

# GOODNEWS LETTER

## Number 291 October 28, 2009

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### WHY ESTHER BECAME QUEEN

I love Brother Braden Barnum's remark during his devotional last Sunday. After commenting from the book of Samuel, Braden said, "With what Hanna did, I think she should have a book of the Bible named after her; like, Esther and Ruth."

He's got a great point there. But, Hanna doesn't and Esther does; which, causes me to ask myself, *'Is it because of the effect that Esther had upon the entire Jewish nation amid captivity; while, Hanna's commitment was within Israel, alone?'*

I don't know the full answer, but the Book of Esther is enlightening! Here, an exile peasant girl is elevated to the high ranking position of the Queen.

And, we know that God always work things out when anyone is willing to give up her son (Samuel) or her own life for the Lord's glory? Therefore, we see that both Hanna and Esther are used mightily on behalf of God's people, which is His concern; an eternal concern.

Because Jesus is to be born from Israel, God has to rescue His nation. In Esther, God uses a unique situation to save His people. There's **Vashti** and, there's this Jewish woman named **Hadassah**; know as **Esther**.

In one sense, we might conclude this article by stating, "**Vashti 'refused to come at the King's commandment by his chamberlains'**" (Esth. 1:12). For, in the final analysis, when Jesus returns, many will experience such a 'flip-flop' in life and position that we see in Media and Persia, during Esther's time.

The truth of the matter - whether, in 465 B. C. or, in 2009, far too many fail to serve the Lord. Further, not many saved church members make the sacrificial decisions that Esther did.

### WOULDN'T ALL OF US EXCHANGE OUR POSITIONS TO BECOME QUEEN?

**Esther** made her life easier, sure. Who wouldn't want this high position? Well, first off, it's not anyone's choice. **Vashti** didn't grow so comfortable in her position that she became obstinate. God caused her to say, "No!" to the King.

But, God's calling has always been a matter plan and one of attitude. Remember Pharaoh? God hardened his heart many times. The problem with men is that they think they have control over their hearts; over decisions.

However, when it comes to Christian action, control comes by grace and from God. Every church member must know that the heart has to be aligned with God's purpose of life; again, aligned with His plan.

We must see His word first, and then, the spiritual opportunities we have in this life; such as, salvation, church service, witnessing and praising God. That's why the Book was written. That's why the Word became flesh (Jn 1:14). That's why the church is on earth, meeting for God's glory.

Another very important point is that all accounts in the Bible are directly and proportionately slanted towards God's people and moving His plan forward.

We must observe in Esther, or any of God's word, the plan that God has laid out for mankind. His will is going to be done in this earth! (See Mt. 6).

We have to realize that His plan was "laid out before the foundation of the world" (Heb. 4:3). This means that, before God cast His plan to the earth, it was already done in His mind AND, THEREFORE ALREADY DONE IN ETERNITY.

Just listen to what Jesus says, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundations of the world" (Mt 25:34).

**That's why Esther became Queen.** She moved God's people through her particular portion of God's plan. "The king loved Esther above all the women...so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen, instead of Vashti" (Esth. 2:17).

But, all this queen stuff wasn't a slam-dunk. Men, like Haman, are always trying to undo things. This Satan controlled man hated the Jews; especially, Esther's cousin, Mordecai, who refused to reverence Haman. (Talk about pride before a fall.) "When Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence;...Haman was full of wrath" (Esth. 3:2).

Later, Haman will be exposed for the traitor he was. Before he is hanged and forced to honor Mordecai (Esth. 6:4-13), Haman brought a major problem for the Jewish people; one that only the Queen can handle.

Haman writes up a proclamation that will destroy the Jews. Mordecai tells Queen Esther, "...Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the King's house, more than all the Jews" (Esth. 4:13), appealing to Esther's self preservation.

Then Mordecai looks at the big picture that lies before the Jewish people, knowing that God is in control. "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish," Esther 4:14 (NASV).

Why did Esther become Queen? "And who knows whether you have not attained royalty or such a time as this?" (Esth. 4:14b).

Learning the lesson of **Esther** is learning a portion of God's plan. When things look rough, God's plan is always sure. It's the same message Jesus told John's disciples - just before he was beheaded.

"Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the LAME WALK, the LEPERS ARE CLEANSED, and the DEAF HEAR, the DEAD ARE RAISED UP, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.

And blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me," Luke 6:22, 23.

Why are we here?