

## Fasting for Others, Pt. 5

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Last Sabbath, we were in the series *Fasting for Others*. Today is *Part 5*. Last Sabbath, we were in a period of a one-day fast over a three-day period that most were able to join in at that particular time.

And going through the story of Esther here, it's very inspiring seeing what God did. We're going to see things of a far greater scale. It's hard to imagine, to comprehend that, but what God's preparing to do is going to be far, far greater because of the time we're in and because of its purpose. It's about Joshua's return, coming a second time, and the things that are going to be prepared in the world, the things that are going to take place, the things we're going to witness, as Johnny puts it, being on the front row seat, we're going to see things and experience things that we have never imagined, truly, on a very grand scale.

God protects His Church, He blesses His Church, He has a purpose for His Church and what we're going to be doing leading up to that time, and then, individually people are going to have unique experiences as God intervenes for you, as God does various things and uses that in some respects at different times to influence, to help others. Again, you're going to be dumbfounded by the things you're able to experience; and you should be humbled through the process as well, to understand the power of God and the things that He can do and will do and will be doing at that particular time.

So, anyway, I'm amazed by all the things that are kind of coming together at this time in the sense of seventeen years later, and we're continuing on and we gave honor, in that respect, to what was written, because of what happened so long ago with Esther, with Mordecai, with the Jews at that time. That was on a very physical plane and yet it shows the incredible power of God.

You can't help but go through the story and realize God was constantly in this process. He was molding and fashioning things to happen in a certain manner at a certain time even at different stages, coordinating many things that were taking place here. Not making people do it, but opening those doors, those things that human nature would tend to gravitate to and do, things that we don't even begin to comprehend about the human mind, of how God is able to work with mankind when there is a purpose to be worked out. This is one of those stories that is really quite incredible, and that was on a physical plane. We're going to be experiencing things on a physical plane, yes, but spiritually because of what's taking place.

Then I think of the story of Elijah that we've just gone through recently, all the incredible things that took place there as people were moved and motivated to finally say, "Yes, the Eternal, He is God." And again, not knowing how long that lasted, and probably not too long, but at least they were moved at that moment in time because of what they'd experienced.

We're entering a period where we're going to experience things on a greater scale in that regard, and to be a part of that, totally awesome.

Then I think of Jonah. We've gone through that now, how Nineveh was moved because of what they saw, because of what they experienced. And then the story of John the Baptist as well, which we didn't go into, but to understand all these things are coming together in a way on a spiritual plane for us to live, to experience that is so incredible.

So, let's go back to Esther now, Esther 5. And our desire is, first and foremost, through a fast, which these fasts have been about, is about this individually, a desire to be drawn to repentance, the ability to see things in our lives that we need to work on, to change, and to draw closer to God, and to work with our prayer life as well in being able to have a desire, a motivation just as Jonah should have had toward Nineveh, a desire to see them to be able to be brought to repentance, to see the blessings that come from repentance instead of being destroyed and people destroying their own lives. Incredible lessons through all this.

And so, our desire is to see people moved by Thunders, eventually then Thunders and Trumpets, and anything else that God might use to move and motivate, to bring people to a point that we might be a part of, then, having an impact in their lives. And hence, the book, once it's complete, and what we're going to be doing. We'll get to that in time.

It looks like it's going to be nine chapters. Pretty much decided that. The eighth chapter is being edited. The ninth chapter will be once the Holy Day sermons are prerecorded. Someone is pretty busy doing some of that, besides me.

**Esther 5:1—Now, it happened in the third day...** So, here it is, they've already discussed this matter of going in before the king. Awesome statement that was made when Mordecai told her, "How do you know that you haven't come to a day like this just for this purpose?" To be one that's going to be used, in essence, to help save the Jews.

So, I think of us. It's hard for us to grasp and comprehend the importance of God's Church, the importance of God's people, especially at a time like this. Because we live at the most dynamic time, if you will, of 6,000 years. We live at the very end of 6,000 years, and Joshua is about to return, and it's going to be seen by the world, things are going to be experienced by the world. Where He came the first time, or when He came the first time, the world was rejecting Him right and left except for the few that God was drawing through the power of His spirit because John the Baptist had worked with so many as well with a message that went out. Awesome!

**It came to pass the third day that Esther put on her royal apparel and stood in the inner court of the king's house, and over against the king's house. Now, the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, in front of the opening of the house. Then it was so when the king saw Esther, the queen,**

**standing in the court, that she obtained favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter.** Because if he hadn't, she would have been killed. That was the law of the Medes and Persians at that time for a king.

And so, here it was, someone that's not called upon, someone that's not invited in, that was the law. And so, that's why she had this fear, and explained that to Mordecai, and he told her to do it, to go in before him, and they went through this process of fasting to come to this point.

**...he held out the golden scepter that was in his hand. So Esther drew near and touched the top of the scepter. Then the king said to her, What is it you desire, Queen Esther, and what is your request? It will be given to you—even to the half of the kingdom!** Now, it sends chills up and down my spine. You think, what an incredible thing. Here, not knowing what was going to happen, whether she was going to live or die, and then he tells her this, "Even to the half of the kingdom, it's yours." She wasn't desiring that, she wasn't asking for that, but that was how he was moved.

God was involved in that. Okay? We need to understand that God has the power to move people, to inspire people, to help people in their thinking in a right way, in a good way, in a way that responds to what He desires.

That's why there are times that people go through hardships in jobs and different things that might take place, and then there are times because of prayer, and because of an individual having gone through a particular trial, it comes to a time so often where God has intervened, and all of a sudden favor is given and the employer or employees have a change in attitude.

Over the time in God's Church, where I've seen it over and over again, there are times when these kinds of things happen. Because God changes in whatever process or however it's done to take people through different experiences, that their attitudes change. Because most of the time, there isn't that fondness toward God's people. They like us as a people at the Feast, as an example, but they don't like what we believe at all. There is that analogy always there.

But employers have changed, employees have changed their attitudes, their attacks against others, and God has a power to work with people to do that, to humble people, whatever it is.

**Then Esther answered, If it seems good to the king, let the king and Haman come this day to a banquet that I have prepared for him. Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste.** In other words, "Do this right away." So, this is the order he's given, **that he may do as Esther has said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. Then the king said to Esther at the banquet of wine, What is your petition? So it will be granted you. So, what is your request, even to the half of the kingdom? It will be performed!** So, he's telling her this again.

But she's showing this honor, her desire to have this banquet for him, something special for him, and also for Haman to be invited. So, he's inquisitive, he wants to know "What's going on? What does she want? Why is she going through all this?" He wants a response; he wants an answer.

**Then Esther answered the king, saying, My petition and request is: If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to a banquet which I will prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king has asked.** So, another one. She wants them to come again to a banquet, to whatever it is that she's prepared or having prepared for them.

**Then Haman went forth that day joyful and with a glad heart. But when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he did not stand up or move for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.** So, there's this jabbing, as it were, in his thinking, in his mind, and in his back, because "Here is Mordecai. I've just been invited in before the king and the queen to a banquet, and she has asked that I come back again tomorrow." In his mind, it's all vanity, and he's excited by this, being lifted up, being elevated, as it were, and yet he goes out there and sees this Mordecai that has been like a thorn in his flesh, and he's still there, and it kind of takes away, then that joy. That's how much he hated Mordecai. That's how much he hated the Jewish people. That this joy that he had was diminished because of seeing Mordecai.

**Nevertheless, Haman refrained himself, and when he came home, he sent and called his friends and Zeresh, his wife. Then Haman told them the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him.** So, the king had elevated him greatly, and here he is kind of bragging about it to all of his friends, inviting them over to hear this.

**...and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. Furthermore, Haman said, Yes, even Esther, the queen, has let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but me.** "I'm special." I mean, vanity, haughtiness just oozes out of his pores.

**...and tomorrow I am also invited by her, with the king.** Going in again before the king and the queen. **Yet all this profits me nothing so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.** In other words, "He's still out there. This hasn't been taken care of yet, and it's just taking away all the joy of something that I should be able to rejoice in greatly."

**Then answered Zeresh, his wife, and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high.** Nobody has ever zeroed in exactly what a cubit is. There are a lot of different ideas about what it might be. It ranges anywhere from 28 to 45 feet and even higher. **...and tomorrow you can tell it unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged upon it.** So, "Tomorrow when you go in there, you can tell him that this has been prepared for Mordecai." **...then you can go on up happily with the king unto the banquet. So, the thing pleased Haman, and he caused the gallows to be made.** So, this happened quickly, in haste indeed.

**Esther 6:1—On that night, the king could not sleep, and he commanded for the book of the records of the chronicles to be brought to him.** God saw to it that he couldn't sleep. Certain things came into his mind. Here they are. ...**and they read before the king.** So, the king couldn't sleep, so he's going back and reading some of the things that are written in the chronicles.

**Then it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the keepers of the door who sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. So, the king asked, What honor and great thing has been done to Mordecai for this?** So now, after all this time, now because it's being read back to him that these two eunuchs had plotted to kill him and that Mordecai brought this forward, and so, "What was ever done for him? What great thing has taken place to honor him for what he did?"

**Then the king's servants said, who administered to him, There is nothing that's been done for him. Then the king said, Who is in the court?** So, please understand, this is all something orchestrated by God. The timing, the events, the things that are taking place, God is there working to bring this together, to bring together a story that has a specific outcome. And so, God is working with people in this fashion to bring these things about. Leading, guiding, directing, molding, fashioning – things that are beyond our comprehension.

**Now, Haman had come into the outward court of the king's house to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows.** So, here he was coming in with this desire before the banquet to accomplish this, to take care of this so that he could really enjoy, then, the banquet, having seen Mordecai then put to death. And so, here it is that he came in.

**Then the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman is standing at the court. So the king said, Let him come in. Then Haman came in, and the king asked of him, What shall be done unto the man to whom the king delights to honor?** So, he hasn't had a chance yet to tell about Mordecai and this gallows he had built because the king is asking him a question. And so, it turns his mind because he's so filled with vanity and haughtiness he can only see himself in what the king is saying here. It's just automatic because of his haughtiness and pride.

"What shall be done to the man in whom the king delights to honor?" So, he's already thinking he's being honored because the queen has invited him back. They're both there. "And the king, who else would he want to delight in honoring except me?"

**Now, Haman thought in his heart...** That's what it says. **To whom would the king delight to do honor more than myself? So Haman answered the king...** So, he believes it's him, so this is what he wants done for him. You have to laugh at this. This is incredible. So haughty it made him blind.

**For the man in whom the king delights to honor, let the royal apparel,** what the king wears, **let the royal apparel...** In other words, when he comes out before people in all of that which he presents himself before them. **Let the royal apparel be brought out which the king wears, and the horse which**

**the king rides, and the royal crown which sets upon his head. Then let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes.** So, "Whoever is your most noble prince, then let them be the one to lead the horse," in essence, **that they may array the man with all the king delights to honor and bring him on horseback through the streets of the city, and proclaim before him.**

So, not only is he leading the horse, but this is also what he should proclaim: **Thus shall it be done to the man in whom the king delights to honor!** So, this is to be repeated over and over as he's taking him through the city, this prince. But he sees himself as being the one in the royal apparel on top of the horse.

**Then the king said to Haman, Make haste and take the apparel and the horse, as you have said, and do so even to Mordecai the Jew who sits at the king's gate!** It would be hard to make up a story like this one, let alone to orchestrate it to bring it together. Awesome! **Let nothing fail of all that you have spoken.** Again, as a matter of honor because of a three-day fast, that everyone was willing to humble themselves (God working with that as well) for things to be written that the Church could enjoy through time, that we could enjoy at the end of 6,000 years as well. Awesome.

**Then Haman took the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai...** You have to think how this had to eat him and how much fear he had because there were those who knew that that gallows had already been built to kill Mordecai, and here, here is the one that the king is wanting to honor and Haman is the prince who has to lead the horse and cry out these things before all the people.

**So Haman took the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai and brought him on horseback through the streets of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done to the man to whom the king delights to honor! Then Mordecai went back again to the king's gate.** So, when it was over, he just went back to where he was.

**But Haman hastened to his house, mourning and having his head covered. So Haman told Zeresh, his wife, and all his friends everything that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh, his wife, unto him, If Mordecai is the offspring of the Jews, before whom you have begun to fall, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him. Then, while they were yet talking with him, the king's eunuchs came and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared.** So, he was so disillusioned by all this he went back home to his friends and sought guidance and encouragement. Didn't receive a whole lot. And here he's pretty much out of his mind that he was to go in before Esther and the king again, so they had sent for him, the king had, to bring him in haste, to get him there.

**Esther 7:1—So the king and Haman went to the banquet with Esther, the queen. Then the king said unto Esther on the second day of the banquet of wine, What is your petition, Queen Esther? So it shall be granted to you. And what you have requested, so it will be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.**

**Then Esther, the queen, answered and said, If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition.** Now, this had to be shocking to him, what he was hearing: “Let my life be given to me?” ...**and my people at my request. For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to perish.** Can you imagine the king sitting there, first time he’s heard this from her about her or anything like this and he doesn’t even know what this is all about. “What are you talking about?”

**But if we had been sold for a bondsmen or bondswomen**—if we’d just been sold into slavery, that would be better—I **would have held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king’s damage. Then the king, Ahasuerus, answered and said to Esther, the queen, Who is he, and where is he, who dares presume in his heart to do so? And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!** Can you imagine his countenance changing? No longer a matter of any kind of haughtiness and pride but absolute fear.

**Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. And the king arose from the banquet of wine in his anger.** He was so angry he left the presence right then. ...**and went into the palace garden. Then Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen, for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.** In other words, he saw the king so enraged against him that the king left to go out into the garden before he came back with what he was going to say. He knew what was coming. He’d been around long enough to know that countenance and the feelings of the king.

**Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine, and Haman had fallen upon the bed where Esther was.** So, it was right at that moment, knees probably weak, and here he was petitioning her, and where she was, whether it was a type of a couch bed or whatever, he fell onto it. He lost his balance and fell onto the bed where the queen was, and this is what the king says as he comes back in: **Then the king said, Will you force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face.** So, right away, those who were serving there immediately took him because they knew what was happening, and they grabbed him and, as it says here, “covered his face.”

**Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said before the king, Behold also the gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai.** So, they all knew this, but the king didn’t know this. But it wasn’t any secret because you build something that big all of a sudden, and some of the word starts moving around that this is for Mordecai, but it hadn’t reached the king yet until now. **He’s made this gallows for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, stand before the courtyard of Haman.** And you have to understand here too, that the eunuchs, that the people in the palace, even the women who were there taking care of Esther, that they had great respect for her. It just comes out of the writing there that they looked up to her in a grand way, if you will. And so, this is going along with this that they were showing here, where Haman was coming from, and his kind of thinking.

**Then the king said, Hang him thereon!** He wanted to put him to death, but now “He did this? He was going to do this to Mordecai? Go put him on there. Hang him.” **So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. So the king’s wrath was satisfied/pacified.**

**Esther 8:1—On that day did King Ahasuerus give the house of Haman, the Jews' enemy, unto Esther the queen. Even Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told who he was unto her.** So, now she’s telling him who she is, who Mordecai is, and it all comes together for the king, what Haman had done and what he had plotted that was to be done a few months further up the road.

**Then the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai.** Because that was like second in the kingdom then in power and authority, and that ring was a matter of his signature, of whatever he said, whatever he did, and if he used that ring to do it, it was in the name of the king. Awesome!

**Now, Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.** What even astounds me even more is how old he was. He had to be in fairly good health, and he was still going strong.

**And Esther yet spoke again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.** So, she wanted that reversed or done away with, but the reality was it was law, and the law of the king can’t be changed, so it had to stay in effect.

**Then the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king, and said, If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right unto the king and I am pleasing in his eyes...** So, over and over again, saying these things. Yes, he wants to, you know, do whatever it is she desires.

**...let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king’s provinces. For how can I endure to see the evil that will come upon my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of all my kindred? Then the king, Ahasuerus, said unto Esher the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows because he laid his hands upon the Jews. Write also for the Jews as you want to do in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring, for the writing which is in the king’s name and sealed with the king’s ring no man may reverse.**

So again, “You’re going to have to devise something, some other plan, but what has already been stated about the destruction of the Jews on a certain day stands.” So, this is where it comes to now.

**Verse 9 it says, Then, when the king’s scribes called at that time, in the third month, that is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day thereof and it was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and to the deputies and rulers of the provinces which were from India to Ethiopia, one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, unto every**

**province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing and according to their language.**

**Now, he wrote in King Ahasuerus name...** So, this is what they came up with; this is what was given. ... **and then he sealed this with the king's ring, and sent letters by post on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries, wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together...** So, this is what was being given. This is what the writing was all about, and this is how they were going to counteract all of this. That authority was given to Mordecai; this is what is being written. ...**and to stand for their life.**

So, they're able to come together, to be armed, to stand for their life —**to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish all the power, the spoil of them for a prey upon one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.** So, that's the same day that had been said to destroy all the Jews.

So, now this is going out to all the provinces, but it's in the king's authority and power, and so they know that something has been changed dramatically here, that the Jews are to be able to stand to protect themselves, and that they have the authority to kill and destroy anyone who would kill and try to destroy them. So, that's the quick of it.

This carries with it then a measure of fear because if you're going to go against the king now and he's altered this to where the Jews can stand and they can destroy and kill, then it puts a whole different light on things, and do you really want to go against the king? Even though there were those who did. But anyway, going on here. Because the hatred of the Jews was so great in different provinces.

So, the same day was picked; this is what they were going to do. **And the copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves of their enemies.** So, they had plenty of enemies. Age-old story. **The couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastening and pressed on by the king's command. So the decree was issued in Shushan, the citadel.**

**Now, Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel, in blue and white and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was happy.** So, incredible what took place here. The entire city was behind, in that respect, Mordecai. Now had a different view, if they had one different than that before of the Jews. But already this had kind of already been in the temple area, and so this was being spread even that much more.

It said, **The Jews had light and gladness, and joy and honor. Then in every province and in every city, wherever the king's commandment and his decree went, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast, and a good day.** You know, you think you have a day where they're going to be able to kill you, all of you, and now this has been totally changed around because you were part of a three-day fast and God heard you

and God is performing this. And incredible as it is, the story went out as well about what Mordecai and Esther had been doing in all of this.

It says, **Then many of the people of the land became Jews.** They were so moved by what had taken place and so didn't want to displease the king and didn't want to be seen an enemy of the king, that they supposedly then converted to Judaism. ...**for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.**

**Esther 9:1—Now, in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put into execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, although that was turned to just the opposite, so that the Jews had rule of those who hated them.** So again here, incredible story how God turned this totally around, gave favor to the Jews to destroy their enemies, and not just all a matter of coincidence, and then a story was written about this.

That's how oftentimes things are read in the Bible, different things that have taken place. It's like, well, this story is here, and it's an incredible story, and so God intervened to give certain favor at a certain time, not understanding, no, this is all planned. This is all planned out way ahead of time. Incredible.

**The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus.**

That's why one day, and maybe not too long from now, you're going to look back at this particular time with a different view than you have now. Because this does follow this example of what took place then. We did it then, seventeen years ago, with this exact design, and only did it two days rather than three—totally joined into it on a spiritual plane—and then one more time, seventeen years later. I don't know about you, but I am deeply moved by it.

And I know the power of Almighty God to intervene, to do things and what He's getting ready to do in the world, and it isn't just about letting the world come down to a WWII. There is a lot of preparation that hasn't been done, that is going to be done. What John the Baptist did, if we can just grasp that, was on a massive scale by one person. All the people who were moved to go out and be baptized by him because they desired to see the Messiah, they believed what John was saying, how did they believe that? God. God's spirit.

You know, just like when He called you, your mind began to be opened up to things that you never knew, you never grasped, you never understood, and all of a sudden you could see them, you could understand them, and you could agree with them, you had the choice of whether you agreed or not. That's incredible power and experiences that we've all had. Something that we should never, ever, ever lose, that so many have lost. It's mind-boggling. To understand that you can see and know things, and the proof is in your own life. You know what you believe.

And how are you able to do that? Because God opened it up to you. He let you understand the Holy Days and the purpose from Passover to the Last Great Day. Very few on earth have ever, ever been able to see that and grasp that. And those who have, the majority have turned against it. Mind-boggling!

And we live in far more important times than what John the Baptist lived in. What he did was incredibly great and awesome indeed, and it was a must in the way that God designed it and molded it and fashioned it because of what was to happen on a physical plane and a preparation of the beginning of a Church as several thousand were converted, baptized if you will, became a part of the Church on 31 AD. Awesome!

What's getting ready to take place is so much greater. I hope we understand that. What is getting ready to take place on the earth with Joshua returning is far, far, far greater. People on the earth and what they're going to see and what they're going to experience as God prepares for the rule of His Kingdom on earth is not a small thing. There is going to be power unleashed that we can't even begin to grasp and comprehend, that has never been unleashed on this earth. That sends chills up and down my spine. We should embrace it if we don't know it. But it's something we can know, that God is getting ready to do incredibly great things. And He does it with His people. Awesome!

With one man, John the Baptist, He did incredible things. He was there to teach about the Messiah who was coming. He spoke about those things. Just a very focused message. Not a whole lot was given – just that focused message about a need for repentance, the Messiah is coming. Incredible!

And how much greater is this? He's coming, but God's Kingdom is coming, 144,000 are coming with Christ. Some who are listening today are going to be a part of that. Mind-boggling! We can't even begin to grasp that one, let alone the entirety of the Church and how God is going to work with individuals. You've been called to experience things that are beyond your understanding, beyond your comprehension, and yet you're going to experience them. That ought to be incredibly moving to us.

God loves His people, and He works in powerful ways with His people, especially at a time when there are awesome things that are to be accomplished in the world. These are those times. That's what we're living into. It doesn't have to be into the hundreds of thousands of people. It can be just a few hundred, and God will do great things. Because God says He's going to make it very clear everything He does is by His great power and His might. And if we're blessed to be a part of that, to be involved in that, mind-boggling, truly.

What Elijah did, awesome! But absolutely nothing compared to what's coming. I think of the Thunders that are going to gain a momentum and power. We live at a unique time. Trumpets that are right behind it, and then both of those things coinciding together as we go through whatever time is left. Awesome. Awesome. Awesome.

**The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands upon on any who sought their hurt. And no man could withstand them, for the fear of them fell upon all people.** Incredible favor He gave. Turning everything around, totally around, to where the Jews were given power. This wasn't a small thing that took place either. Incredible, all the Jews given that kind of power and authority to do what they were told.

**And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and the officers of the king helped the Jews.** So, it wasn't always out of great admiration and love. It started in many cases out of absolute fear. And then to take the side that you realize, this is the winning side. Human nature is kind of fickle at times like this, and they can believe that they're doing it all for noble purposes, but when it comes right down to it, a lot of times, well, it is always about self. That's the way human nature is.

So, they helped the Jews. You'd be stupid not to. That's what it was. You'd just be totally dumb and stupid not to take the side of the Jews. Who wants to be an enemy of the Jew because the king says, in essence, by his authority, you can be killed?

So again, **they helped the Jews because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.** They knew the kind of power that he had been given by the king, and he was a Jew and everyone knew it.

**Verse 4—For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went throughout all the provinces; because this man Mordecai had become great. Thus the Jews struck down all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter and destruction, and did what they would unto those who hated them.** So, it was quite obvious in those areas of those who were gathering together to kill them. They're still going to try.

**Now, in Shushan, the palace, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men.** And it goes through and names the different ones. I am not going to try to pronounce all of these.

**Verse 10** (who are those names), **the ten sons of Haman, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews—now they killed, but they did not lay their hand upon any spoil.** What a unique thing in itself, too. This wasn't being motivated because of the spoil, it was because of necessity, to save your life. And those who are going to kill you, you had the right to kill them. And so, a noble step above, if you will. Those who were going to turn against the Jews, because the Jews that were going to be killed, they were told they could have all the spoil. That went along with it. And so, the Jews, as in most eras of mankind, have been known for their wealth. They have a knack. They've been blessed, and it was the same in that time as well. Shrewd business people.

And so, it says here, "They didn't turn," in the respect, "nor be motivated by taking of their spoil." So, there is that distinction made throughout the book here of Esther.

**Verse 11—On that day, the number of those who were killed in Shushan the palace was brought before the king. And then the king said to Esther, the queen, The Jews have killed and destroyed five**

**hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman. What have they done to the rest of the king's provinces? Now, what is your petition? So it shall be granted to you. What is any further request, and it shall be done. Then Esther answered, If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Shushan to do tomorrow also according to this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.**

So, he's going to give them an additional day. That's what she's requesting. So, not just the 13<sup>th</sup>, let's go on into the next day as well and finish the job. The others had no right or authority to fight back, which carried on other implication then as to what could be done directly from the king.

**So the king's command is so to be done, and the decree was given to Shushan, and they hanged Haman's ten sons. For the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar and killed three hundred men at Shushan.** So, now three hundred more. **But on any spoil they didn't lay a hand.** They didn't take anything that belonged to them.

**Verse 16—But the other Jews that were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and killed of their foes seventy-five thousand.** So, seventy-five thousand throughout the king's provinces. **But they did not lay hands upon any spoil. On the thirteenth day of the month Adar, and on the fourteenth of the month of the same, they rested and they made it a day of feasting and gladness.** So, I'm sure it wasn't hard to do because here they were given this incredible victory. It was all over with, they lived, and they didn't have any enemies anymore. Anyone who was an enemy, as far as they knew they had been put to death. Incredible story.

And so, having joy and happiness wasn't a hard thing to stir up. It was already there. We even have to be reminded of doing that at the Feasts. God says, "Make sure you rejoice at My Feasts." We have to pray about it; we have to ask for help on it. But here, they didn't need any extra motivation at all. It was automatic.

**But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth day thereof; and on the fifteenth of the same they rested and made it a time of feasting and gladness. Therefore, the Jews of the villages that dwelt in the unwalled towns made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.** So, gifts, portions, whatever.

**Verse 20—And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus, both near and far, to establish this among them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same yearly.** So again, this went out to all the province, these two days, you're to uphold and remember this time, of the victory God gave, in essence, against our enemies, and a reminder then of the blessings of that fast, that three-day fast.

**...and the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day.** So, what an incredible experience. As soon as they heard what Haman had done, and this went out to all the provinces, and that they were to be killed and destroyed, and to grasp and comprehend how you would feel about that. Like Esther said, "If we'd just been sold into slavery, I would even have come in here before you and asked for help. But it's about our lives." It's about the Jews continuing on and being able to live that she went in before the king.

And so, again here, incredible going through this.

**...so mourning was turned into a good day, that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another and gifts to the poor.** So, this is something that Mordecai had given them to do year by year.

**Now, the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them, because Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur.** So again, like rocks. We're familiar with dice. And they used these things to determine time, in this case here, of when the Jews should be destroyed.

So, it says **...they had cast Pur (that is, the lot), to consume them and to destroy them. But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that this wicked device, which he devised upon the Jews, should be returned upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. Wherefore they called these days Purim, after the name Pur.** So again, something that the Jews observe to this time. They set aside a time of Purim, a time of rejoicing, a time of remembering Esther and Mordecai, and this particular story here. It's been passed down from generation to generation from the times of the Medes and Persians. That's incredible. That's how notable this period of time was, what this meant to them, and the relationship that they knew that they had with God, that when they'd turn their hearts to God, that God would intervene for them.

**Therefore, for all the words of this letter and that which has been seen concerning this matter, and which had come upon them, the Jews ordained and took upon them and upon their seed and upon all such as would join themselves unto them, so as it should not fail that they would keep these two days according to their writing and according to their time every year.** So, it had such an impact upon them. They obviously had the Sabbath and the Holy Days as their teaching, days they observed as holy time before God. This was unique as a gift from God, that they saw, and they observed then from then on, to remember this time and what was done. That's how great the story is and was and has been to the Jewish people for a long, long, long time. Incredible.

**Now, these days are to be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city, and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor their memorial of them perish from their seed.** So, it should tell us a little bit, too, as well how important this

was to God, this particular story, this particular event, the fact that it was made scripture, the fact that God planned and organized it from beginning to end. Awesome! It carries on to this day. And how much more that should mean to us if we grasp where we are in time and what God has blessed us to partake in.

**Verse 29—Then Esther, the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority to confirm this second letter of Purim. So, he sent the letters to all the Jews, to the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth, to confirm these days of Purim in their times, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther, the queen, had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their offspring the matters of the fasting and their cry. Awesome!**

You humble yourself before God and the things that God does in our lives, things sometimes we don't even grasp and comprehend that we'll learn later on. When it's done in sincerity and truth and in the manner that God says we should.

**Now, the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim, and it was written in the book.**

**Esther 10:1—Then the King Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land and upon the isles of the sea. And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereupon the king advanced him, are they not written in the books of the chronicles of the kings of the Medes and Persians? For Mordecai the Jew was next unto King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people and speaking peace to all his offspring.**