast following the wedding and Mordecai sitting in the King's gate – pointing to that future day when Israel will once again attain to royalty and rulership.

a). What we may know from this is that Israel's restoration and future exaltation is an absolute certainty – Israel from before the foundation of the world, has been destined to be the consort queen of Jehovah and to rule as a firstborn son

– Isa 46:10 *Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'*

b). But, we will also know, that from the Garden of Eden onwards the incumbent ruler of this world, Satan, has done all in his power to prevent the fulfillment of God's pleasure with his particular focus on Israel.

c). And what follows in Esther Chapter 3 onwards with regards to the rise and fall of Haman needs to be seen in this context.

d). Although in the chronology of the account of Esther, Esther is already crowned queen before Haman is raised up, Israel, within the bounds of prophecy will not be crowned queen when the one whom Haman represents, the man of sin, Antichrist, rises to power.

e). What we need to see then as we begin Esther Chapter 3 is not a literal prophetic chronology, but rather commentary on the one hand concerning Satan's attempt to prevent the fulfillment of God's purpose for Israel, and on the other hand God using Satan's actions as the means by which to bring His purpose to fruition.

f). Esther as Queen and Mordecai in the King's gate are in place as we begin to study these things in order to keep regality and rulership ever before us as the ensuing events unfold – keeping our focus on the certainty of the end result on which our hope rests.

i/ And if the certainty of the fulfillment of God's plan for Israel is evident, it is also evident that His purpose with respect to the Bride for His Son is certain. This being the case the one will give reinforcement to the other, which should motivate us to keep our focus in the right place.

g). We will also need to realize that the events surrounding Haman do not give commentary on the whole panorama of Israeli history, but rather focuses in on God's wrath upon Israel, and more specifically with regards to God's wrath which will take place during the last three and one half years of the Tribulation when Antichrist becomes world ruler and the last king of Babylon in fulfillment of the fourth part of Daniel's image. A specific time period which is also the focus of Revelation Chapters 6-19.

4). Before we look at the events surrounding Haman we need to make sure that we have two specific foundations in place. Two foundations that are inextricably linked together.

a). One concerning the sovereignty of God in the affairs of angels and men.

b). And the other concerning the role of the Gentile nations in the fulfillment of God's plans for Israel.

5). Let's first deal with the sovereignty of God in the affairs of angels and men.

a). Es 3:1 ¶ *After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him.*

i/ 'seat' = Hebrew - 'kicce' = or kicceh {kis-say'}; from 3680; properly, covered, i.e. a throne (as canopied):--seat, stool, throne.

b). In our type /antitype structure we had seen that Ahasuerus is a type of God the Father, and within that structure as we apply it to our scripture here, we see God the Father placing the one Haman represents, Antichrist, in a position, 'above all the princes who were with him'.

c). And this of course is exactly the way it will happen.

d). We read in scripture, with regards to Antichrist that - Re 13:2 *Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.*

e). In the metaphorical language of Revelation we see Antichrist presented as a fantastic beast and Satan as 'the dragon'. And here Satan gives his power, his throne and great authority to Antichrist. This is exactly the position that Satan offered Christ during the temptation in the wilderness - Lu 4:6 *And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.*

f). But let us remember that Satan's authority and his ability to give it to 'whomever I wish' comes directly from his appointment from the throne of God.

g). Satan, in his unfallen state, was appointed by God - Eze 28:14 *"You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you;*

h). God alone, in the three persons of the trinity, placed Satan on his throne with respect to the rulership of the earth and God alone will remove him – the authority that Satan has as God's anointed, even though in a rebel capacity, comes from God.

i). Likewise with the fallen angels that have subordinate positions under Satan – their positions and authority ultimately come from God through Satan.

j). And in the same way the earthly rulers of the Gentile nations on the earth have their authority from God, through Satan and through Satan's subordinate angels.

k). It is as stated in - Ro 13:1 ¶ *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*

l). And our scripture in Romans is itself commentary on that which we find in - Da 4:17 *'This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the*

word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.'

Da 4:25 *They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses. 26 And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that the Heavens do rule.*

m). And of course it is in Daniel that we get our clearest picture of affairs in the angelic realm with respect to rulership over the earth - Da 10:20 *Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21 "But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.*

n). Perhaps it would help if we view all of this diagrammatically.

o). What we need to conclude from this and what we need to settle in our hearts and minds once and for all is that events in our 'modern' world do not happen in a vacuum, nor apart from the scope of Biblical prophecy – whether an earthly ruler comes to power through a bloody coup or the ballot box is not the issue – the issue is - the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.

p). Ultimately, within the context of God's plans and purposes, it is of little consequence who sits in the oval office in November – whoever is there is there because God has given it to whomever He chooses for the purpose of accomplishing this part in the jigsaw of the out-workings of His plans and purposes.

q). To have one person elected over another does not make the world a better place, a safer place, a fairer place – the future of this world is laid out in the pages of scripture, not in a manifesto or a policy document or a political system.

r). This is why the scriptures admonish us - 2Ti 2:4 *No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*

1Jo 2:15 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

s). So then, to put it simply, the affairs of men are within the sovereignty of God.

6). And so when Antichrist sits on Satan's throne at the midway point in Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week, 3 1/2 years into the Tribulation, he assumes this position under God's authority for the purpose of what appears to be a glorious paradox.

a). What happens in the last half of the Tribulation is Satan's final attempt to thwart the plans of God through his attempt to utterly annihilate the Jewish people and yet it is through this very action that God's plans are brought to pass.

b). Exactly what is presented in Esther - Es 3:8 *Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain. 9 "If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasuries." 10 So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 11 And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people are given to you, to do with them as seems good to you."*

c). Es 8:1 ¶ *On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. 2 So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.*

7). And of course, inextricably linked with Antichrist's rise to power is the role of the Gentile nations, over which he will have control as world ruler, in bringing to fulfillment God's plans and purposes.

a). It is within the Gentile nations and as a result of the persecution experienced amongst those nations that Israel will be brought to repentance – Eze 22:14 *"Can your heart endure, or can your hands remain strong, in the days when I shall deal with you? I, the LORD, have spoken, and will do it. 15 "I will scatter you among the nations, disperse you throughout the countries, and remove your filthiness completely from you.*

b). And again, it is the result of the removal of Israel's filthiness through repentance that ultimately brings about Israel's restoration - Zec 8:13 *And it shall come to pass That just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, Let your hands be strong.'*

8). Our foundational type for this would be Israel in Egypt in the days of Moses.

a). Israel was completely contained within the boundaries of Egypt, which is always a type of the world, and within that setting experiences intense hardship

and persecution - Ex 1:8 ¶ *Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; 10 "come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land." 11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses.*

b). As a result of the intensity of their persecution they cry out to the God of their fathers - Ex 3:7 ¶ *And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.*

c). And as a consequence of their crying out to God, God sends Moses back as their deliverer, to take them from Egypt to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to rule at the head of the nations within a theocracy.

d). This is an exact picture of what will take place during the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation which will result in the One greater than Moses being sent back to bring Israel out of their dispersion among the Gentile nations into the very same land in fulfillment of that pictured in Exodus.

e). The use of the Gentile nations as the means by which Israel is to be brought to repentance is also shown to us in the nation's captivity in Babylon Jer 21:7 *"And afterward," says the LORD, "I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, his servants and the people, and such as are left in this city from the pestilence and the sword and the famine, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those who seek their life; and he shall strike them with the edge of the sword. He shall not spare them, or have pity or mercy."*

f). And further on in Jeremiah we can see how Nebuchadnezzar's actions are completely within the realm of God's sovereignty - Jer 27:6 *'And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant; and the beasts of the field I have also given him to serve him.*

g). Nebuchadnezzar is at this point and remains a pagan and in no way could he be seen as a servant of God in the way that we would understand of a believer – but he is God's servant in that he is appointed by God - *the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.* – in order to bring about the accomplishment of God's purpose.

h). It is no different today within the Gentile nations of the world and will be no different with respect to Antichrist, the one of whom Nebuchadnezzar is also a type.

i). Throughout Israel's history, from the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities onwards, Israel has been scattered amongst the Gentile nations and has

experienced ongoing persecution in different phases of intensity. There has not been a time, since the captivities, when the Jew somewhere in the world has not been persecuted.

j). And as we know those Jews in the land of Israel today, still in unrepentance and disobedience, will again be scattered at the midpoint in the Tribulation to experience persecution amongst the Gentile nations such as has never been seen in all of human history.

9). And then, in another seeming paradox, the very nations who bring about God's purpose of bringing Israel to repentance through persecution will then be judged in accord with their treatment of the nation in line with that which was stated in –  
Ge 12:1 ¶ *Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

a). God cannot and will not contradict His word.

b). Joe 3:1 ¶ *"For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations;*

c). Zec 14:12 *And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.*

d). Mt 25:31 ¶ *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 "And the King will answer and say to*

*them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

10). So then we may conclude that the events of human history with respect to the rise and fall of nations and their ever changing leadership is neither random nor given to chance, but is all working, even though we may not fully understand the details, towards the fulfillment of God's plans and purposes set in place before the foundation of the world.

a). It is the arrogance of Man that he thinks he shapes the events of history, when rather it is the events of history that will be seen to have fulfilled that recorded in the scriptures, as God in His sovereignty set in place the end from the beginning.

b). The repetition we see in scripture with regards to that seen in Esther, Daniel and Revelation, here a little and there a little, serves to assure us of the certainty and demonstrates the intricacy of God's work within this one realm of His Kingdom – in this there is comfort and hope as well as unavoidable warning.

c). And it is within this overall context that we shall continue next time to study events surrounding the character that we know as Haman.