

Fasting

Part 10

There is power in fasting unto the Lord when we are faced with hard trial and persecution. God will work powerfully in our behalf as we draw near to him in prayer and fasting committing our lives once again with him to serve Him, worship Him and live our lives fully unto Him.

The people of God fasted in Susa when they faced with the evil plan of Haman to annihilate the whole Jewish. The Lord truly worked it out for their benefits. The Lord lifted up Mordecai and honoured him over Haman, and the evil plan of Haman failed and Haman got punished as we can read here: -

“So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther, ² and as they were drinking wine on that second day, the king again asked, “Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.” ³ Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor with you, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request. ⁴ For I and my people have been sold for destruction and slaughter and annihilation. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.” ⁵ King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?” ⁶ Esther said, “The adversary and enemy is this vile Haman.” Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. ⁷ The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden. But Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life. ⁸ Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, “Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?” As soon as the word left the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face. ⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, “A gallows seventy-five feet high stands by Haman’s house. He had it made for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.” The king said, “Hang him on it!” ¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king’s fury subsided.” (Esther 7:1-10) Haman was hanged on the same gallows that he prepared for Mordecai. As we pray and fast to face the persecution and the threat that we are facing, God will work it out for our behalf, that the schemes our enemies had prepared for us they will fall in it and got punished and disciplined by the Lord.

The praying and fasting of the people of God in Susa was not only resulted that Haman was hanged but the whole plan of the evil one was reversed as we can read here:

1- “That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. ² The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman’s estate.” (Esther 8:1-2) What Haman had from estate, position and authority was given to the Esther and Mordecai. The same for us when we obey God’s calling and stand firm in prayer and fasting against the work of the evil one, the Lord will take away the good things from our enemies and give them to us.

2- ³ Esther again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews. ⁴ Then the king extended the gold scepter to Esther and she arose and stood before him.” ⁵ “If it pleases the king,” she said, “and if he regards me with favor and thinks it the right thing to do, and if he is pleased with me, let an order be written overruling the dispatches that Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, devised and wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king’s provinces. ⁶ For how can I bear to see disaster fall on my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my family?” ⁷ King Xerxes replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, “Because Haman attacked the Jews, I have given his estate to Esther, and they have hanged him on the gallows. ⁸ Now write another decree in the king’s name in behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king’s signet ring—for no document written in the king’s name and sealed with his ring can be revoked.” ⁹ At once the royal secretaries were summoned—on the twenty-third day of the third month, the month of Sivan. They wrote out all Mordecai’s orders to the Jews, and to the satraps, governors and nobles of the 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush. These orders were written in the script of each province and the language of each people and also to the Jews in their own script and language. ¹⁰ Mordecai wrote in the name of King Xerxes, sealed the dispatches with the king’s signet ring, and sent them by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses especially bred for the king. ¹¹ The king’s edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate any armed force of any nationality or province that might attack them and their women and children; and to plunder the property of their enemies. ¹² The day appointed for the Jews to do this in all the provinces of King Xerxes was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. ¹³ A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every

*nationality so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.*¹⁴ *The couriers, riding the royal horses, raced out, spurred on by the king's command. And the edict was also issued in the citadel of Susa.* ” (Esther 8:3-14) The deliverance not only was granted to the Jewish in Susa but extended to other provinces. As we pray and fast God will bring salvation and deliverance not only in our mid but that will extend to the rest of the people of God in other places and they will get delivered and released from the plan of Devil in their lives. When Haman and his people casted the lot to put the date to devise their evil plan against the people of God, the date that they decided to execute their evil plan was the same date that God used to bring judgment upon their heads.

3- *“¹⁵ Mordecai left the king's presence wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa held a joyous celebration.*¹⁶ *For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honor.*¹⁷ *In every province and in every city, wherever the edict of the king went, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them.”* (Esther 8:15-17) There was great joy and celebration for the event that had happened, and many people of other nationalities became Jews because the fear of the Jews had seized them. As the Lord will work miraculously in our mid, we will have great rejoicing and many they will come to the knowledge and to the fear of the Lord when they witness clearly His grace in our lives.

4- *“On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them.”* (Esther 9:1) The people of God who were oppressed by the others, the tables were turned and the time had come now to be relieved and got the upper hand. As we continue to pray and fast and persevere the tables will be turned for our behalf and we will get the upper hand over our enemies. *“² The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those seeking their destruction. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them.*³ *And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king's administrators helped the Jews, because fear of Mordecai had seized them.”* (Esther 9:2-3)

My Dear and Beloved: *“¹⁸ The Jews in Susa, however, had assembled on the thirteenth and fourteenth, and then on the fifteenth they rested and*

*made it a day of feasting and joy.*¹⁹ *That is why rural Jews—those living in villages—observe the fourteenth of the month of Adar as a day of joy and feasting, a day for giving presents to each other.*²⁰ *Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far,*²¹ *to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar*²² *as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.*²³ *So the Jews agreed to continue the celebration they had begun, doing what Mordecai had written to them.*²⁴ *For Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them and had cast the pur (that is, the lot) for their ruin and destruction.*²⁵ *But when the plot came to the king's attention, he issued written orders that the evil scheme Haman had devised against the Jews should come back onto his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.*²⁶ *(Therefore these days were called Purim, from the word pur.) Because of everything written in this letter and because of what they had seen and what had happened to them,*²⁷ *the Jews took it upon themselves to establish the custom that they and their descendants and all who join them should without fail observe these two days every year, in the way prescribed and at the time appointed.*²⁸ *These days should be remembered and observed in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city. And these days of Purim should never cease to be celebrated by the Jews, nor should the memory of them die out among their descendants.*²⁹ *So Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter concerning Purim.*³⁰ *And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews in the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Xerxes—words of goodwill and assurance—*³¹ *to establish these days of Purim at their designated times, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had decreed for them, and as they had established for themselves and their descendants in regard to their times of fasting and lamentation.*³² *Esther's decree confirmed these regulations about Purim, and it was written down in the records.”* (Esther 9:18-32) It became a great day to be remembered and for a joyful celebration. The same for us today, as we mourn and fast at the present time, we will rejoice and celebrate the victory in the future as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God in heaven I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Thank you for your word that brings hope and assurance in my life. Lord I pray and fast putting this problem in your hand trusting you that you will work it out for my behalf and my lot will be victory and rejoicing in Christ name Amen.*