

The Silent Sovereignty (Authority) of God

Esther 2:5-10,16-23

May 2, 2021

Chapel Bible Study

Background: No mention is made of God in the whole book. However, Mordecai refused to kneel down or pay homage. In Chapter 4 though the Jews are placed in danger of annihilation. Usually in their history God has responded in a spectacular way, like sending a plague.

- I. God is ALWAYS at work, regardless of the appearances, but frequently, most often, we overlook these occurrences. Hiddenness is not abandonment.
 - a. Xerxes threw a spectacular party, that lasted 180 days, which was required in order to parade his harem and his treasure.
 - b. A series of coincidences had to occur in order that Esther might come to the throne and save her people. Can you name them?
 - i. The king had to get drunk.
 - ii. He had to call Vashti to appear, and she refused.
 - iii. Mordecai had to overhear two speaking at the gate.
 - iv. The king had to forget his debt to Mordecai.
- II. The world but not God, is always obsessed with appearances.
 - a. Esther broke dietary laws and initially hid her identity, and participated in the beauty pageant. How did she stack up compared to Daniel and his friends?
 - b. All observers agree that she failed. However, did she?
 - c. Are we also a concubine to the world's system?
 - d. How do we do in choosing our spouse?
 - e. In our world (Xerxes) what you have, or look like on the outside, matters more than what you are.
- III. God's ways can free us from ourself.
 - a. However, God is pleased to bring us (Esther) along as his spouse, in spite of our flaws. God's grace.
 - b. Once we are sure/aware of God's love, trials refine (beauty treatments) us.