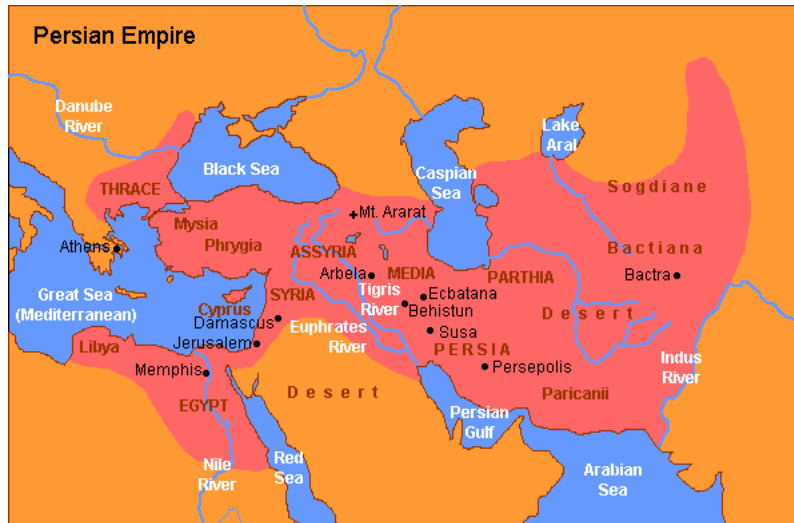


Last week we studied Esther and her marriage to Xerxes I and the intrigue of Esther and Mordicai's plan to save the Jews of Persia. When the clock tolled 7:45 we had just introduced the genesis of The Feast of Purim.



We are now ready to complete the analysis of the book of Esther beginning with a review of Mordecai's plan to save those Jews who had chosen to reject Cyrus's decree permitting a return to the land.

Mordecai devised a unique plan, no doubt under the guidance of God the Holy Spirit. The Jews were permitted to arm and defend themselves.

Est 8:17 In every province and in every city, wherever the edict of the king went, 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.

The date was June 25, 474 B.C., a little over two months after the first decree was issued, this would allow more than eight months for the Jews to prepare their defenses. The Satraps ironically enough had to sell the Jews their weapons.

Wycliffe in his Encyclopedia has written: "Four main ideas seem to be set forth in Mordecai's decree:

- (a) the Jews were to gather into groups by the thirteenth of Adar (our February or March);
- (b) they were to defend their lives;

(c) they were to kill those who attacked them; and

(d) they were to take the spoil of their attackers. The power of the people ... refers to their military forces."

Est 9:5 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.

Several other requests were made by Esther and granted by the King; all of which were designed to further protect the Jews of Persia. The Feast of Purim was then established by special letters to commemorate this tremendous deliverance.

### The Feast of Purim Instituted

Est 9:20 Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far,

Est 9:21 to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar

Est 9:22 as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

Est 9:23 So the Jews agreed to continue the celebration they had begun, doing what Mordecai had written to them.

Est 9:24 For Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them and had cast the pur (that is, the lot) for their ruin and destruction.

Est 9:25 But when the plot came to the king's attention, he issued written orders that the evil scheme Haman had devised against the Jews should come back onto his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

Est 9:26 (Therefore these days were called Purim, from the word pur.) Because of everything written in this letter and because of what they had seen and what had happened to them,

Est 9:27 the Jews took it upon themselves to establish the custom that they and their descendants and all who join them should without fail observe these two days every year, in the way prescribed and at the time appointed.

Est 9:28 These days should be remembered and observed in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city. And these days of Purim should never cease to be celebrated by the Jews, nor should the memory of them die out among their descendants.

Est 9:29 So Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter concerning Purim.

Est 9:30 And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews in the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Xerxes -- words of goodwill and assurance --

Est 9:31 to establish these days of Purim at their designated times, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had decreed for them, and as they had established for themselves and their descendants in regard to their times of fasting and lamentation.

Est 9:32 Esther's decree confirmed these regulations about Purim, and it was written down in the records.

Xerxes died in 465 B.C. A world leader is brought to power and used of God to bless God's people. Indeed, as the Psalmist says, "God sits in His heavens and laughs in derision at the plans of man."

Psa 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

Psa 2:3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

Psa 2:4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Now we are ready to close our study with a review of Est 10:1-3.

Est 10:1 King Xerxes imposed tribute throughout the empire, to its distant shores.

Est 10:2 And all his acts of power and might, together with a full account of the greatness of Mordecai to which the king had raised him, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Media and Persia?

Est 10:3 Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews.

We have just seen a story replete with Anti-Semitism in Persia. Now let's take a look at a categorical study of Anti-Semitism.

1. Anti-Semitism will always be punished but in God's perfect timing.

2. Gen 12:3 addresses the caveat at the time of the selection of Abram as the first Jew.

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

2.1 Paul makes clear not all Israel is Israel:

Rom 9:8 They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

Rom 9:9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son.

Rom 9:10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;

Rom 9:11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

Rom 9:12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.

Rom 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

3. Nations who persecute the Jew shall receive discipline from God; often such discipline results in national destruction.

Zec 1:11 And they reported to the angel of the LORD, who was standing among the myrtle trees, "We have gone throughout the earth and found the whole world at rest and in peace."

Zec 1:12 Then the angel of the LORD said, "LORD Almighty, how long will you withhold mercy from Jerusalem and from the towns of Judah, which you have been angry with these seventy years?"

Zec 1:13 So the LORD spoke kind and comforting words to the angel who talked with me.

Zec 1:14 Then the angel who was speaking to me said, "Proclaim this word: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion,

Zec 1:15 but I am very angry with the nations that feel secure. I was only a little angry, but they added to the calamity.'

Zec 1:16 "Therefore, this is what the LORD says: 'I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt. And the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem,' declares the LORD Almighty.

Zec 1:17 "Proclaim further: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'My towns will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.'"

Zec 1:18 Then I looked up -- and there before me were four horns!

Zec 1:19 I asked the angel who was speaking to me, "What are these?" He answered me, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem."

Zec 1:20 Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen.

Zec 1:21 I asked, "What are these coming to do?" He answered, "These are the horns that scattered Judah so that no one could raise his head, but the craftsmen have come to terrify them and throw down these horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter its people."

It is God who disciplines His own though at times, as taught by Zechariah, He uses horns but at the same time He creates smiths to handle the horns.



4. God does not need our help, Israel is His to discipline.
5. Nations who treat the Jew well will prosper provided they have a pivot; one of the characteristics of a nation with a pivot is Pro-Semitic policies.
6. Anti-Semitism is inspired by Satan as a ploy to spoil the plan of God; without Jews, Christ has "no one to come back to."
7. Because the decrees of God are immutable there will always be Jews no matter how many nations or peoples try to destroy them.
8. A few historical examples will help illustrate how pervasive has been Anti-Semitism:
  - Egypt c. B.C. 1400
  - Assyria c. B.C. 720
  - Babylon c. B.C. 606
  - Persia c. B.C. 539
  - Ptolemies and Seleucids c. 323-147 B.C.

Rome c. 200-476 A.D.

Spain 1500 c. A.D.

France WWI and WWII Vichy Government;

England 1948

Germany WWII

Arabs today.

9. An ethnic Jew is anyone with a gene from the pool of Abraham; a regenerate Jew or real Jew is a believing Jew. Once a Jew believes in the Lord Jesus in the church age, he or she becomes one in Christ and is no longer a Jew.

Gal 3:28 There is no longer male or female, bond or freeman, Jew or Gentile for we are all one in Christ.

10. So how do you evaluate a Jew today? Like anyone else.

11. As a nation they are to be evaluated according to God's establishment principles.

12. As a fellow citizen of the U.S.A. they are, like everyone else, to be vetted as to their political and social standards.

13. For example Marx and Engels were two very evil Jews who were infamous international communists.

14. When a racial Jew becomes a believer he is not to be evaluated at all.

15. Remember Jewish Christians without doctrine are just like a gentile Christian without doctrine.

16. The future of the Jew:

16.1 As a believer he or she has eternal life.

16.2 In the Tribulation the Jew will be the active catalyst.

16.3 Born-again Jews of Ages one and two will move into the Millennium with our Lord.

16.4 In the Millennium the Jew will show the rest of the world how to live and worship the Messiah King. In closing let me quote from what Col. R. B. Thieme has written in his book *Anti-Semitism* concerning how to evaluate Israel as a nation.

"This poses something of a problem. What remained of the once great Jewish nation was scattered throughout the world in A.D. 70, when God allowed Rome to administer the fifth cycle of discipline, beginning the second dispersion. Israel as an elect nation is now set aside until the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. At that future time the nation will consist of regathered, living, born-again Jews and resurrected Old Testament saints.

"Today, [1999] America is a host nation for dispersed Jews and should receive these people as we would any other. When they become citizens, they are simply Americans with a different ethnic background, not an uncommon circumstance in the history of the United States. Jews who choose to immigrate to other countries merge and adapt to the culture of their adopted nation. What of Palestine as a homeland for the Jews? This, as we saw, is God's design for Israel's future. The present gathering of the Jews in Israel is of no prophetic significance; it is not the regathering of national Israel forecasted in the Scriptures. The Israeli nation which exists today has man's, not God's, stamp of approval. Consequently, the present Jewish state is evaluated on its national and international policies, adherence to law, and the host of other criterion upon which we approve or disapprove the actions of any allied nation.

"Notably, since Israel's inception in 1948, the United States has maintained close diplomatic and political relations. Where does the American Jew's allegiance belong? Is he obligated to Israel because he is a Jew, or to America because he is an American? Some Zionists argue that every Jew's loyalty should be directed toward the Jewish homeland. This is not so! Americans owe their allegiance to the flag of the United States. However, if an American Jew wishes to contribute to the support of Israel, he may do so on the same premise as he would any cause he deems worthy; but this should not be an arbitrary demand.

An American Jew is in no way obligated to the Jewish nation. As for the Christian's attitude toward Israel, there is no command in Scripture to reverence that nation as some sacred cow. As with all nations Israel has good and bad policies and must stand or fall on its own merits. Neither malign nor deify Israel, but evaluate her policies as you would any other nation on the basis of your knowledge of Bible doctrine. Currently Israel is one of the few countries that understands freedom through military victory. Therefore, respect Israel for its patriotic, courageous stand."

**The Westbank Bible Church accepts direct donations to further the spreading of the Gospel. You can mail or drop off a check or money order made payable to Westbank Bible Church, 4010 Bee Cave Road, Austin, Texas 78746**

We do not authorize any third party to solicit donations on behalf of the Church.