

The Unraveling of Haman's Plot

Esther 8

You and me against the world?

A Helen Reddy classic, **You and Me Against the World**, about a family of two, a mother and her daughter. But, from a biblical perspective, "you and me against the world" is simply not even close to being _____ . But then the song takes a surprising turn:

You and me against the world,
Sometimes it seems like you and me against the world,
And for all the times we've cried
I always felt that _____ was on our side.

If we chose to be on God's side, God is on our side. One of the great reasons why the **Book of Esther** is a delight to us is because it's just as relevant and true for us in the 21st century A.D. as it was in the 5th century B.C. If God is for us and with us, it doesn't matter what powerful worldly and/or demonic forces are against us. Therefore, because God is for us and with us, we can count on **great reversals**, because our God is **the God of reversals!**

In today's happenings in **Esther**, Haman is dead. However, *the irreversible law* of the Persians "to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate" every Jew in the vast Persian empire is still an irreversible law.

The great reversal:

1. The _____ of Mordecai (1-2).

Mordecai didn't sell himself to the king. _____ did. Mordecai simply remained true to who he was as a godly man of God, and God lifted him up in the eyes of the king. And when God lifts you up, are you ever lifted up! For Mordecai, he went from being an official at the king's gate to prime minister, *in a day*. God did it!

2. The _____ of the Queen (3-6).

Verse 3: Queen Esther is not a spoiled, self-serving Royal. On the contrary. All the benefits of her royalty mean nothing to her as long as her people are under the edict of destruction.

Verse 6: The repetition of the verb, “bear,” expresses the weight of the _____ on her heart. This precious young lady is very human, and there are some burdens of the human heart that are just too heavy.

3. The _____ of the King (7-8).

The law can't be reversed. _____ **God** can reverse the circumstances! He can thwart man's plans and completely reverse outcomes. So, the king, as an agent of God, gave Esther and Mordecai the power and authority that had previously belonged to Haman, and he encouraged them to use their power and authority to their advantage. Though Haman's law could not be revoked, they could now write a second law that would totally counter the first law.

4. The _____ of a new law (9-14).

Verses 9-12: While the first law gave the enemies of the Jews the right to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate the Jews, the reverse is written into the second law: The Jews now have the right to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate their enemies.

Verses 13-14: To digress briefly, the king's command, scribes, and couriers remind me of the _____. King Jesus commands us to spread His Word throughout the world. The King's scribes, like WBT, translate it into the languages of all the various people groups, and the King's couriers make haste to get the Word out that will reverse the laws of the evil-world-system!

Back to Persia. This sounds like it could turn into an all-out war, Jews against Jew-haters, with great losses on both sides. But **God's great reversal** needs one more nail in the coffin of Haman's wicked cronies.

5. The _____ to the new law (15-17).

Three reversals in these closing verses: 1. Rejoicing in the city Susa (15-16; cf., 3:15). 2. Rejoicing of the Jews in every province (16-17a; cf., 4:3). 3. The revival among the pagans (17b).

I would like to think it was a genuine conversion for most. That they feared the Jews because they feared their God. That they realized that the God of the Jews is far _____ than the pantheon of their pagan gods. That they now were able to clearly see that all these amazing and mighty reversals weren't simply the Jew's "lucky day." There was an Almighty God like none they've ever known or heard of, sovereignly working behind the scenes to reverse the Jews fortunes and future.

What does this true event do to you?

If you're of the unbeliever party, _____ your course. See how awesome God really is, even in an evil-world-system. And in fear and in faith, truly declare yourself to be a Christian.

If you belong to the believer party, then _____ by faith in Him who can, has, and will bring about **great reversals** in your life. Stand in awe of His awesome power and awesome goodness. The God of great reversals is with us against the world!