"Date with Destiny"
Esther 9 - 10

Introduction

In Esther chapters 9-10 God brings His providential plan to overthrow Haman's evil intentions to a close. In a total reversal of outcomes, God orchestrated the destruction of His enemies on the very day the Jews themselves were supposed to be destroyed. Throughout the book of Esther we find various occurrences like this, which appear to be "coincidental" however, God is continuously working behind the scenes and His timing is always precise. In this story God's providence and timing still included a battle that forced the Jews to take up arms and wage war. Believers need to understand that while God may be providentially working through occurrences in our lives, we cannot be passive participants in gaining victory. Instead we must use the means given to us by God to battle spiritual warfare. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

Esther took spiritual warfare to a different level; she was righteously motivated to serve God by using her key place of influence to deal with evil. However she did not simply battle evil in the here and now, rather she had a future perspective that gave her the insight to extinguish the evil legacy in Haman's family. (Esther 9:13) We can benefit from Esther's example by understanding the importance of having no tolerance for evil. We have to deal with immediate evil and the legacy of evil – the potential for dormant evil to rear its head in our lives at a later time. For example, in the Old Testament, King Saul was given commands to utterly destroy the enemies of the Lord yet he spared king Agag and kept the best of the spoil (1 Samuel15:8-9). Since Saul never dealt with the evil king Agag, God had to take care of that and Saul lost his anointing due to this disobedience. (1 Samuel 15:26).

Whenever God gets rid of evil, and demonstrates His providence, He is interested in highlighting His glory. Now the Jews glorify God by celebrating the feast of Purim. Purim comes from the word Pur, which was the word Haman used when referring to "rolling the dice," in order to decide a date of destruction for the Jews. While Haman selected a date on which he intended to do evil, God turned this very date into a celebration for God's people. He took what was meant for evil and turned it into a good (Genesis 50:20). This lesson was then taught to their children so that generations could reflect on God's providential influence and perfect timing. Our personal date with destiny should also result in a celebration of God's providence. Our destiny should always give us a reason to praise Him. He moves providentially on our behalf in ways that impact generations to come. We are to remember when He has providentially come through for us, even if we've had battles along the way. He shows that He is God by letting us get backed into a corner in which His perfect timing reverses the natural course of things.

Getting Started

1. Has God ever surprised you by creating a total reversal of outcomes in your own life?

2. In this message we learn that the Jews glorified God by remembering their deliverance through the fest of Purim. In what ways do you pass down the story of God's providence to those around you? What mechanism can you set up in your life in order to continuously remember God's works?

Let's Get Personal

1. What evil have you not completely dealt with in your life? What should you do in order to stop the legacy of sin?

2. In what ways must you seek to engage in spiritual warfare as God providentially works in your life?

Take the Next Step

1. How has this series expanded your view of God? How do you see His providential hand working in your life?

2. Want to go deeper? Take time to look at the follow passages: Ephesians 6:10-18; Psalm 23:5; James 4:7-10; Jeremiah 18:4 Exodus 17:8-16; 2 Peter 2:6; John 3:14-15.

Renew Your Mind

"…And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14