**Lesson 8**

**Esther 8**

**From Victims To Victors**

**Memory verse:** “Yet you do not have because you do not ask” (James 4:2 NJKV).

“Then was the king’s wrath pacified” (Est. 7:10). The Hebrew word translated “pacified” is used in Genesis 8:1 to describe the receding waters of the flood. The king’s anger had welled up within him and reached its peak when he executed Haman. Now it subsided, and the king was himself again. But though the adversary was out of the way, the problem was not completely solved, for the king’s decree was still in effect *and could not be changed.* It was now the third month (Est. 8:9), and there were nine months to go before the fateful day when the Jews could legally be slain (3:13).

Haman was dead, but his murderous edict was still very much alive. Long after wicked people are gone, the consequences of their evil words and deeds live on. Even today, innocent people are suffering because of guilty people who lie in their graves. Unless something intervened, within nine months the Persians would attack the Jews and wipe them off the face of the earth. There were about 15 million Jews among the estimated 100 million people in the empire. Therefore, the odds were definitely against God’s people. Of course, God’s people have always been a minority, and “one with God is a majority.” The Lord had brought Esther and Mordecai to the kingdom “for such a time as this,” and they were prepared to act.

How would Esther and Mordecai solve this problem?.

When the outlook is bleak, try the uplook. That’s what King Hezekiah did when he received the blasphemous letter from the king of Assyria (2 Kings 19:14) . A pastor shared that often in his ministry he have had to spread letters before the Lord and trust Him to work matters out, and He always has.

Hezekiah looked beyond his own throne and the throne of the “great king” Sennacherib and focused his attention on the throne of God “who was enthroned between the cherubim” (2 Kings 19:15; 37:14 NIV; see Ps. 80:1; 99:1). Since he was not a high priest, Hezekiah couldn’t enter the Holy of Holies where the mercy seat sat upon the ark of the covenant, but he could “enter” by faith even as believers can today (Heb. 10:19–25). At each end of the mercy seat was a cherub, and the mercy seat was the throne of God on earth (Ex. 25:10–22). Not only is the Lord the King of Israel and the King of all nations, but He is the creator of the heavens and the earth. Hezekiah was lost in worship as he realized the greatness of the Lord, the only true God. This is a good example to follow when we pray about life’s problems. When we focus on the Lord and see how great He is, it helps to put our problems in perspective.

Some people rush into the Lord’s presence whenever they face a problem, but the Lord never hears their voices at any other time. This wasn’t true of King Hezekiah. He was a man who at all times sought the blessing of the Lord on His people. He sought to know the Word of God and the will of God, and this gave him power in prayer. Blessed is that nation whose leaders know how to pray!

Summary: 1) Mordecai’s promotion. 2) Esther’s petition. 3) The king’s proclamation.

**Discussion questions:**

Q1. Review the influence of Mordecai at the beginning of the book to his promotion in chapter 8. Will this “happy ending” story be applicable to all believers?

Q2 How can Esther’s petition (verses 3 to 6) be an encouragement to you in your spiritual life?

Q3 How did the king’s proclamation and Mordecai’s edict affected the lives of the Jews and what lessons can we learn from the results?