**RISE UP** in 2021

June 6, 2021

Sean Nelson, Guest Speaker

***MADE FOR THIS MOMENT***

A Study of the book of Esther

***Wait on the Lord***

Esther 6:14-7:10



God is at work in history **when we pray**.

“When we work, we work; when we pray, God works!”

Esther stands boldly before the King because he has invited her to make her request known.

*So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. And on the second day, as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king again said to Esther,* ***“What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”*** *Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king,* ***let my life be granted me for my wish, and my people for my request****. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have been silent, for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king.”* Esther 7:1–4

The interaction between the King and Esther is a picture of prayer.

Prayer is an invitation to see God at work: Esther invited the King to do what he does best – act.

*praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints …* Ephesians 6:18

**Application:** Where do I need to see God at **work** in my life? Who are the **people** I should frequently pray for? How can I pray for the **brokenness** I see locally and globally?

God prepares a feast in the **presence** of the enemy.

*Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “****Who is he, and where is he, who has dared to do this?****” And Esther said, “****A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!****” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. And the king arose in his wrath from the wine-drinking and went into the palace garden, but* ***Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther****, for he saw that harm was determined against him by the king. And the king returned from the palace garden to the place where they were drinking wine, as Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. And the king said, “Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?” As the word left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman’s face.* Esther 7:5–8

Esther now has the King on her side and her enemy at her lap.

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;* Psalm 23:5a

God hosts a feast for His children while their enemies surround them.

Table = Mesas, Spanish for table. Shepherds guide their flocks to a high, flat land area. They prepare the land before the sheep arrive by spreading minerals they need and deterring any would be predators. Our God is the great Shepherd who goes before us.

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The tables turn on Haman! He was unaware of Mordecai’s relationship with Esther.

**Application:** Approach your trials with **humility**, **dependence** on God, and seeking God’s **glory** ... no matter the outcome.

God is in **control**. Our job is to **wait**.

*Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Moreover, the gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, is standing at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “****Hang him on that****.” So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king abated.* Esther 7:9–10

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?* ***The Lord is the everlasting God****, the Creator of the ends of the earth.* ***He does not faint or grow weary****; his understanding is unsearchable.* ***He gives*** *power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but* ***they who wait******for the Lord*** *shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.* Isaiah 40:28–31

***Waiting for God is not laziness****. Waiting for God is not going to* ***sleep****. Waiting for God is not the* ***abandonment of effort****.* ***Waiting for God means****,* ***first****, activity under command;* ***second****, readiness for any new command that may come;* ***third****, the ability to do nothing until the command is given.* G. Campbell Morgan

**Application:** **Resolve** in your heart that God is in **control**. God sees the injustice in this world, the brokenness in humanity, the moral decay in our society. He is on the move! No one understood Jesus. They could not understand his way and words. He told them he had to die. He did and in doing so, he became the only solution to man’s problems. Jesus was crucified, yet He resurrected. He is in the business of resurrecting the things the enemy tries to destroy.