

Day 23

- Yesterday, we left off with Haman having sent out the decree to destroy all the Jews throughout the 127 provinces of the kingdom of King Ahasuerus.
 - “A copy of the document was to be issued as LAW in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day...So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.” Esther 3:14-15.
 - Perplexed indeed, for what could have possibly happened to bring on such a death sentence to a people who never rebelled and had served the king faithfully.
 - Now, through the hatred of the child of King Agag, passed onto his children, and then down the family line until that hatred was birthed through Haman, came the demonic, diabolical plan to destroy God’s chosen people.
 - But, remember when I quoted from Numbers 23:19-20? No? That’s okay. It was when the prophet Balaam had been paid by King Balak the Moabite king to curse the Israelites. But Balaam said to King Balak, “Behold, I have received a command to bless; He [God] has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.”
 - This is huge for us to see this entire word picture God has carefully and intricately laid out before us. God had already spoken His perfect blessing over Israel, even knowing that down the road, they would choose an earthly king over Him. Yet as we have learned through scripture, “If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.” 2 Timothy 2:13.
 - God foresaw all that was coming for Israel, His chosen people. As a matter of fact, God foresaw everything through history, and in every instance, even up to now and beyond, He set in motion a plan of rescue — Even in every instance where the Israelites sowed seeds that would bring a harvest of death, God always set in place a rescue for a remnant of His people — because His blessings that have been set in motion, are in fact laws set in place, and no matter what satan plans or man plans with satan, they cannot reverse the Law of Blessing!!

- When Mordecai learned of all that had transpired to bring about the decrees, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the middle of the city, to mourn and lament before the LORD, in hopes of His mighty rescue.
 - In every province of the great kingdom of King Ahasuerus, there was great mourning among the Jewish people.
 - When Esther learned of her uncle’s mourning in the public square, she was deeply distressed. She sent garments to him to replace his torn clothes, but he refused to put them on. So, Esther sent one of her trusted servants to her uncle to find out what had happened.
 - Mordecai told the servant all that had transpired between Haman and the king, even the sum of money Haman had promised to the king’s treasury upon the destruction of the Jews. He also gave the servant a copy of the written decree. He sent a message through the servant to Esther, requesting her to go into the king on behalf of her people the Jews.
 - Esther sent this message back to her uncle, “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put ALL to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days.” Esther 4:11-12.
 - Upon hearing her words, Mordecai replies, “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king’s palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain

completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance WILL arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4:13-14.

- Esther responded. "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for **three days, night or day**. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!" Esther 4:15-16.

- It is NOT a coincidence that they were requested to fast for 3 days and nights — for full Salvation for the Jews and the world would come many years later, through the death of one Man, Jesus Christ, who would be in a tomb in death for 3 days and 3 nights. But on the morning of the 3rd day, would rise, come forth and be the completion of God's perfect plan, bringing salvation to all the world. Defying the laws of nature, Christ rose from the dead!! Esther, defying the laws of man, would go before her king.
 - "Now, it happened on the THIRD DAY that Esther put on her ROYAL ROBES and stood in the inner court of the king's palace." Esther 5:1
 - I can't help myself, even as I write this, I'm overcome by emotion — emotion from the incredible intricacy of our God — Even in the book of Esther, she stands ready to go before the king in the inner courts — in the 5th chapter of the book — 5 — the favor and power of God to overcome — 1, first verse — unity, superiority... beginnings, and the number for God Himself. Also, it was the third day, and in her Royal Robes, like a shadow of Jesus, she went before the king, willing to go to her death to save her people, the Jews!!
 - Now, don't tell me, God doesn't speak through absolutely everything!! His faithfulness knows no bounds!

- In the fifth year of her marriage — and as we read, to drive it home to us, in the fifth chapter of the Book of Esther — Esther, in her Royal Robes, on the morning of the third day, stands in the inner courts of her king — God's perfect grace anointing her with the power to overcome any evil that has risen against her and her people the Jews.
 - "So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter." Esther 5:2.
 - "And the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you — up to half the kingdom!" Esther 5:3.
 - BAM!! Now, that's how great God's overcoming favor is when we are covered in it!! We receive the blessing of earthly kings, even up to half their kingdoms. God's favor is all we need to accomplish anything He asks us to do.
 - So, Esther gives a request that may seem odd to us — Certainly, God had given her perfect wisdom in this moment — for God's plans are perfect, and His ways are not our ways.
 - Esther requests of the king and Haman to join her for a banquet she has prepared for them both.
 - "At the banquet of wine the king said to Esther, "What is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!" Esther 5:6.
 - So, to be honest, this is the first time I have ever noticed the banquet was a "banquet of wine." Now, we know that wine represents the blood of Jesus — the new covenant — again, God is foreshadowing what is to come when His Son dies on the cross for all sins and Delivers the world back into perfect communion with Himself.
 - Also notice, that the second time the king speaks these words to Esther, he adds the phrase "What is your petition?" A petition is a formal document requesting a

right or benefit from a person or group in authority — a formal written application seeking a court's intervention and action on a matter.

- God dropped that phrase into the king's heart, for it wasn't there before. God is setting the stage perfectly!
 - "My petition and request is this: If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, then let the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said." Esther 5:7-8.
 - So, this may seem like stalling to us — and in a sense, it is — but actually, God is waiting for every piece of His plan to be in place; remember, His timing is PERFECT!
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- With great suspense heavy in the air, I will close for today.
 - Until tomorrow, be blessed and encouraged because our Amazing, Absolutely Good God always has plans that completely boggle the mind!