



Springcreek
CHURCH

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HAMAN: You Reap What You Sow
Villains – Part 3
Pastor Keith Stewart
June 9-10, 2018

1. A PLANNED HOLOCAUST: THE BOOK IN A NUTSHELL

Ahasuerus means "The Venerable Father"

The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set a royal crown upon her head and made her queen, instead of Vashti. Esther 2.17

"Esther brands him as 'Haman the wicked' and it is a singular fact that the numerical value of the Hebrew letters which make up his title is 666, the number of the Antichrist (Rev 13:18)." - J. Sidlow Baxter, Explore the Book

2. THE ORPHAN ESTHER: VICTIM OR VIXEN?

Esther's name literally means, "I am hiding."

Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king. Let the king appoint commissioners in every province of his realm to bring all these beautiful young women into the harem at the citadel of Susa. Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let beauty treatments be given to them. Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti. This advice appealed to the king, and he followed it. Esther 2.2-4



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When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. Esther 2.8

“Regardless of how she felt about it or whether she cooperated, Esther was at the mercy of a ruthless pagan king just as her people were. The use of the passive voice is appropriate in this story, for it expresses life from the perspective of being caught up and swept along by circumstances beyond ones' control.” - Karen Jobes

Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this. Esther 4.13

3. THE KAIROS MOMENT: YOU ARE WHERE YOU ARE FOR A REASON

Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this. Esther 4.13

Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.” Esther 4.16



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On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you." "If it pleases the king," replied Esther, "let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him." "Bring Haman at once," the king said, "so that we may do what Esther asks." Esther 5.1-5

...issued written orders that the evil scheme Haman had devised against the Jews should come back onto his own head. Esther 9.25

What you do to others, you do to yourself.

What goes around comes back around.

It's called karma and it's pronounced, "Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!"

"Life is an echo. What you send out, comes back. What you sow, you reap. What you give, you get. What you see in others, exists in you." – Zig Ziglar

"The game of life is like the game of boomerangs, deeds and words return to us sooner or later with astounding accuracy" - Florence Skinner

"Everybody, sooner or later, sits down to a banquet of consequences." – Robert Louis Stevenson

"What you put out into the world will always come back to you. But never how you predict." - Dennis Lehane, Live by Night



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4. HIS STORY: FINDING CHRIST IN HISTORY

Mordecai wrote all this down and sent copies to all the Jews in all King Xerxes' provinces, regardless of distance, calling for an annual celebration on the fourteenth and fifteenth days of Adar as the occasion when Jews got relief from their enemies, the month in which their sorrow turned to joy, mourning somersaulted into a holiday for parties and fun and laughter, the sending and receiving of presents and of giving gifts to the poor. And they did it. What started then became a tradition.... Esther 9.20-23 (The Message)

Eucatastrophe

"I coined the word 'eucatastrophe' - the sudden happy turn in a story which pierces you with a joy that brings tears." - JRR Tolkien

"...this is indeed how things really do work in the Great World for which our nature is made. And I concluded by saying that the Resurrection was the greatest 'eucatastrophe' possible and produces that essential emotion: Christian joy." - JRR Tolkien

"Gandalf! I thought you were dead! But then I thought I was dead myself. Is everything sad going to come untrue?" - Samwise Gamgee

The gallows – The cross

Have a pole set up, reaching to a height of fifty cubits, and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai impaled on it. Esther 5.14

He who knew no sin was made sin for us. 2 Corinthians 5.21