

Mordecai and Christ

Call to Worship: Psalm 27:11-14

Hymn Insert- *His Robes for Mine*

1st Scripture: Ephesians 2

Hymn Insert- *Surely Goodness and Mercy*

2nd Scripture: Esther 10

Hymn # 400- *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Introduction:

God has brought about an amazingly profound deliverance for the Jews, leading to the initiation and celebration of the Feast of Purim. He has humbled the proud and exalted the lowly, and in doing so, He has revealed His own great wisdom, power and glory. And now, we come to the remaining few verses of this intense and precious Book, and I hope, by the grace of God, that we might catch even a small glimpse of the glory of Christ, in the exaltation of Mordecai.

I. A Brief Analysis of the Text: Mordecai is Exalted

Following information given concerning a tax that King Ahasuerus had placed on the land (probably monies needed to fund the war with Greece), we are given an additional list of statements, which speak of the fame, power, integrity and goodness of Mordecai. The principle of "reversal" applied to the lowly Jew, Mordecai, who used to sit at the king's gate, is so profoundly manifest, that it reminds me of the outer reaches of an explosion. The substance of even a large "firework" rocket (perhaps a mortar), which begins as a compact unit of material, very easily carried in one hand, when lit, flies high, explodes, fills the sky with color, and launches all of its remaining debris, far apart in all manner of directions. When it is first lit, only the one carrying it, sees its substance. But when it explodes in the sky, it can be seen by all, from several blocks and perhaps even miles away. Such was the case with the fame of Mordecai. The lowly, Jewish man's fame, spread throughout the whole known world of his day. No doubt, this was a very clear and evident work of God. And no doubt, Mordecai could very easily serve to foreshadow the One, who when raised up, would draw all people to Himself. Let

us consider some of the descriptive statements, used to describe the exaltation of Mordecai, given in our text.

1) "All the acts of his power and his might, and the account of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia" (vs. 2)?

So far advanced in his position of authority; so great and powerful was this Mordecai, that his acts were documented in the chronicles of the kings. He was the subject; indeed, an important subject of Persian history, to be passed down to future generations. And while we are not given a detailed list of these acts (those chronicles no longer exist in the present), clearly, what we are told here, is meant to imply that Mordecai was a great and powerful figure in the history of Persia. The whole known world; all 127 provinces (from Ethiopia to India) knew well of this Mordecai, his great acts, and the great favor of the king, which was upon him.

And so, the inspired Word of God would have us know that our great God manifested His glory in the powerful exaltation of a lowly Jew, right smack in the heartbeat of the Persian empire.

2) "For Mordecai the Jew was second to King Ahasuerus..." (vs. 3a). There was no one greater in the entire kingdom, beneath the king himself. Mordecai was second to the king, and as such, he was given great power and authority. Mordecai was given the very signet ring of the king; able to write and enact law in the king's name. God had exalted him to this great position, even as He had done with Joseph, who went from the dungeons of Egypt, to the highest position of power and authority, less Pharaoh himself.

3) He was "great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren..." (vs. 3b). Mordecai's people respected him greatly and they gladly received him and subjected themselves to his authority. They were not jealous or envious of his position, and rather, they delighted in serving him. And the reason for this is given at the end of the verse.

4) Mordecai sought "the good of his people," and spoke "peace to all his countrymen." Mordecai was not a mere politician, who concerned himself with sustaining and maintaining his own position, fortune and power. Indeed, God did that for him, but his heart was *truly* for the

people. He committed himself to be a true leader; a servant leader, who concerned himself with the welfare and best interests of those beneath him. And he continually promoted, sought and proclaimed peace for all his countrymen. He wanted his people to enjoy life, and to be as much at peace, and without worry/anxiety/fear, as possible. And there were tangible ways in which he proved this to them. They knew that he didn't talk out of both sides of his mouth. They could trust him. They were confident that they were in good hands, as they rested in his power and authority. And so, they all gladly received him, and willfully subjected themselves to his authority.

And in all of these things, Mordecai, who was a work of God, was a tool of divine grace, used to bless and encourage His people. The love of God was tangibly expressed toward the Jews, in his visible and tangible servant, Mordecai. And this is the great end and message of the life of Mordecai. He glorifies God, in so much, as he properly lives and emphasizes the love of God toward others. Mordecai is a living expression--imperfect indeed--but a living expression of divine grace and kindness, none-the-less. And to this end, Mordecai foreshadowed Christ, and not only Christ, but all who are called into the kingdom of light, set apart, as a kingdom of priests, to proclaim the glorious praises of God!

II. Christ is Exalted!

Let us then consider the four descriptions of Mordecai that we have just considered, and how they are perfectly suited to describe King Jesus!

1) "All the acts of his power and his might, and the account of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia" (vs. 2)?

Indeed, though very God of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul tells us, "made Himself of no reputation, taking on the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men..." Infinite, eternal God, took on flesh and became a tangible, visible servant of men. God became flesh, dwelt and served among us. He was born not in a king's palace, but in a manger. He lived not the life of a King or even a prince, but rather He was the son of a carpenter. And when He

entered His earthly ministry, He had no place to lay His head, became a servant of all, rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and after girding His waist with a towel, washed the filthy feet of His unworthy disciples; fishermen, a tax collector and the like.

"And being found in appearance as a man," Paul continues, "He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" (Philip. 2:6ff). Though God of very God, He took the lowest plunge, not simply into the finite dust of humanity, but even into the shameful death of humanity, and the worst of that, the shameful death of the cross. He hung, naked, covered with blood, hardly recognizable, between two thieves, during the time of Passover, when many would have made the trek to Jerusalem. And all this, having done no wrong.

But in all of this, God had raised Him from the dead, and had seated Him in the highest position beyond imagination. "Therefore," Paul adds, "God (the King of Kings) also has highly exalted Him and given Him the Name which is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

And so, yes, in some very small way, the exaltation of Mordecai, by the great King Ahasuerus, pictures the exaltation of Christ, by the infinite King of Kings, our Almighty God. Only the humiliation of Christ and the exaltation of Christ were infinitely greater, and so, the gap in between; the gap, separating the level of decline from the level of incline, was infinitely greater, but Mordecai's exaltation pictures this nonetheless.

Indeed, Mordecai's greatness was documented in the long lost chronicles of the Kings of Persia, but King Jesus was documented in the indestructible chronicles of heaven. And even as Mordecai had done far more than we have recorded in Scripture, John tells us of Jesus, in the very last words of his Gospel (Jn. 21:25), "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen."

2) "For Mordecai the Jew was second to King Ahasuerus..." (vs. 3a). Indeed, Mordecai was second to the earthly king, King Ahasuerus, but King Jesus is the eternal Son of the living God! Jesus bears the same nature and essence of the Father! Jesus contains in His humanity, the

fullness of the Godhead, bodily! The Father has committed all judgment into the hands of the Son! Jesus and the Father are One! Jesus, the Lamb that was slain, shares the same throne as the Father! He presently sits at the right hand of God! All authority in heaven and on earth have been given to Him, such that His kingdom cannot fail; such that, as the message of the Gospel is proclaimed in His Name, dead souls are plucked out of the grip of satan and lunged out of the broken down gates of hell, unto His service and kingdom! This King advances His kingdom not by swords, bombs and physical weaponry, but by the very Word of His power, the sword of His mouth, wielded by His faithful, humble servants!

3) He was "great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren..." (vs. 3b). Indeed, Christ is most precious to His saints; to His redeemed brethren, who were reconciled to their living God and Father, through His shed blood!

We gladly bow the knee to King Jesus! We don't dare covet His position! We acknowledge His right to it; we joyfully and willfully bow before Him. We are jealous *for Him!* We rest not until His reign is fully realized on earth! We rest not until the whole world realizes and bows before His great glory! Though we have not seen Him, we love Him in truth! He is as real to us as the physical things that our eyes behold and our noses smell. We long to see His Kingdom consummate, so that He might rightfully be marveled at by all the saints! There is a sense of urgency, and yet, patience overwhelming this matter. We see the ongoing rejection and wickedness of the world; we daily taste of our remaining sin, and we are urgent to see these wrongs righted, unto the glory due His Name! And yet, we are patient, subjecting ourselves to the power of divine sovereignty in providence, which guarantees the outcome that we so long for and desire, but is not willing that any should perish. The end is certain, and so, we march toward it with great zeal, while exercising patience, in cooperation with the impeccable divine will of God!

All of this to simply say, we gladly receive His Kingship; His dominion and authority...we are jealous for it! And why is this the case? The glimpse has already been given us in Mordecai:

4) Mordecai sought "the good of his people," and spoke "peace to all his countrymen."

Something, we can clearly no longer say about our country's blundering politicians, who care not for the people, but spend all of their time looking for ways to secure and maintain their own power (on both sides of the political aisle), namely, that our Christ seeks the good of His people, and He speaks peace to all His countrymen.

We can rest not only our physical lives, but our very souls, on Christ. For, all who rest their hope in Him, will never be put to shame. He has proven both His willingness and His ability to secure our salvation. At the cross, we see His willingness, without fail. If, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us; if, while we were most contrary and offensive to God, Christ bore the penalty due our sins, then we ought to have no doubt that He who began a good work in us, will complete it! Christ will never grow tired of us, brethren. Christ's love will never grow cold toward us. He died for you at your worst, He will indeed deliver you at your best. And He has proven His *ability* to secure our salvation by means of His resurrection from the dead. He has been raised up from the dead, all powerful and victorious. And He has declared that His resurrection is only the beginning; the firstfruits of a glorious harvest. And in His death we have died with Him, to sin, and by His resurrection, we have already been raised spiritually unto new life, having been given the down payment of the Holy Spirit, assuring us of the full blessing to come.

Indeed, He has proven His great love and concern for us, brethren, has He not? What more could He do to secure our love and trust? He has sacrificed His very own wellbeing for our wellbeing, with nothing to gain, but our love and trust, and the glory due His Name! And He speaks peace to us, continually, by His Word, assuring us that nothing; that no created thing in heaven or on earth could ever separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ! Die as you may the worst and most painful of deaths, and find that portal to be a mere gateway into everlasting glory!

And so, though in a finite way, we find, in the blessed, humble Mordecai, a picture of our glorious Christ. And when you revel in the goodness and kindness of Mordecai, and the proven concern for the welfare and peace of his people, carry that over to your Lord Jesus Christ, and suppose it to be a millionfold more! If Mordecai brings us no further than Mordecai, then we have missed the most significant, vital reflection given in Mordecai, which aims to point us to the far more glorious and lovely Christ. We are to rejoice in and emulate the love and self-

sacrifice of Mordecai, but all of the warmness, respect and joy that we find in him, ought to, and must, carry us to Christ!

III. Conclusion

Let us, like Mordecai, present ourselves as living sacrifices to God, which is our reasonable service. Let us, "Let our lights so shine before men," that the glory of our heavenly Father is seen in us, leading the lost to give glory to God in the day of visitation. Let God be seen in and by us! Let us reckon what we are, a "kingdom of priests," set apart to declare the praises of our living God, who has called us out of darkness and brought us into His marvelous light! Brethren, let us be about the business of making Christ known; of leaving His fragrance, be it the fragrance of grace to those who are elect, or the fragrance of judgment to those who refuse to obey the Gospel!

AMEN!!!

Benediction: Jude 1:24-25