



**PURIM** 5779

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Every spring there is a prophetically significant time that the Word of G-d commands followers of the G-d of Israel to remember and observe. This day is Purim.

"And these days be remembered and observed in every generation and generation every and family and family and every nation and nation and every city and city; and the days of these lots (Purim) shall not pass from the midst of the Jewish people and they be and remembered not end from their offspring." Esther 9:28

I realize that some might think that this verse only applies to those of literal Jewish decent, but this verse ends with the phrase, *from their offspring*. The word translated offspring is actually "seed" or in Hebrew

לרכו. The word "seed" has special significance in the Scriptures. For example, the term **Seed of Abraham** does not refer to those of a physical lineage to Abraham, but ultimately to those (Jew and Gentile) who are of the same faith as Abraham (see Romans 4:13-16). Paul states this same truth in a most clear manner when he wrote,

"But if you are of Messiah, therefore **The Seed of Abraham** you are, according to the promise, heirs." Galatians 3:29

Why then is Purim important to the believer? The book of Esther does not only teach about the past, but there is a message for us today. In the same way that Haman arose with a plan to exterminate the Jewish people in the days of Esther and Mordechai, so too will there be in the last days an individual who will want to do this same thing. This will be the **antichrist**.

Recently, while traveling in Europe, I entered into a discussion with a gentleman about the alarming growth of antisemitism in an increasing number of places throughout the world. Although he agreed that antisemitism is definitely on the rise, he strongly rejected the idea that anything remotely similar to the Holocaust could happen again. After our conversation ended, I could not help but think about this man's perspective. It certainly does not make sense that after seeing the horrors of the Holocaust that people would once again participate in such an objective. As I continue to reflect on this, I felt directed to read the book of Esther. Last month, I taught through the entire book while at our in conference Romania, so I did not feel the need to read it again. However, as I was reading, I came across the verse,

## ויּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶדְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ וַיּאמֶר לְאֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה מִי הוּא זֶה וְאֵי זֶה הוּא אֲשֶׁר מְלָאוֹ לִבּוֹ לַעֲשׁוֹת כֵּן.

"And the King Achashverosh said, and he said to the Queen Esther, 'Who is this one and where is this one which filled his heart to do thus?" Esther 7:5

Most English translations either ignore one of the times that אַבְּל (he said) appears in this verse or renders it with a different verb, such as, "The King answered and said to the Queen...." There is no question that the repetition of the same word is awkward, but this redundancy has a purpose. The purpose

of redundancy in the Scriptures is to show an emphasis; in other words, to inform the reader that what the King said to Esther is important. The King asks, "Who is this one and where is this one which filled his heart to do thus?"

In chapter three, it is clearly demonstrated that the King had agreed to Haman's wicked plan. The fact that an entire people were going to be exterminated by Haman seemed to be of little concern to the King. Rather, what he focused upon was the exceedingly large sum of money that Haman was going to deposit into the treasury. The King did not even ask against which people was Haman intending to commit this act. This same type of attitude will be very common in the **End Times**. Paul stated that people in the last days will be lovers of their own selves (See 2 Timothy 3:2). This simply means that there will be an overwhelming tendency for individuals only to think of themselves and make decisions based upon their own selfish interest. Such a tendency will cause one to be easily deceived by the Enemy. One of the main reasons that the Holocaust took place is that too many individuals simply did not care that a people were being destroyed. The majority thought that as long as the Nazis were not taking them to death camps, they would not offer any protest and allow the slaughter of six million to continue without any resistance.

There is, of course, another factor involved here besides selfishness. This is a **spirit of antisemitism**. As I sit down to write this brief article, the **United States Congress**, which had intended to pass a resolution against antisemitism, could **not** gather enough support for it and in the end, could only act on a resolution that condemned all hateful expressions of intolerance.

In returning to the verse from the book of Esther, one learns that it was only after the King learned that Haman's wicked plan was going to affect him personally, i.e. that Esther was also going to be a victim of Haman's scheme, that he objected. In making this objection, the King said, "Who is this one and where is this one which filled his heart to do thus?"

The text states that the King wanted to know *the one who had filled his heart to do such a thing*? What the proper understanding of the Hebrew reveals is that such evil actions usually do not occur in a vacuum; rather, it is because an individual has embraced ungodly thoughts over a period of a time. The emphasis of this verse is that it was because Haman had **filled** his heart with such hatred for an extended period of time that he could devise a plan such as this one. This fact should cause each of us to consider what are we putting into our heart?

Today, there is such an unleashing of Satanic propaganda by the media and many political and "spiritual" leaders. There is indeed a battle for your mind. If one is not aware of this fact, then the enemy has already

won the first battle. When the people of the capital city of Shushan heard about this plan to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish all the Jewish people, the city became embarrassed. (See Esther 3:13-15). Most

English translations render the word בְּבוֹּבְ, with such words as "confused", "perplexed", "troubled" or "in turmoil". Although such a translation does capture an aspect of this word, it fails to express the primary component contained in the Hebrew root from which this word is derived. This word expresses shame and the feeling of being deeply embarrassed. What the Holy Spirit is teaching the reader is that when one holds to false teachings, not only will it produce confusion, i.e. he will lack discernment, but in the end this one will receive shame and be greatly embarrassed of his actions.

On Purim, both the evening before and the day of, the book of Esther is read in the Synagogue. Why not invite people to your home and read this book out loud? Remember, faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of G-d.

Have a blessed Purim!