

Esther

Chapter 1

Est 1:1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this *is* Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, *over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces*;)

911-Midnight Cry

Est 1:2 *That* in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which *was* in **Shushan the palace**,

Est 1:3 **In the third year of his reign, he made a feast** unto all his princes and his servants; the power of **Persia and Media**, the nobles and princes of the provinces, *being* before him:

Est 1:4 When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, *even an hundred and fourscore days*.

Midnight Cry-Sunday Law

Est 1:5 And **when these days were expired, the king made a feast** unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, **seven days, in the court** of the garden of the king's palace;

Est 1:6 *Where were* white, green, and blue, *hangings*, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds *were of* gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.

Est 1:7 And **they gave them drink in vessels of gold**, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and **royal wine in abundance**, according to the state of the king.

Est 1:8 And the drinking *was* according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.

Double Feast

Est 1:9 **Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women** *in* the royal house which *belonged* to king Ahasuerus.

Est 1:10 **On the seventh day**, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,

Est 1:11 **To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.**

Seven Chamberlains

Lev 14:7 And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field.

Lev 14:8 And he that is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, and shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean: and after that he shall come into the camp, and shall tarry abroad out of his tent **seven days**.

Lev 12:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be **unclean seven days**; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean.

Lev 12:3 And **in the eighth day** the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

Luk 2:21 And **when eight days were accomplished** for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Luk 2:22 And when **the days of her purification** according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present *him* to the Lord;

Est 2:3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given *them*:

Kings Invitation

Est 1:12 But **the queen Vashti refused to come** at the king's commandment by *his* chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

The parable of the wedding garment opens before us a lesson of the highest consequence. By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity; the wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding.

In this parable, as in that of the great supper, are illustrated the gospel invitation, its rejection by the Jewish people, and the call of mercy to the Gentiles. But on the part of those who reject the invitation, this parable brings to view a deeper insult and a more dreadful punishment. **The call to the feast is a king's invitation.** It proceeds from one who is vested with power to command. It confers high honor. Yet the honor is unappreciated. The king's authority is despised. COL 307

Wise Men Make a Decree

Est 1:13 Then **the king said to the wise men, which knew the times**, (for so *was* the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:

Hypocrites know not the times

Mat 16:1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

Mat 16:2 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, *It will be* fair weather: for the sky is red.

Mat 16:3 And in the morning, *It will be* foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. **O ye hypocrites**, ye can discern the face of the sky; but **can ye not discern the signs of the times?**

Mat 16:4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and **there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas**. And he left them, and departed.

Est 1:14 And the next unto him *was* **Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media**, which saw the king's face, *and* which sat the first in the kingdom;)

Est 1:15 What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, **because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?**

Est 1:16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that *are* in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.

Est 1:17 **For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported**, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.

Est 1:18 **Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media** say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus *shall there arise* too much contempt and wrath.

Est 1:19 If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and **let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she**.

Worldwide Message

Est 1:20 And **when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire**, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.

Est 1:21 And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan:

Est 1:22 For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and **to every people after their language**, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that *it* should be published according to the language of every people.

Chapter 2/ 911

Est 2:1 After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.

Est 2:2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, **Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:**

Est 2:3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, **that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace**, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and **let their things for purification be given them:**

Est 2:4 And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.

Mordecai/ A Wise Virgin

Est 2:5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;

Est 2:6 **Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah**, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

Est 2:7 And he brought up Hadassah, that *is*, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

Est 2:8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and **when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace**, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.

Est 2:9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and **he speedily gave her her things for purification**, with such things as belonged to her, and **seven maidens, which were meet to be given her**, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best *place* of the house of the women.

Hidden

Est 2:10 **Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred:** for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew *it*.

Est 2:11 And **Mordecai walked every day before the court** of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.

Smyrna

Est 2:12 Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been **twelve months**, according to the manner of the women, (for **so were the days of their purifications accomplished**, *to wit*, **six months with oil of myrrh**, and **six months with sweet odours**, and with *other* things for the purifying of the women;)

G3464

μύρον

muron

moo'-ron

Probably of foreign origin (compare [H4753] and G4666); "myrrh", that is, (by implication) *perfumed oil*: - ointment.

Rev 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Rev 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but **thou art rich**) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* **the synagogue of Satan**.

Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and **ye shall have tribulation ten days**: be thou faithful unto death, and **I will give thee a crown of life**.

Est 2:13 Then thus came *every* maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house.

Est 2:14 In the evening she went, and on the morrow **she returned into the second house** of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: **she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name**.

Est 2:15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

Est 2:16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which *is* the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

Esthers Feast

Est 2:17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and **she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins**; so that **he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti**.

A Great Release

Est 2:18 Then **the king made a great feast** unto all his princes and his servants, *even* Esther's feast; and **he made a release** to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

Deu 31:10 And Moses commanded them, saying, **At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles,**

Mat 27:15 **Now at that feast the governor was wont to release** unto the people a prisoner, whom they would.

Second Gathering

Est 2:19 And **when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate.**

Est 2:20 **Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her:** for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.

Mordecai Warns the King/MC

Est 2:21 In those days, **while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh,** of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

Est 2:22 And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told *it* unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king *thereof* in Mordecai's name.

Est 2:23 And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore **they were both hanged on a tree:** and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.

Chapter 3

Image Being Set Up

Est 3:1 After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that *were* with him.

Est 3:2 And all the king's servants, that *were* in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. **But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.**

The Lord has shown me clearly that **the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes;** for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided. {2SM 80.4}

Est 3:3 Then the king's servants, which *were* in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?

Est 3:4 Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for **he had told them that he was a Jew.**

Est 3:5 And **when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.**

Est 3:6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore **Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.**

Heretofore those who presented the truths of the third angel's message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control

in the United States, that church and state would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd. It has been confidently declared that this land could never become other than what it has been--the defender of religious freedom. **But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before.** {GC 605.3}

In every generation God has sent His servants to rebuke sin, both in the world and in the church. But the people desire smooth things spoken to them, and the pure, unvarnished truth is not acceptable. Many reformers, in entering upon their work, determined to exercise great prudence in attacking the sins of the church and the nation. They hoped, by the example of a pure Christian life, to lead the people back to the doctrines of the Bible. But the Spirit of God came upon them as it came upon Elijah, moving him to rebuke the sins of a wicked king and an apostate people; they could not refrain from preaching the plain utterances of the Bible-- doctrines which they had been reluctant to present. They were impelled to zealously declare the truth and the danger which threatened souls. The words which the Lord gave them they uttered, fearless of consequences, and the people were compelled to hear the warning. {GC 606.1}

Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. **As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power**, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. **The sins of Babylon will be laid open.** The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power--all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. **Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven.** As the people go to their former teachers with the eager inquiry, Are these things so? the ministers present fables, prophesy smooth things, to soothe their fears and quiet the awakened conscience. But since many refuse to be satisfied with the mere authority of men and demand a plain "Thus saith the Lord," the popular ministry, like the Pharisees of old, filled with anger as their authority is questioned, will denounce the message as of Satan and **stir up the sin-loving multitudes to revile and persecute those who proclaim it.** {GC 606.2}

As the controversy extends into new fields and the minds of the people are called to God's downtrodden law, Satan is astir. The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it. **The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light lest it should shine upon their flocks.** By every means at their command they will endeavor to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. **The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and, in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers.** They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith. But their steadfast answer is: "Show us

from the word of God our error"--the same plea that was made by Luther under similar circumstances. Those who are arraigned before the courts make a strong vindication of the truth, and some who hear them are led to take their stand to keep all the commandments of God. Thus light will be brought before thousands who otherwise would know nothing of these truths. {GC 607.1}

A Second Decree

Est 3:7 In the first month, that *is*, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that *is*, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, *to* the twelfth *month*, that *is*, the month Adar.

Est 3:8 And **Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws *are* diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it *is* not for the king's profit to suffer them.**

Est 3:9 If it please the king, **let it be written that they may be destroyed:** and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring *it* into the king's treasuries.

Est 3:10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.

Est 3:11 And the king said unto Haman, The silver *is* given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.

Est 3:12 Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that *were* over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and *to* every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.

Est 3:13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, *even* upon the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and *to take* the spoil of them for a prey.

Est 3:14 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day.

Est 3:15 The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.

Chapter 4

Est 4:1 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, **Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes,** and went out **into the midst of the city,** and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;

Est 4:2 And came even before the king's gate: for none *might* enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

Est 4:3 And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, **there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.**

Eze 9:4 And the LORD said unto him, **Go through the midst of the city**, through the midst of Jerusalem, and **set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.**

The Other Virgins Are Warned

Est 4:4 So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told *it* her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received *it* not.

Est 4:5 Then called Esther for Hatach, *one* of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it *was*, and why it *was*.

Est 4:6 So **Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate.**

Est 4:7 And **Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him**, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them.

Est 4:8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew *it* unto Esther, and to declare *it* unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.

Est 4:9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

Esther's Calling

Est 4:10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;

Est 4:11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, **who is not called, there is one law of his to put *him* to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre**, that he may live: **but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.**

Est 4:12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

Est 4:13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

Est 4:14 **For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place**; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?

Est 4:15 Then Esther bade *them* return Mordecai *this answer*,

Est 4:16 **Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan**, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast

likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which *is* not according to the law: and if **I perish, I perish.**

Est 4:17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

Chapter 5/ The Golden Scepter

Est 5:1 Now it came to pass **on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel**, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.

Est 5:2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, *that* she obtained favour in his sight: and **the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand.** So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

The Sin-pardoning Saviour was holding forth **the golden scepter of his matchless grace and mercy** to wayward sinful souls. 1888 63

In the vision given me in Battle Creek, October 25th, 1861, I was shown this earth, dark and gloomy. Said the angel, "Look carefully!" Then I was shown the people upon the earth: **some were surrounded with angels of God, others were in total darkness**, surrounded by evil angels. I saw an arm reached down from heaven, **holding a golden scepter**. On the top of the scepter was a crown studded with diamonds. Every diamond emitted light, bright, clear, and beautiful. Inscribed upon the crown were these words, "All who win me are happy, and shall have everlasting life." {RH, May 20, 1862 par. 1}

Est 5:3 Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what *is* thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

Esther's Banquet

Est 5:4 And Esther answered, If *it seem* good unto the king, **let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.**

Est 5:5 Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

Est 5:6 And the king said unto Esther **at the banquet of wine**, What *is* thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what *is* thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.

Est 5:7 Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request *is*;

Est 5:8 If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.

Est 5:9 Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.

Church and State

Est 5:10 Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.

Est 5:11 And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all *the things* wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.

Est 5:12 Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.

Est 5:13 Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.

Est 5:14 **Then said Zeresh his wife** and all his friends unto him, **Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high**, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.

Chapter 6

Millerite History Understood

Est 6:1 On that night could not the king sleep, and **he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.**

Est 6:2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of **Bigthana and Teresh**, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

Est 6:3 And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.

Est 6:4 And the king said, Who *is* in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

Est 6:5 And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.

The Triumphal Entry

Est 6:6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?

Est 6:7 And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,

Est 6:8 **Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:**

Est 6:9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man *withal* whom the king delighteth to honour, and **bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him**, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

1Ki 1:33 The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and **cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule**, and bring him down to Gihon:

1Ki 1:34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet **anoint him there king over Israel**: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon.

1Ki 1:35 Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for **he shall be king** in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.

Christ was following the Jewish custom for a royal entry. The animal on which He rode was that **ridden by the kings of Israel**, and prophecy had foretold that thus the Messiah should come to His kingdom. DA 570

The message, "**Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!**" was not so much a matter of argument, though the Scripture proof was clear and conclusive. There went with it an impelling power that moved the soul. There was no doubt, no questioning. **Upon the occasion of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem** the people who were assembled from all parts of the land to keep the feast flocked to the Mount of Olives, and as they joined the throng that were escorting Jesus they caught the inspiration of the hour and helped to swell the shout: "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!" Matthew 21:9. **In like manner** did unbelievers who flocked to the Adventist meetings--some from curiosity, some merely to ridicule--feel the convincing power attending the message: "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!" GC 402

Est 6:10 Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, *and* take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

Est 6:11 Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

Prophecy Against Haman

Est 6:12 And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered.

Est 6:13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every *thing* that had befallen him. **Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him**, If Mordecai *be* of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.

Est 6:14 And while they *were* yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

Chapter 7

Est 7:1 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

Est 7:2 And the king said again unto Esther **on the second day at the banquet of wine**, What *is* thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what *is* thy request? and it shall be performed, *even* to the half of the kingdom.

Est 7:3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

Est 7:4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

Est 7:5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?

Est 7:6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy *is* this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

Est 7:7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath *went* into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

Est 7:8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther *was*. **Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house?** As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

Est 7:9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, **Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high**, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, **Hang him thereon.**

Est 7:10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

With rapid steps we are approaching this period. When Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power to sustain a false religion, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, then will the papal sabbath be enforced by the combined authority of church and state. **There will be a national apostasy, which will end only in national ruin.** --Manuscript 51, 1899. {Ev 235.1}

Chapter 8

The Seal of God

Est 8:1 On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And **Mordecai came before the king**; for Esther had told what he *was* unto her.

Est 8:2 And **the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai.** And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

When the decree goes forth, and **the stamp is impressed**, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity. {CET 191.1}

Est 8:3 And Esther spake yet again before the king, and **fell down at his feet**, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.

Est 8:4 Then **the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther**. So **Esther arose, and stood before the king**,

I saw that none could share the "refreshing," unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord, and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us **to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord**. Let all remember that God is holy, and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence. {CET 113.1}

Est 8:5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing *seem* right before the king, and I *be* pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which *are* in all the king's provinces:

Est 8:6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?

Est 8:7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.

Est 8:8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal *it* with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.

Est 8:9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that *is*, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth *day* thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which *are* from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.

Est 8:10 And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed *it* with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, *and* riders on mules, camels, *and* young dromedaries:

Est 8:11 Wherein the king granted the Jews which *were* in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, *both* little ones and women, and *to take* the spoil of them for a prey,

Est 8:12 Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, *namely*, upon the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month, which *is* the month Adar.

Est 8:13 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province *was* published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

Est 8:14 *So* the posts that rode upon mules *and* camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace.

Est 8:15 And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

Est 8:16 The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.

Est 8:17 And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.