February 9, 2020 PM

Post-Exile Literature—25 Esther 8

HAMAN'S CONDEMNATION THE DELIVERANCE OF ISRAEL, PART 4 (Esther 6:14 – 7:10)

- I. Haman's HOPE (Esther 6:14)
 - A. The king's eunuchs came to ESCORT him
 - B. He was TAKEN to Esther's BANQUET
- II. Ahasuerus's PLEDGE (Esther 7:1-2)
 - A. The King and Haman came to DRINK
 - B. The King asked Esther to TELL him what she WANTED
 - C. He PLEDGED to give her WHATEVER she asked up to "half of the kingdom"
- III. Esther's RESPONSE (Esther 7:3-6*a*)
 - A. Esther stated her REQUEST (7:3-4)
 - 1. She began HUMBLY and RESPECTFULLY
 - 2. She asked for her LIFE as her "petition" and her PEOPLE as her "request"
 - 3. She said, "We have been SOLD"
 - a. Had it been for SLAVERY, she'd have remained SILENT
 - She may mean she would not have asked the king to PURCHASE their liberty with 375 TONS of silver

- c. She may mean their DEATHS would COST the king more than her enemy was PAYING him
- B. Esther identified her ENEMY (7:5-6a)
 - 1. In FURY, the king demanded her enemy's IDENTITY
 - 2. Esther identified her adversary as "THIS WICKED HAMAN"
- IV. Guests' REACTIONS (Esther 7:6*b*-8*b*)
 - A. Haman was TERRIFIED
 - B. Ahasuerus LEFT the room in ANGER
 - C. Haman appealed to the QUEEN
 - D. Ahasuerus MISINTERPRETED what he saw
- V. Ahasuerus's DECREE (Esther 7:8*c*-10)
 - A. Ahasuerus PRONOUNCED SENTENCE
 - B. Harbonah recommended an ironically APPROPRIATE location for EXECUTION (cf. 1:10)
 - C. Haman was IMPALED on the spike he'd erected for MORDECAI

VI. Lessons

- A. Evil schemes can TRAP the SCHEMER (Prov. 11:6; 26:27; 29:16)
- B. Destruction and adversity can OVERWHELM one QUICKLY (1 Thess. 5:3)
- C. There are CHARACTER lessons to learn
 - 1. An ARROGANT person may be a COWARD
 - 2. A POWERFUL person may be MANIPULATED
 - 3. A HUMBLE person may COURAGEOUS and STRONG
- D. A godly WIFE is PRICELESS (Prov. 31:10)