

wed Night



FRESH ENCOUNTER

THE WAR WITHIN

MARCH 6, 2024 | JOHN GOETSCH

"After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him. 2 And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence." (Esther 3:1-2)

INTRODUCTION

- Jews have long history of not giving reverence (worship) to human being
- reverent worship belongs to God

- The most destructive war on earth rages in the heart of every individual in this room.
- If there is no war, then why are we commanded to put on armor in Ephesians 6?
- Four insights to this war zone of our own hearts:

1. THE Characters - metaphores

A. King Ahasuerus —representing the soul of man.

*It is within our soul that decisions are made; plans are conceived; the will is exercised; and every part of your life is affected.

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." (Matthew 7:20)

"...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." (Matthew 12:34b)

Haman flattered ego of King Ahasuerus
- Haman also bribed the King with money

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7a)

B. Haman the Agagite - representing our
"flesh" (sinful urges)

*We are born with a sinful flesh.

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." (Psalm 51:5)

"Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of our mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." (Ephesians 2:3)

C. Mordecai the Jew - representing the
Holy Spirit

*He sits outside the palace wall with no influence over the King - but he refuses to bow to Haman.

"But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence." (Esther 3:2b)

"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are the contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." (Galatians 5:17)

2. THE Commonality - for all have sinned (Rom 3:23)

*The problem in the Book of Esther is that the bad guy is on the inside and the good guy is on the outside.

A. The Effect of the gospel

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind have taken us away." (Isaiah 64:6)

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12)

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

B. The Exchange of government

*As a Christian we still must vote on who is in control of our life.

- who owns you?
* sin or God

*"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."
(Galatians 2:20)*

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."
(Romans 12:1)*

*"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."
(Romans 6:13)*

3. THE Contention

A. A hatred - murder of human soul

*Anything that God honors - Satan hates!

*The Jews are God's chosen people. Haman is their enemy.

Esther 3:10; Esther 8:1; Esther 9:10; Esther 9:24

*Haman has a plan to brutally murder every Jew!

*"And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for prey."
(Esther 3:13)*

B. A hatred history

*"As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."
(Romans 9:13)*

*The spirit of Satan was embedded in Esau who despised his birthright and rejected the grace of God.

*Amalek was Esau's grandson.

*"I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? Saith the Lord: yet I loved Jacob. And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the Lord of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the Lord hath indignation for ever."
(Malachi 1:2-4)*

*God could not bless anything in the line of Esau.

*King Saul missed that history class as he spared Agag - king of Edom. Agag was an Edomite - a descendant of Esau. Haman is an Agagite - the enemy of God's people.

4. A Control - ^{1st decree Bad} 2nd decree good

A. A powerful Proclamation - 2 different decrees

*The flesh, like Haman, will do everything in its power to destroy God's work in your life.

*Like King Saul are we refusing to wipe out the flesh? Even protecting and preserving what we consider to be the best of our flesh?

*Have you become a "sanctuary city" for the flesh? You will ultimately be the victim of your own decree.

B. A perplexed People - confused

"The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed."
(Esther 3:15)

*The soul of man and the flesh are sitting down to drink, but something isn't right in the kingdom.

*The restlessness we sense will continue until the alliance between the soul of man and the flesh is broken up and the Holy Spirit is in control of our life.

CONCLUSION



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