

THE GOOD HAND OF OUR GOD IS UPON US

A Study of Ezra & Esther

Big Picture & Class Outline (Chronological Study)

- First Exile Expedition: Temple from Ruins (Ezra 1-6).
- Back in Persia: Everyone almost Dies (Esther).
- Second Exile Expedition: A Return to the Law (Ezra 7-10).

Lesson 6 – Esther 4:1-5:14

4. Mordecai and Esther discuss the situation through currier (4:1-12).
 - a. Mordecai and the Jews weep (4:1-3).
 - b. Esther sends clothing to Mordecai (4:4).
 - c. Mordecai shares the decree of destruction Esther and asks her to intercede (4:5-9).
 - d. Esther reminds Mordecai of the king's one law (4:10-12).
5. The decree of destruction begins to turn on its author (4:13-5:14).
 - a. Mordecai and Esther decide on a plan (4:13-17).
 - i. Mordecai warns Esther of the stakes (4:13-14).
 - ii. Esther decides to appear before the king against the law (4:15-17; See A Below).
 - b. Esther finds favor from the king in her law-breaking (5:1-2; See B below).

- c. The king offers to grant Esther's request twice (5:3-8).
- d. Haman's pride goes before his destruction (5:9-14).
 - i. Haman's joy is crushed by Mordecai's disrespect (5:9).
 - ii. Haman shares how amazing he is (5:10-12).
 - iii. Haman makes gallows to hang Mordecai early (5:13-14).

So What?

- God promises are greater than our fear (Genesis 20:11; Proverbs 21:1).
- God chooses to love Israel for the sake of the fathers (Romans 11:28).
- Pride never leads us to the right place (Proverbs 16:18).
- What you worship controls your vision (Haman can't enjoy his blessings because of his love of hating Mordecai).

Septuagint Additions (Bolded parts are original)

A. (End of chapter 4) **17 So Mardocheus went and did all that Esther commanded him.** 17a And he besought the Lord, making mention of all the works of the Lord; and he said, 17b Lord God, king ruling over all, for all things are in thy power, and there is no one that shall oppose thee in thy purpose to save Israel.— 17c For thou hast made the heaven and the earth, and every wonderful thing in the world under heaven. And thou art Lord of all, and there is no one who shall resist thee the Lord. 17d Thou knowest all things: thou knowest, Lord, that it is not in insolence, nor haughtiness, nor love of glory, that I have done this, to refuse obeisance to the haughty Aman. For I would gladly have kissed the soles of his feet for the safety of Israel. 17e But I have done this, that I might not set the glory of man above the glory of God: and I will not worship any one except thee, my Lord, and I will not do these things in haughtiness. 17f And now, O Lord God, the King, the God of Abram, spare thy people, for our enemies are looking upon us to our

destruction, and they have desired to destroy thine ancient inheritance. 17g Do not overlook thy peculiar people, whom thou hast redeemed for thyself out of the land of Egypt. 17h Hearken to my prayer, and be propitious to thine inheritance, and turn our mourning into gladness, that we may live and sing praise to thy name, O Lord; and do not utterly destroy the mouth of them that praise thee, O Lord. 17i And all Israel cried with all their might, for their death was before their eyes. 17k And queen Esther betook herself for refuge to the Lord, being taken as it were in the agony of death. And having taken off her glorious apparel, she put on garments of distress and mourning; and instead of grand perfumes she filled her head with ashes and dung, and she greatly brought down her body, and she filled every place of her glad adorning with the torn curls of her hair. And she besought the Lord God of Israel, and said, 17l O my Lord, thou alone art our king: help me who am destitute, and have no helper but thee, for my danger is near at hand. 17m I have heard from my birth, in the tribe of my kindred, that thou, Lord, tookest Israel out of all the nations, and our fathers out of all their kindred for a perpetual inheritance, and hast wrought for them all that thou hast said. 17n And now we have sinned before thee, and thou hast delivered us into the hands of our enemies, because we honoured their gods: thou art righteous, O Lord. 17o But now they have not been contented with the bitterness of our slavery, but have laid their hands on the hands of their idols, in order to abolish the decree of thy mouth, and utterly to destroy thine inheritance, and to stop the mouth of them that praise thee, and to extinguish the glory of thine house and thine altar, 17p and to open the mouth of the Gentiles to speak the praises of vanities, and in order that a mortal king should be admired for ever. 17q O Lord, do not resign thy sceptre to them that are not, and let them not laugh at our fall, but turn their counsel against themselves, and make an example of him who has begun to injure us. 17r Remember us, O Lord, manifest thyself in the time of our affliction, and encourage me, O king of gods, and ruler of all dominion. 17s Put harmonious speech into my mouth before the lion, and turn his heart to hate him that fights against us, to the utter destruction of him and of them that consent with him. 17t But deliver us by thine hand, and help me who am destitute, and have none but thee, O Lord. 17u Thou knowest all things, and knowest that I hate the glory of transgressors, and that I abhor the couch of the uncircumcised, and of every stranger. 17w Thou knowest my necessity,

for I abhor the symbol of my proud station, which is upon my head in the days of my splendour: I abhor it as a menstruous cloth, and I wear it not in the days of my tranquillity. 17x And thy handmaid has not eaten at the table of Aman, and I have not honoured the banquet of the king, neither have I drunk wine of libations. 17y Neither has thy handmaid rejoiced since the day of my promotion until now, except in thee, O Lord God of Abram. 17z O God, who hast power over all, hearken to the voice of the desperate, and deliver us from the hand of them that devise mischief; and deliver me from my fear.

B. (Additions to 5:1-2) 1 And it came to pass on the third day, when she had ceased praying, that she put off her mean dress, and put on her glorious apparel. 1a And being splendidly arrayed, and having called upon God the Overseer and Preserver of all things, she took her two maids, and she leaned upon one, as a delicate female, and the other followed bearing her train. 1b And she was blooming in the perfection of her beauty; and her face was cheerful, as it were benevolent, but her heart was straitened for fear. 1c And having passed through all the doors, she stood before the king: and he was sitting upon his royal throne, and he had put on all his glorious apparel, covered all over with gold and precious stones, and was very terrible. 1d And having raised his face resplendent with glory, he looked with intense anger: and the queen fell, and changed her colour as she fainted; and she bowed herself upon the head of the maid that went before her. 1e But God changed the spirit of the king to gentleness, and in intense feeling he sprang from off his throne, and took her into his arms, until she recovered: and he comforted her with peaceable words, and said to her, 1f What is the matter, Esther? I am thy brother; be of good cheer, thou shalt not die, for our command is openly declared to thee, Draw nigh. **2 And having raised the golden sceptre he laid it upon her neck, and embraced her, and said, Speak to me.** 2a And she said to him, I saw thee, my lord, as an angel of God, and my heart was troubled for fear of thy glory; for thou, my lord, art to be wondered at, and thy face is full of grace. 2b And while she was speaking, she fainted and fell. Then the king was troubled, and all his servants comforted her.