

God's At Work Even When We Don't See It: An Exposition of Ruth and Esther #14

A Reversal of Fortune or God Protects His People Though Unseen
Esther 8:1-17

I. Another Way To Use Power

- A.** In contrast to Haman
 - For person satisfaction
 - Out of hatred

- B.** Receiving your enemies' wealth and power VS 1-2
- C.** Covering all the bases VS 3-6
- D.** You take care of it VS 7-8
- E.** Fixing the problem – VS 9-14
- F.** Breathing easier VS 15-17

II. Issues

- A.** The wise use of power
 - To rectify wrongs and
 - To achieve significant results
 - To protect wrongfully condemned people

- B.** Focus on the welfare of God's people and not just your own wellbeing
 - In contrast to Haman
 - Don't just think I'm safe and forget it

- C.** Press on to secure a complete victory
 - Esther before the King

- D.** Never give up if you are right because things turn around
 - Nelson Mandela
 - POWS
 - Political issues
 - Bad leadership of all kinds

- E.** Human power structures don't last forever
 - Haman is dead
 - Structures change

III. Thoughts

- A.** Decree of death
 - "the wages of sin is death"
 - "there is a way that seems right unto man but its end is destruction"

- B.** Decree of life
 - "the free gift of God is eternal life through faith in Christ"
 - John 3:16
"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

 - John 10:10b
"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

- C.** The Church's war against sin and death – the Gospel
- D.** The way to power is through surrender
 - The cross → resurrection
 - I Peter 5:6
"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time."