

INTRODUCTION TO ESTHER

--ESTHER 1:1-9--

INTRODUCTION:

Only two books of the Bible are named after women. The first is Ruth, the second is Esther. Esther is sandwiched between the books of Nehemiah and Job. If we were to date when the events of this book took place it would be in the date range of 483-477 B.C. This is approximately 55-65 years after the captivity of Judah. For many who read this little book it is a puzzle, I say that because it seems to be out of place in the Bible. The reason I say this is because there is no mention of God in this book, there is no reference to worship or to faith, there is no prediction of the Messiah, there is no mention of heaven or hell. It would seem that there is nothing religious about this book, at least on the surface.

Paul more than once in his letters taught that the historic incidents that happened to Israel and Judah are intended as types or examples for us. As we enter into the book of Esther, then we will look for the illustration, the instruction behind the historic event, and I believe this book will come to life for us. We will discover ourselves in the pages of this event, in the unfolding of this historic event we shall find an unfolding of our own makeup. The Bible was given to us not only that we may learn to know God, but that we may also learn to know ourselves. The book of Esther will help us to do this.

I. THE KING (Esther 1:1-4)

- a. The book of Esther opens and centers around a _____ and its _____.
- b. As this event opens, we find the empire at _____.
- c. We know from other Scriptures that man was created to have _____, in other words to be a king ruling over his own empire.
- d. But man is more than just a _____.
- e. The Bible calls this the _____ of man; it involves the faculties of mind, emotion, and will. (Psalm 6:6-8)

- f. As man gave himself to the task of properly governing the earth which he was established as king, he would display the majesty and the _____ of the God who indwelt him.
- g. If man was made to _____ with God, then there must be provision within man for that communion.
- h. This spirit was created to be the place of _____ between the soul of man and the Holy Spirit of God.

II. THE QUEEN (Esther 1:5-9)

- a. The human _____ is pictured for us in the book of Esther by the queen.
- b. The queen as the book opens is Queen _____ as we are informed in verse 9.
- c. Then verse nine informs us that queen Vashti also gave a _____ for the women in the palace.
- d. Queen Vashti represents the human _____ while Ahasuerus represents the human _____.
- e. In this book the queen _____ the place of communion for the king. (Hebrew 4:12)

CONCLUSION:

So, we have entered into a new book, the book of Esther, and as we do and as we move forward, we will learn some things about ourselves. The king is a picture of the soul of man, the soul comprises the mind, emotions, and will. Ahasuerus' capital is the city of Susa, this represents man's body in which all his decisions and actions will be most immediately felt. His empire is the sphere of influence that each man has in life. Finally, his queen represents the spirit of man. It is so closely bound to his soul that no division or separation can be seen. The queen bound in marriage to the king, depicts the place of fellowship, refreshment, and communion with God which is intimately related to our soul. As we continue into this book, I believe that each of us will see ourselves and we will see how accurate this portrayal is as the events of this history unfold.