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Amplification by

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Topical Series on Revival – Part X

‘Esther enjoyed a revival following a time of fasting’

Esther 4:13 – 17; Key verse 16

“Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which *is* not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.”

Intro: We can, and perhaps do more often than not, see things that happen and conclude they were _____ rather than divine providence or simply put, majestically part of God’s fore-ordained plans. It plainly stands out in this historical account in the book of Esther. To the best laid plans of men, and then there is God! Something among the globalist and other liberals, be they democrats, republicans or independents along with any other group. No one ever gets anything past or by God that He in His divine providence doesn’t permit. And while we may not always see it as clearly as He does it is best to remember the words of Joseph following the death of his father Jacob – **Genesis 50:15 – 21**. God’s chosen pathways aren’t always the easiest, but in the end, it was a perfect path with a perfect ending.

The back drop of the book Esther takes place in the Persian empire. These are the people in modern day Iran. They were a bright people

1. An ancient underground aqueduct system for irrigation and water supply.
2. Windcatcher (Badgir) - A traditional architectural feature for natural ventilation and cooling.
3. Chess - The game originated in Persia, evolving into the modern version we know today.
4. Algebra - The Persian mathematician Al-Khwarizmi is often called the "father of algebra."
5. Medicine - Persian scholars made significant advances in medical practices and pharmacology.
6. Astronomy - Innovations in astronomical instruments and the development of the Persian calendar.
7. Polo - The sport of polo is believed to have originated in Persia, evolving into a popular game worldwide.

And there were other important contributions as well. The Persians people and Iran were high-jacked by ruthless and radicle Moslems whom the Iranian war is being fought to liberate the Persian people today.

I. Esther enjoyed a revival following a time of fasting – Esther 4:13 – 17.

- A. By the time we get to the book of Esther, a number of the Jews had already _____ following the edict of Cyrus the Great, around 538 BC.
1. We know that comparatively, many Jews _____ rather than return because they _____ themselves into the Babylonian and Persian culture.
 2. So, the time of the events in this book were around 486 – 465 BC, or about 100 years following Israel's first return after the Babylonian captivity.
 3. And so, this is the time period when _____, a man who hated the Jews set his plan in motion to rid the Middle East of any and all Jews near and far.
 4. In the mean-time, the Jews had become quite _____ in as simulating themselves into the culture and business enterprises.
- B. Haman aggrandized himself to the King, King Xerxes I (Ahasuerus). **Esther 3:1 & 2.**
1. Haman's self-importance grows & it becomes his _____ sentence – **Esther 5:11 – 13.**
 2. The final straw – **Esther 4:4 - 10**
 3. **Esther 3:1** - Haman is _____ to a high position by King Ahasuerus.
 4. **Esther 3:2** - Haman _____ that all royal officials bow to him, showcasing his desire for honor.
 5. **Esther 5:11** - Haman _____ to his friends about his wealth and the king's favor.
 6. **Esther 5:12** - He highlights his invitation to dine with the king and queen, emphasizing his _____.
 7. **Esther 5:13** - Despite his successes, Haman expresses dissatisfaction due to Mordecai's refusal to bow.
 8. **Esther 6:6-11** - Haman suggests grand honors for someone the king wishes to reward, revealing his _____-serving nature. **Proverbs 16:8** – "**Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**" And **Romans 12:3.**
 9. Did you catch earlier that God was in _____ all along? **Esther 2:21 – 23!** God always has an exit plan or an end game plan.!
- C. Perhaps the Jewish people were just getting a little to _____ and it is shake-Em up time as Haman's plot becomes public and Haman's plot enfolds upon himself.
1. Praying and fasting is important when our backs are up against an impossible situation or circumstance – **Esther 4:12 – 17.**
 2. The results were _____, but then what ever God does is amazing!
 - a. Haman is hanged on the gallows he meant to hang Mordecai upon – **Est. 7:10.**
 - b. The Jews were permitted to seek revenge – **Esther 8:11.**
 - c. The Jews were able to see the hand of God intervening on their behalf.
 3. As much as many in this world hate the Jews, they are still God's people and it is His nature to protect them. Purim is the Jewish holiday that has resulted.
 4. Prayer and fasting moved the hand of God so the people rejoiced rather than sorrowed.