

## THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT – PART 1

--ESTHER 8:1-17--

### INTRODUCTION:

Haman is dead, impaled or nailed to the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. No longer could Haman exercise the executive powers of government and abuse the king's authority. No longer could he bring his evil suggestions before the king, bringing disgrace upon the empire through his hateful, wicked influence. The empire was no longer an instrument of Haman's evil acts, which were not for the good of the empire but to satisfy Haman's own wicked pride. By his death, the kingdom would become ineffective and inactive for evil.

As we come into chapter 8, it has been two and a half months since Haman's edict for the destruction of the Jews went out to the farthest reaches of the empire. Remember he had written it in the name of the king and had sealed it with the king's ring, making it a law of Media-Persia which cannot be repealed. What is to be done, the wrong man is out, the right man is in but is it too late? This morning we will see how God begins working to bring about the deliverance of the Jews.

### I. MORDECAI'S PROMOTION (Esther 8:1-2)

- a. On the very day that Haman was nailed or impaled on the gallows, Esther brought \_\_\_\_\_ before the king and disclosed to the king who Mordecai was to her.
- b. Then we read that king Ahasuerus gave the \_\_\_\_\_ of Haman, the Jews' enemy, to Esther the queen, and the king gave his signet \_\_\_\_\_, which he had taken back from Haman to Mordecai.
- c. What we see happening here is the king identified his \_\_\_\_\_ with that of Esther, and Esther submitted her will to that of Mordecai. (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:4)

### II. MORDECAI'S INFLUENCE (Esther 8:3-8)

- a. It is important to remember at this point in the history, that though Mordecai is welcome in the palace, he continues to \_\_\_\_\_ the king by communicating through Esther.

- b. The day that this law is to be carried out is drawing nearer, and this knowledge brings Esther in \_\_\_\_\_ before the king again.
- c. If you remember from an earlier message I had spoken of the law of the Medes and Persians which cannot be altered as a picture in our own experience of what Paul in the book of Romans calls, "the law of \_\_\_\_\_ and death." (Romans 7:15-18)
- d. Often the growing Christian in this type of experience needs much \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 7:23-24)
- e. The king's response in verses 7-8 is very \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. It is this utter \_\_\_\_\_ on the part of the king and his readiness to admit it which is the great lesson the Holy Spirit teaches us from this passage. (Romans 14:23)
- g. Ahasuerus makes no attempt at \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.

### CONCLUSION:

Our old self is still at work in us until we shed this body of flesh and receive our new glorified body at the coming of the Lord. The law of sin and death still holds us in its power because it cannot be revoked. Paul writes in the end of Romans 7:25, "*So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.*" (Romans 7:25, NASB95) We must discover like Paul that when we try to serve God in our own strength, we will utterly fail because even self-effort is sin. We must, like Ahasuerus, come to that place in our lives where we see the utter sinfulness of our sin and recognize that we are helpless to please God, and then utterly surrender ourselves to the Holy Spirit. We must put the whole matter of pleasing God into the hands of the Holy Spirit.

What about you? Are you still trying to please God by your own self-effort? I will tell you from experience you will fail, you will end up utterly confused and broken. Admit to God your helplessness to please Him and surrender to the Holy Spirit. Give the Lord Jesus Christ your full allegiance and allow Him by His Holy Spirit to be Lord of your life. Then and only then with the Holy Spirit in full control will you be able to please God. (2 Peter 1:1-4, NASB95)