

It's Time - Living For Jesus In Our Day

Sunday, January 19, 2020

REVIEW (Chapters 1-7)

It's Time to STOP SWIMMING in cultural currents-CH 1

It's Time to CLOTHE OURSELVES with the beauty of Holiness-CH 2

It's Time to TAKE A STAND for what's right-CH 2

It's Time to UNDERSTAND THAT EVERYTHING Is written down-CH 2

It's Time to UNDERSTAND WHO OUR ENEMEY IS and how he operates-CH 3

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Esther 8 New International Version (NIV)

The King's Edict in Behalf of the Jews

8 That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. ²The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman's estate.

³ Esther again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews. ⁴Then the king extended the gold scepter to Esther and she arose and stood before him.

⁵ "If it pleases the king," she said, "and if he regards me with favor and thinks it the right thing to do, and if he is pleased with me, let an order be written overruling the dispatches that Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, devised and wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king's provinces. ⁶ For how can I bear to see disaster fall on my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my family?"

⁷ King Xerxes replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Because Haman attacked the Jews, I have given his estate to Esther, and they have impaled him on the pole he set up. ⁸ Now write another decree in the king's name in behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king's signet ring—for no document written in the king's name and sealed with his ring can be revoked."

⁹ At once the royal secretaries were summoned—on the twenty-third day of the third month, the month of Sivan. They wrote out all Mordecai's orders to the Jews, and to the satraps, governors and nobles of the 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush.^[a] These orders were written in the script of each province and the language of each people and also to the Jews in their own script and language.

¹⁰ Mordecai wrote in the name of King Xerxes, sealed the dispatches with the king's signet ring, and sent them by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses especially bred for the king.

¹¹ The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the armed men of any nationality or province who might attack them and their women and children,^[b] and to plunder the property of their enemies. ¹² The day appointed for the Jews to do this in all the provinces of King Xerxes was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. ¹³ A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

¹⁴ The couriers, riding the royal horses, went out, spurred on by the king's command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa.

The Triumph of the Jews

¹⁵ When Mordecai left the king's presence, he was wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa held a joyous celebration. ¹⁶ For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honor. ¹⁷ In every province and in every city to which the edict of the king came, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them

Esther 9:1-17 New International Version (NIV)

9 On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them. ² The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those determined to destroy them. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them. ³ And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king's administrators helped the Jews, because fear of Mordecai had seized

them. ⁴ Mordecai was prominent in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and he became more and more powerful.

⁵ The Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and they did what they pleased to those who hated them. ⁶ In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. ⁷ They also killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, ⁸ Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, ⁹ Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Vaizatha, ¹⁰ the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. But they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

¹¹ The number of those killed in the citadel of Susa was reported to the king that same day. ¹² The king said to Queen Esther, “The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman in the citadel of Susa. What have they done in the rest of the king’s provinces? Now what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? It will also be granted.”

¹³ “If it pleases the king,” Esther answered, “give the Jews in Susa permission to carry out this day’s edict tomorrow also, and let Haman’s ten sons be impaled on poles.”

¹⁴ So the king commanded that this be done. An edict was issued in Susa, and they impaled the ten sons of Haman. ¹⁵ The Jews in Susa came together on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and they put to death in Susa three hundred men, but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

¹⁶ Meanwhile, the remainder of the Jews who were in the king’s provinces also assembled to protect themselves and get relief from their enemies. They killed seventy-five thousand of them but did not lay their hands on the plunder. ¹⁷ This happened on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth they rested and made it a day of feasting and joy.

The events of the Book of Esther have all been leading up to this point. A complete reversal of all the harm the enemy wanted to inflict upon the Jews. As New Testament people of God we also have an enemy; but need to know that God has given us authority over that enemy.

It's Time to RISE UP in the in the AUTHORITY that God has given us and FIGHT

Before we dig deeper into this thought, I want to set the stage by expanding on three main parts of my statement

1. **RISE UP** – a position of readiness and understanding. As opposed to a position of acquiescence and ignorance

Esther and Mordecai refused to just accept their fate and die. Here in this chapter we see the bold declaration of their identity and their plan. They could have chosen to stay silent. Instead they rose up and dared to oppose the edict that had been put in place.

As Christians, we often falsely assume that we should just be meek and quiet. That it is wrong to take a stand in bold opposition. But it is not. In fact, God wants us to

The Psalmist declares...

Psalm 94:16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ Who will rise up for me against the wicked? Who will take a stand for me against evildoers?

David was the only one among the men of Israel who dared rise up and face Goliath

2. **AUTHORITY** – The power that God has given unto us in this world

The King issued a decree that gave them authority to carry out his edict and to overthrow the plans of the enemy. God too has given us authority to rise up and defeat the plans of the enemy

Matthew 28:18-19 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Luke 10:19-20 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

3. **FIGHT** – To do something, to engage the enemy

I am not suggesting we pick up weapons and begin killing those with whom we disagree. But I am saying that it is important we do something to take a stand against the lies, plans and destruction of the enemy in our world

Jude 3 New International Version (NIV)

³ Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to **contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people.**

SPIRITUAL BATTLES...

First and foremost, we must realize that the battles we fight have their origins in the spiritual realms.

Ephesians 6:12 New International Version (NIV)

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Daniel got a glimpse of this spiritual warfare...

Daniel 10:12-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹² Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.”

that have REAL LIFE consequences...

“Our culture is experiencing a hostile takeover. We must stop rejecting God if we ever want it to end” – Sam Sorbo

Abortion, Homosexuality, Godlessness, Violence, Drug Abuse, Sexual Promiscuity, Sickness, Death, Terrorism, Suicide, No Morality, Divorce, Attack against Christianity – all of these and so much more are the REAL LIFE casualties of Spiritual Battles lost

With SPIRITUAL WEAPONS...

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Ephesians 6:10-18 English Standard Version (ESV)

The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

that have REAL LIFE applications.

- **Belt of Truth** – we should boldly declare and take a stand for the truth of God’s Word
- **Breastplate of Righteousness** – the power of our testimony is determined by the righteousness of our lifestyle.
- **Shoes of the readiness given by the Gospel of Peace** – battles are won as we point people to the peace they can have with God through the good news of Jesus Christ.
- **Shield of Faith** – our protection in the battle against the fear, doubt and lies of the devil
- **Helmet of Salvation** – our identity and protection in Jesus Christ. Evangelism decimates the ranks of the enemy. The more people we lead to Jesus the less soldiers the enemy has

Matthew 16:15-19 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock^[a] I will build my church, and the gates of hell^[b] shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed^[c] in heaven.”

Love is the weapon that God chose to defeat the enemy once and for all. Love is a weapon that he wants us to use as well.

- **Sword of The Spirit** – The Word of God is a powerful weapon and will destroy the work of the enemy if we properly take it up and use it

Hebrews 4:12 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- Spirit-Filled Prayer

Acts 1:8 New International Version (NIV)

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”