

Sunday October 26th 2008
Esther – Part Thirteen

1). 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.*

a). As we come to the conclusion of the Book of Esther, we come to the conclusion of the whole matter of scripture. Esther of course is only one facet of the complete picture, the facet that relates to the nation of Israel – we do not see in this book that which relates specifically to Christ or His Bride in that coming day.

b). But each of these three parts is so inextricably linked together that we cannot help but see all three in each one.

c). Here is the very conclusion of that which God stated at the beginning of Genesis - Ge 1:26 ¶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion*

d). Pictured here for us in the opening verses of Chapter 8, is the time when Israel will be restored to her position as the wife of Jehovah, and set in her regal position within the earth, fulfilling one part of the marriage relationship foreshadowed by Adam and the Woman. And where finally Israel assumes the role God had announced to the Assyrian Pharaoh - Ex 4:22 *"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn.*

e). Just as Mordecai is appointed over the house of Haman, so Israel will be appointed over all that belonged to the one Haman typifies.

f). The entire inhabited earth had been given into the hands of Antichrist Re 13:1 ¶ *Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 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.....7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

g). Once Christ has taken Satan's crown and His joint heirs the positions of rulership in the heavens presently occupied by the subordinate fallen angels then the repentant and restored Israel will be placed at the head of the nations, holding supremacy over the inhabited earth in place of Antichrist.

h). The Book of Hebrews addresses this same future time in relation to present circumstances in - Heb 2:6 *But one testified in a certain place, saying:*

"What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? 7 You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

i). Man has been made for a little while a little lower than the angels, in a position lower than the fallen angels who rule over the earth, even though, from God's perspective, all things have been placed in subjection under Man's feet. At the present time we do not see this as happening – but in that coming day, for the first time within God's universal Kingdom, wholly redeemed, created human beings will be elevated to positions higher than the angels and will find 'all things' in subjection under their feet as joint heirs with Christ. It is quite impossible to convey the enormity of this coming event.

2). Now the similes used to describe Antichrist as he rises from the sea, from amongst the Gentile nations, in Revelation 13, present a description that we have already seen recorded in the Book of Daniel - Da 7:2 *Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. 3 "And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. 4 "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it. 5 "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!' 6 "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 "I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.*

a). The 4 great beasts who come out of the Great Sea stirred up by the four winds of heaven are the four great worldwide kingdoms that have Babylon as their seat of rulership.

b). We see the four winds referenced again in - Re 7:1 ¶ *After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth,*

c). And here we see the winds in connection with angelic activity – and it might be interesting to note that the word translated ‘wind’ is the Hebrew word, ‘ruwach’, which is also translated elsewhere as ‘spirit’.

d). If we were then to connect this with what God records regarding angels in Hebrews - Heb 1:14 *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

e). Heb 1:7 *And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels winds,* The word translated ‘winds’ here is translated ‘spirits’ in KJV and NKJV.

f). We can readily conclude that the stirring up of the Great Sea which produces the 4 great beasts is the result of angelic activity – And why is this important?

g). Because of what we know of the activity of angels - Ps 103:19 ¶ *The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all. 20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. 21 Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure.*

h). Angels administer the word of God and in this their actions are seen as the actions of God Himself. Even fallen angels can only operate within the boundaries of the sovereign will of God.

j). Therefore the stirring up of the Great Sea and the emergence of the 4 great beasts is in effect brought about by God. V19 of Psalm 103 sets in place an absolute truth.

k). And this is in perfect keeping with that which other scripture teaches.

3). Let’s look at what we find recorded in - Ho 13:4 *"Yet I am the LORD your God Ever since the land of Egypt, And you shall know no God but Me; For there is no Savior besides Me. 5 ¶ I knew you in the wilderness, In the land of great drought. 6 When they had pasture, they were filled; They were filled and their heart was exalted; Therefore they forgot Me. 7 "So I will be to them like a lion; Like a leopard by the road I will lurk; 8 I will meet them like a bear deprived of her cubs; I will tear open their rib cage, And there I will devour them like a lion. The wild beast shall tear them. 9 ¶ "O Israel, you are destroyed, But your help is from Me.*

a). And here again, within just 6 verses of scripture, we have the complete history of the nation of Israel – from the nation’s inception in Egypt, to the sovereign intervention of God on their behalf as a result of national repentance, at the end of the Tribulation.

b). And what do we see here, God will be to them, ‘like a lion’, ‘like a leopard’, and ‘like a bear’ – the exact same similes that are used to describe the first 3 great beasts in Daniel 7 and the subsequent embodiment of all that these

beasts represent contained in Antichrist in Revelation 13 – here in Hosea described as ‘the wild beast’.

c). Here in Hosea we see Israel’s rib cage torn open and in Daniel we see the bear with 3 ribs in its mouth, between its teeth – perhaps by putting these two images together we can see the God ordained complete judgment of the nation in accordance with that written in Leviticus 26.

d). What we see here then is God Himself working through the actions of these 4 beasts for a specifically stated reason - *They were filled and their heart was exalted; Therefore they forgot Me.* And the purpose is to bring Israel to the place where they will acknowledge, ‘But your help is from Me’ thereby bringing into effect 2 Chronicles 7:14.

e). Ps 37:39 *But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in the time of trouble.*

f). Ps 121:1 ¶ <<A Song of Ascents.>> *I will lift up my eyes to the hills- From whence comes my help? 2 My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.*

g). There is an ominous echo in the 6th verse of our Hosea scripture of that which we find regarding the church at large in -6 *When they had pasture, they were filled; They were filled and their heart was exalted; Therefore they forgot Me. -*

Re 3:17 *"Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' --and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—*

h). In that day He will be like a lion, like a bear and like a leopard to the non-overcoming Christian – the difference being here of course is that there will be no further opportunity for repentance on the part of the Christian. Our time of repentance is now and we will ignore this at our peril - Heb 12:29 *For our God is a consuming fire.*

4). The first three great beasts that we see in Daniel are of course the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece and what is significant about all these of course is that they all ruled the known world from within the geographical boundaries of the city state of Babylon. And each of these was the worldwide power of its day. And what is worthy of note is that these worldwide kingdoms were brought into being in order to deal with a disobedient Israel, just as we saw in Hosea 13.

a). We will remember that the northern 10 tribes of Israel had been taken into captivity by the Assyrians in 722BC and that this Assyrian empire was conquered by a coalition of the Babylonians, Medes and Scythians in 612BC. The Babylonians then surfaced as the dominant force within these three and shortly after succeeding his father Nebopolassar in 605BC, Nebuchadnezzar was allowed to take the southern 2 tribes of Judah into captivity bringing to an end the

Theocratic Kingdom and replacing it with 'the times of the Gentiles'. A time period that exists to the present day.

b). And as we have noted, God brought this about in order to deal with His rebellious nation - Ezr 5:12 *"But because our fathers provoked the God of heaven to wrath, He gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this temple and carried the people away to Babylon.*

c). Jer 25:9 *'behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the LORD, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations.*

d). The Jewish people have been scattered amongst the Gentile nations ever since 605BC and this is a situation that exists to this present day. The nation is unrepentant and still scattered and will remain so until God's purpose is brought to pass - De 4:27 *"And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you.*

e). Eze 22:15 *"I will scatter you among the nations, disperse you throughout the countries, and remove your filthiness completely from you.*

f). So from 605BC the Gentile nations have held the ascendancy and have throughout their history persecuted Israel in their midst. But we must remember that this time of Gentile ascendancy is not an open ended arrangement. Its conclusion will come as a result of Israel's national repentance. And we can know from scripture that it takes 2600 years of being scattered and persecuted at the hands of the Gentiles to bring this to pass. And in one sense Gentile power is responsible for its own destruction as it is this very power that brings about Israel's repentance. And all of this is set within the framework of the 6000 years of Man's Day.

5). A remnant of Jews was allowed to return to the land following the Babylonian captivity - Ezr 1:1 ¶ *Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, 2 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. 3 Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem.*

a). It is the descendants of those who returned to the land at this time that we find present in Israel at Christ's first advent, and it is of course this generation who on the one hand reject their King and on the other slay their Passover Lamb – Joh 19:15 *But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"*

b). As a consequence of their action the temple and Jerusalem were destroyed by the Roman, Titus, in 70AD and the remnant in the land scattered again.

c). Now please keep in mind that the majority of the Jewish people were still out amongst the Gentile nations at this time, and it is just the remnant that was there from the days of the end of the Babylonian captivity who were scattered by Titus.

d). Subsequent to this dispersal another remnant was allowed to return to the land, but not until 1948. This remnant constitutes those who are still in the land today who make up the nation we know as Israel. The majority of Jews however still remain out amongst the Gentile nations.

e). And this remnant has been allowed to return for a specific reason – they are in the land in readiness for Antichrist's appearance - Da 9:27 *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."*

f). In the middle of the week Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel, destroy Jerusalem and the temple and sell as slaves amongst the nations those Jews in the land who have not escaped to the place of God's protection in the wilderness - Da 9:26 *"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

g). Mt 24:15 *"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.*

h). Re 12:6 *Then the woman [Israel] fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.*[31/2 years]

i). And just as Hitler sought to bring about a Jew free Europe so Antichrist will seek to bring about a Jew free world and through his failure will come Israel's deliverance.

6). But the Jews in the land today are there in unrepentance, and although they need to be there in fulfillment of Biblical prophecy they are also there contrary to that which scripture commands - Nu 35:10 *"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, 11 'then you shall appoint cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the manslayer who kills any person accidentally may flee there. 12 'They shall be cities of refuge for you from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation in judgment. 13 'And of the cities which you give, you shall have six cities of refuge.26 'But if the manslayer at any time goes outside the limits of the city of refuge where he fled, 27 'and the avenger of blood finds him outside the limits of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood, 28 'because he should have remained in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest. But after the death of the high priest the manslayer may return to the land of his possession. 29 'And these things shall be a statute of judgment to you throughout your generations in all your dwellings.*

a). Israel is the 'manslayer' who is responsible for slaying their King albeit 'accidentally' – Lu 23:34 *Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."*

i/ Then after His ascension Christ assumes the role of High Priest.

b). And Israel has returned to the land of his possession before the death of the High Priest – which in the antitype points to that time when Christ will no longer be the High Priest ministering in the heavenly sanctuary, but will come from the sanctuary as the great King/priest after the order of Melchizedek.

c). In consequence then, the 'manslayer' Israel, may legitimately be slain for being in the land of his possession at the wrong time.

d). We will realize then that there is much more going on in the Middle East than the age old conflict between Isaac and Ishmael – there is, in Numbers 35, a whole other dimension to the continuing violence and tumult surrounding the Israeli nation - Jon 1:4 ¶ *But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea,*

7). But as we have already noted the 'times of the Gentiles' and the scattering of Israel amongst the nations is for the sole purpose of dealing with Israel's sin so that

God can completely remove their filthiness from them – as we saw in Ezekiel 22:15

a). And of course this is brought to pass at the hands of the fourth beast, who is ‘dreadful, terrible and exceedingly strong’ in Daniel 7, ‘the wild beast’ in Hosea 13 and the beast like a lion, like a leopard and like a bear in Revelation 13.

b). In Antichrist is the summation and the zenith of all Gentile persecution from Nebuchadnezzar onwards.

c). As the means God has used to bring His people to repentance was begun by a worldwide kingdom with its capital in Babylon, so it must be brought to fulfillment by a worldwide kingdom ruling from the same geographical location.

d). There has of course from our perspective been a large passage of time since the demise of the Grecian kingdom, but this intervening time has been setting the stage for the fourth and final form of the Babylonian kingdom, which will be the instrument by which God’s purpose will be accomplished.

e). It may very well be that God has arranged things in this way so that we would not be deceived into thinking that Rome or the Third Reich or 1948 was that prophesied in scripture – anything we would see in the Gentile persecution of the Jews from the time of the Greeks onwards and a return of the remnant to the land can be nothing more than a foreshadowing of what is yet to come.

8). The 6000 years of Man’s Day, the 2600 years of the ‘times of the Gentiles’, the 3/12 years of the final form of the Babylonian kingdom are brought to an end almost instantaneously – from the moment Israel comes to repentance it is game over - Es 7:10 *So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided....8:1 ¶ On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews.*

a). Ps 97:1 ¶ *The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice; Let the multitude of isles be glad! 2 Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. 3 A fire goes before Him, And burns up His enemies round about. 4 His lightnings light the world; The earth sees and trembles. 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. 6 The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples see His glory. 7 Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, Who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods. 8 ¶ Zion hears and is glad, And the daughters of Judah rejoice Because of Your judgments, O LORD.*

b). Isa 4:2 ¶ *In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing For those of Israel who have escaped.*

c). Isa 10:20 ¶ *And it shall come to pass in that day That the remnant of Israel, And such as have escaped of the house of Jacob, Will never again depend*

on him who defeated them, But will depend on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

d). *Isa 11:11 It shall come to pass in that day That the Lord shall set His hand again the second time To recover the remnant of His people who are left, From Assyria and Egypt, From Pathros and Cush, From Elam and Shinar, From Hamath and the islands of the sea.*

e). *Isa 25:9 ¶ And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."*

f). *Isa 28:5 In that day the LORD of hosts will be For a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty To the remnant of His people,*

g). *Jer 23:7 "Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' 8 "but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."*

h). *And Gentile world power is swept away for all time - Da 2:35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found.*

i). *And the Millennial Kingdom is established - Isa 2:2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.³ Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

9). *As the day of the Lord begins, with the complete change in the system of rulership from the heavens and in the earth, Israel's millenniums of suffering will be turned into rejoicing and rest - Es 8:15 ¶ So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. 16 The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor. 17 And in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday[rest]. Then many of the people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.*

a). *Zec 8:23 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'"*

b). And with Christ seated on the throne of his father David, the Jews will rule the nations with a rod of iron pictured for us in the events of - Es 9:15 *And the Jews who were in Shushan gathered together again on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and killed three hundred men at Shushan; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder. 16 The remainder of the Jews in the king's provinces gathered together and protected their lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of their enemies; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder. 17 This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. And on the fourteenth day of the month they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness. 18 But the Jews who were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day, as well as on the fourteenth; and on the fifteenth of the month they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. 19 Therefore the Jews of the villages who dwelt in the unwallied towns celebrated the fourteenth day of the month of Adar with gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and for sending presents to one another.*

c). And finally, in fulfillment of the last part of - Ge 12:3.... *And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

d). We see Mordecai in the dual type of Israel and Christ presented in the final Chapter of Esther - Es 10:3 *For Mordecai the Jew was second to King Ahasuerus, and was great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen.*

e). A scene that reminds us of a type previously seen in Genesis – Ge 45:26 *And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt."*

10). And so, as we come to the end of our study of the Book of Esther, we cannot help but realize that it is with absolute certainty that this day is fast approaching, and all that scripture has foretold will be fulfilled. And we have the privilege of being given the opportunity to participate in it – not as a bystander, but as a firstborn son of God, a joint heir with Lord Jesus Christ.

a). Let us not lose that which is set before us.

b). All Jews on the face of the earth at this moment have the potential to share in the 7th Day, but we also know that if the Tribulation began today the majority would fail to realize that potential.

c). Church let us continue our race of faith with a degree of seriousness above anything we have had so far, for the time is at hand.