

## “Divine Reversals”

*Esther 7 - 8*

### Introduction

God often reverses the normal course of things in order to demonstrate His faithfulness to His people. Many times however, God’s divine reversals seem delayed. God may choose to slow down a process by the voice of the Holy Spirit or He may interrupt a circumstance, placing everything on hold. No matter how He chooses to roll out His divine will, God’s timing is always perfect. Esther had a plan in mind to discuss the plight of the Jews at the first dinner she threw for the King and her enemy Haman, but God caused her to wait to disclose her petition to the king at a second dinner. (Esther 5:7-8) It seemed like the timing was right for the first dinner because Esther had been praying and fasting (Esther 4:15-16), yet God caused Esther to wait. God had plans to set a series of circumstances in motion that would bring about justice and glorify Him.

Just like God did for Esther, sometimes He delays by pushing pause in our lives. The Holy Spirit’s job is to help us know when we are to move forward and when we are to wait on God. When God pushes pause, the believer will not have a sense of peace in moving forward. It may be possible that God has delayed something in your life because He is working out multiple things for your good in the background.

God can work through human authority, even in divine reversals (Romans 13:1-2). Sometimes that means there could be a legitimate appeal to human authority, other times there may be an intervention or judgment by such an authority. In Esther’s situation, Esther appealed properly to the king. Then it was through the king’s authority that the great reversal occurred. We should never be so anxious to help God out that we work outside His established system of authority – even when that involves non-Christians like king Ahasuerus.

God delays things or seemingly interrupts because He has Kingdom plans in mind. He is positioning us, protecting us or giving us an opportunity to see His power. Many of the “ingredients” for His plan we can’t see or understand. God’s plan in the book of Esther was to save His people (Esther 8:5-8). He used a variety of circumstances and people to do it but ultimately His providence was at work the entire time and His show of power gave the people an opportunity to worship Him and proclaim His good works.

Believers should always be asking the question, “God, how do you want to use me for Your Kingdom in light of the position I am in right now? How can I leverage the influence I have, even over non-Christians, in light of Your Kingdom?” This means we can’t live in Christian silos, meaning that we cannot isolate ourselves from the world and simultaneously be used to draw the world to Christ. We have to be engaged in the world appropriately, bringing God to bear but also being sensitive to His Spirit.

### Getting Started

1. Explain the term “divine reversal” in your own words.
2. What pauses are happening in your life right now? Do you see them differently as a result of listening to this week’s sermon?

### Let’s Get Personal

1. What divine reversals have you experienced in your life?
2. Are you in need of a divine reversal? Share that need with your group.
3. How are you using the blessings in your own life for the Kingdom of God?

### Take the Next Step

1. Are you operating according to divine authority in your life right now? Why or why not? What can you do this week to align yourself with the authority God has placed in your life?

2. Want to go deeper? Take time to look at the follow passages: 2 Chronicles 29:36; Acts 16:25-26; Acts 16:36-37; Acts 22:25-30; Romans 11:33-36

### Renew Your Mind

*“...And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14*

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