

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Esther

No 5

Haman - The Ascendancy of the Flesh

Bible Readings: Romans 7:14-8:9 & Esther 5:1-7:10

The biggest problem we Christians have is our self; that is what we are aside from what we have received in the Lord Jesus Christ. Although we call Jesus Christ LORD, we tend to not let Him be Lord in every department of our lives. We are delighted with what salvation has brought us, but we hate giving up everything to have Him run our lives. Like Saul of old, we try to salvage the best of what God has condemned and then consecrate it to Him. It is this which often causes us to sin. In Esther, there is an extended type¹ or ideas picture of this scenario. Ahasuerus is a type of ourselves, Haman is a type of the flesh. Mordecai is a type of Jesus and Esther is a type of the Holy Spirit. Let's see how this works out and what it has to teach us.

Ahasuerus is a type of ourselves, because he was monarch of his empire. He could give control to whomsoever he willed, Haman or Mordecai. Also he crucified Haman when he learned his true nature.

Haman is a type of the flesh, because his passion was self glorification. He took control of the kingdom of Ahasuerus and used it to destroy that which was of God, and was good.

Mordecai is a type of Jesus, because he resisted Haman's self adulation and suffered at his hand. He did no wrong. After Haman's execution he took control of the kingdom for good, and thereby he gave ultimate victory over evil.

Esther is a type of the Holy Spirit, because she was related by birth to Mordecai, she was a permanent resident in the palace of the king, she was a patient influence for good; appealing to Ahasuerus on behalf of Mordecai and because she did not at any time seek her own interests or advance her own welfare.

What the picture shows. When we fully see this amazing set of types applying to our Christian life we better understand our struggle against weakness, our self will, our failure to overcome sin and our failure to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. But we also see God's abundant provision to enable us to be what God wants us to be.

How it works:

It is only in our identification with Christ Jesus in His death and resurrection life that we by grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life victoriously by Jesus Christ².

It is to this that the Holy Spirit gently leads us. There is no other way. God has not provided any other way. This provision cost Him the death of His Son. Until we accept the way of the cross we will continue to experience conflict and defeat:

Consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6:11.
(Using your own Bible, take the time to thoughtfully read through this whole important chapter.)

Now View Haman Close Up.
As we review each of the elements of

the Haman story, let us apply them not just to the Esther story, but more so to our own pilgrimage where Haman is our 'flesh' as Paul terms it, the life with which we were born, the self life, knowing that:

the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:7&8.

By using the term 'flesh' Paul separates me a created sovereign being from me the depraved, alienated, sinful being; to help us understand our relationship with God.

3:1 He consorted with king Ahasuerus to please him.

3:1 He desired advancement.

3:2 He craved the honour of others.

3:5 He despised Mordecai.

3:7 He planned anti-Semitic genocide.

3:8 He obtained Ahasuerus' essential authority for his plans.

3:9 & 13 He planned to turn the Jews resources to his benefit.

3:15 He was insensitive to the misery of others.

5:8 Haman enjoyed the queen's attention and honour.

5:9&10 He smothered his anger for Mordecai.

5:11&12 He basked in his own glory.

5:13&14 He hated Mordecai and planned to put him to death.

6:5&6 His judgment and values were entirely misplaced.

6:10-12 He was utterly humiliated in honouring Mordecai.

6:13 It was foretold him that he would fall before Mordecai because he was a Jew.

6:14 He was escorted to his humiliation.

7:1 The king with Haman came to the queen.

7:3-6 His treachery is exposed.

7:4 His plan was to: sell, destroy, kill and annihilate God's people.

7:7 He begged Esther when all was lost.

7:8 He had no sense of decorum.

7:8 His face was covered³.

7:9 He was condemned by Ahasuerus, not Esther.

7:10 His end was that he was hanged or crucified.

FOOTNOTES: **1. Types** and antitypes are a Biblical form of teaching which identifies similar characteristics between different people or things. We are told that what is true about something we know is *like* or *similar* to characteristics in something else. 'Type' is from the Greek word 'typos.' It is translated as 'type,' 'print,' 'figure,' 'manner,' 'fashion,' 'form' and the like. Because something is similar in one characteristic, it does not mean that it is an exact representation. A lamb is the type of Christ as our sacrifice in His death; Christ is the antitype. In other ways it may be dissimilar. A lamb has four legs and this characteristic has no corresponding meaning to the antitype. **2. Reigning** by grace, Romans 5:21. **3. Face covered.** Haman's position was obviously that of a supplicant. The remarks of Ahasuerus about forcing the queen was a statement to those who knew the law (See 1:13) that he was already condemned by Ahasuerus and Haman must not look on the king again. The only question remaining was the manner by which the sentence was to be carried out, thus the ready response of the attendants. **Bible quotations** in this study are from the NASB, unless otherwise acknowledged.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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