

## **ROYAL INSOMNIA AND THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD** **(Esther 6:1--14)**

- How have we previously seen the hand of divine providence? Did it “just so happened” that ...
  - 1) Queen Vashti was dethroned due to her willingness to defy the King’s immoral command? (Chap. 1)
  - 2) Esther, a unknown Jew, is selected for the next queen competition? (Chapter 2)
  - 3) Esther finds favor the eyes of King Ahasuerus and becomes the next queen of Persia? (Chapter 2)
  - 4) Mordecai is working at the King’s gate and uncovers the assassination plot on the king? (Chapter 2)
  - 5) Mordecai’s name is recorded in the King’s record of the chronicles of memorable deeds? (Chapter 2)
  - 6) The King fails to reward Mordecai for this courageous and loyal act? (Chapter2)
  - 7) When Mordecai is enraged at Mordecai’s unwillingness to pay him god-like homage that lots are cast and a day is determined almost a year away on the day before the Passover? (Chapter 3)
  - 8) The plan to exterminate all the Jews of the empire giving them ample time to prepare for this horrible genocide? (Chapter 3)
  - 9) Esther takes heed to Mordecai’s warning & challenge to risk her life and appeal to the King to save her people? (Ch.4)
  - 10) Esther once again finds favor with the King instead of instant death? (Chapter 5)
  - 11) Haman again observes Mordecai’s unwillingness to even stand to show him respect and determines to murder him the next morning due to the urging of his wife and friends? (Chapter 5)
  
- What must you remember to strike the biblical balance when it comes to *God’s sovereignty* and *grace*, along with *human responsibility* as it relates to...
  - *The death of Christ* (Acts 2:22-24, 36) - the death of Jesus Christ was part of the \_\_\_\_\_ plan and purpose of God though it involved \_\_\_\_\_ on the part of Jesus Christ, Herod, Pontius Pilate, the Romans, and the Jews, all whom God held responsible.
  
  - *The salvation of the sinner* (John 16:7-11; Acts 10:39-43, 16:30-31) - the salvation of the lost was initiated , planned, and provided by \_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_, including the convicting work of the \_\_\_\_\_, while man must \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ or not believe in Jesus Christ in order to be eternally saved by God’s grace. God has chosen to save those who choose to trust in His Son and calls them His elect.
  
  - *Personal evangelism* (1 Timothy 2:3-7, 4:9-10) – God desires \_\_\_\_ people to be saved and has made provision for salvation to occur through Jesus Christ’s substitutionary death for \_\_\_\_, while believer’s are to be \_\_\_\_\_ to pray, go, preach the Gospel, suffer, give, etc. as directed by the Word of God and enabled by the Holy Spirit to that end as ambassadors for Christ.
  
  - *The Christian life* (Hebrews 11:6, 13:20-21) – God has provided everything necessary by His grace to live a life that glorifies God, even working in them to accomplish it, but each believer must choose to walk by \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord and His Word and \_\_\_\_\_ Him to see it accomplished in his/her life.

### **E. Acts V - Let’s Understand the WISDOM & COURAGE of ESTHER and the PROVIDENCE of GOD in REVERSING HAMAN’S PLOT to EXTERMINATE the JEWS. (5:1-7:10)**

#### **1. Scene #1: ESTHER’S FIRST BANQUET. (5:1-8)**

#### **2. Scene #2: HAMAN’S PLOT to MURDER MORDECAI. (5:9-14)**

**3. Scene #3: MORDECAI is REWARDED and HAMAN is HUMILIATED. (6:1-14)**

**a. The invisible hand of God's providence and intervention is clearly seen ...**

- 1) **By the king's \_\_\_\_\_ on the night before Haman planned \_\_\_\_\_ of Mordecai. (6:1a)** Why couldn't the king sleep?
  - Ecclesiastes 5:12; While we need our sleep, what can we be thankful for regarding our sovereign, gracious God? (Psalm 121:3-4)
  - What is true every morning and the challenges that you will face that day? (Lam. 3:22-23)
- 2) **By the king's choice of entertainment, namely the \_\_\_\_\_.** (6:1b) What options did he have available?
- 3) **By the servant's choice of the book of \_\_\_\_\_, and his reading of the attempted assassination attempt that was exposed by Mordecai.** (6:2) How long before had the assassination attempt occurred? (2:21-23)
- 4) **By the King's delay in \_\_\_\_\_ Mordecai for saving the king's life. (6:1b-2)** Does God have His hand in the timing of events? What should we remember about God fulfilling His promises, as well as His future reward for faithful believers?
- 5) **By the early entrance of \_\_\_\_\_ to the King's court to suggest that the King \_\_\_\_\_ Mordecai on the gallows / pike he had prepared for him.** (6:4-5) What is remarkable about all this?
- 6) **By the amazing turn of events that Haman would have to \_\_\_\_\_ Mordecai instead of hanging him due to \_\_\_\_\_ own recommendation. (6:6-12)** Who did Haman think the King wanted to honor? What does Haman's quick answer indicate about his aspirations and dreams? Proverbs 18:22; 29:23
  - How is Mordecai described by the king?
  - How are the characters of Haman and Mordecai contrasted here?
  - How is irony underscored again in this story?
- 7) **By the comments and conclusion of Haman's wife and friends, "*If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of \_\_\_\_\_, you will \_\_\_\_\_ against him but will surely \_\_\_\_\_ before him.*" (6:13)** What do those close to Haman recognize by all this?
  - What should you take home from all of this?