

THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT – PART 2

--ESTHER 8:1-17--

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we saw Mordecai honored by the king and queen. The king gave Mordecai his signet ring and bestowed on him the office of prime minister. The king then gave the estate of Haman to queen Esther and Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman. This is what happened historically. Spiritually, we begin to see Ahasuerus, who represents man's soul in harmony with his spirit, represented by Esther submit themselves to the control of the Holy Spirit, represented by Mordecai. We saw this played out even more when Esther again requested that something be done to revoke the evil edict of Haman. Ahasuerus answered that he was powerless to revoke a law signed by his name and sealed with his ring. Recognizing his total helplessness in this matter, he does the only wise thing; he put the whole matter into the hands of Mordecai. "Write whatever you please," he says, "and I will sign it." He surrendered completely to the will of Mordecai to find a way for the Jews to be saved.

III. MORDECAI'S WISDOM (Esther 8:9-14)

- a. Mordecai needs no other urging from the king or anyone else, he immediately _____ to defend his people and to keep them from being annihilated.
- b. What was Mordecai's answer to this _____ which was hanging over the head of his people?
- c. This new law gave the Jews the right to _____ themselves against all their enemies.
- d. We have been comparing the _____ of Media-Persia which cannot be revoked with the _____ of sin and death that we each are subject to in this life. (Romans 8:2; Galatians 2:20)
- e. Jesus told his disciples before he went to the cross, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, **but your _____ will be turned into joy.**" (John 16:20, NASB95)

- f. In the same way, the law of sin and death may continue to work in our circumstances, but the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus transforms those very painful _____ into rejoicing and blessing. (2nd Corinthians 12:9)

IV. MORDECAI'S SPLENDOR (Esther 8:15-17)

- a. When the new edict was announced throughout the empire, there was immense _____ and gladness among the Jews.
- b. This decree brought joy to the city of Susa, it is said to bring to the Jews light and _____, and joy, and _____.
- c. Not only was there joy in the kingdom of Media-Persia when Mordecai's decree was announced, but there was also another remarkable _____.

CONCLUSION:

As I wrap up this morning, let me just say that this is the Christian life we should each aspire to live. A life in which we are completely surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. As Paul says in Romans 12:1-2, "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2, NASB95) We saw in the life of Ahasuerus what can happen when we get out of the way and let the Mordecai in your life take over, then deliverance is found and with the announcement of it comes joy. Our life can be this way as well if we just get out of the way, quit trying to do it in our own strength and let the Holy Spirit who indwells us take over. Then we will be able to echo Paul's words in 2nd Corinthians 12:9-10, "Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:9b-10, NASB95)