

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG240 – Purim – How God Works Deliverance

Greetings, and welcome to this podcast. I am very excited about this, because we are talking about the Feast of Purim, one of the great times within the Hebrew calendar. I always enjoy it, because honestly, it seems like you can never come to the end of all that is being taught and reflected for us within this tremendous time of Purim. This year, in 2025, Purim falls on Thursday March 13th, beginning at sundown; it goes on through Friday March 14th. If you have never heard of this time of Purim, or if you have never engaged in the celebration of it, then I encourage you to stop listening to this podcast right now; just pause it, and go and read the book of Esther. It will not take you that long. It is a great book, and you will get a lot out of just reading the story itself; because, as I say, it is so multifaceted, it is tremendous. Then when you finish reading the book of Esther, I encourage you to go to our website at hargraveministries.org and go to the podcast page. When you get there, search for messages on Purim. There you will find more teaching and explanations about this great celebration. I know that you will enjoy it, and hopefully it will be something that changes your life and as you get involved with it, you will celebrate it every year as it comes up on the Jewish calendar.

I am not going to take time bringing again the foundations of the book of Esther, or what this celebration of Purim is all about. I just want to make a point that I feel is so current for us in this coming celebration of Purim, and what we should look for and really meditate upon during Purim in this year. I am going to begin by reading out of Esther the eighth chapter; but first I will give you a little bit of introduction to that. At this point, the plan of Haman to destroy all of the Jews has come to light. Mordecai has found out about it, and he has told Esther of it; and he has told Esther to go in and begin entreating the king to do something about this time where Haman is getting ready to destroy God's people.

As we look at this, we see that there is a changeover because of Haman, and what Esther and Mordecai do. They bring it to light to the king, and the king recognizes what is going on and that Haman is this wicked person. At the end of that revelation, then the king, as it says here in chapter 8 at verses 2-3, "The king took off his signet ring which he had taken away from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman. Then Esther spoke again to the king, fell at his feet, wept and implored him to avert the evil scheme of Haman the Agagite and his plot which he had devised against the Jews." There is so much significance in this. It is like I said, the book of Esther is so tremendous; one of the interesting points about it is that it never mentions the name of God, and yet everything that is going on here is reflecting the relationship between God and different individuals – Haman himself, who is given authority, and yet he is really a demonic representation. And so, now the king has seen who Haman is and what he is going to do, and he gives his signet ring over to Mordecai.

Now in those days, when you have the signet ring, you have literally the power of the king in your hands. You can do anything that you want in the name of the king, and nothing can be changed. No one can change what you have done. So, she begins to ask the king, "Please do something about the calamity that is going to befall the Jews." The king comes back in verse 8 and he says, "Now you write to the Jews as you see fit, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring; for a decree which is written in

the name of the king and sealed with the king's signet ring may not be revoked." We have this concept in our faith as Christians that we do things in the name of Yeshua, in the name of Jesus, in the name of the Messiah, in the name of the Father; we are able to use that Name, and therefore what we are doing is sealing a situation with the authority and literally the person of the King, of God Himself. That is what is being reflected here, and it is part of what I want us to focus on; because I think in this day and age, we need to recognize how God moves when He works and brings deliverance.

God uses human instruments to bring about His will. Now I do not think God is unaware of what satan is trying to do in this age, or what the demonic forces or what the principalities and powers are trying to do. And yet, at the same time, He engages man, He engages the flesh, the humanity, in the process to work His deliverance through. We see this certainly at Passover with Moses. God used Moses. God could have come down and He could have just dealt with Pharaoh. He could have brought all of the judgments against Egypt on His own, and He could have delivered the children of Israel out of bondage all by Himself. But He does not do that. He says that He hears the cries of His people, and so, He comes down and He works through Moses. He gives Moses the power with his staff, and the ability to do other things that are signs that he is representing God. And when he says something, as Pharaoh comes to find out, it is literally God speaking, and it is the power of God that is being turned loose through the words, the actions, and the will of Moses as he is following God's instructions.

This is what I want us to see, because I know we live in a time when there is much going on; and we live in a time when it is very important for us to realize who we are. I just recently brought a podcast entitled, *You Are Born by the Will of God*, and it is making the same point – we must know that we are here at this time, in this moment, by the will of God; it is not just an accident that we are here. But I feel like this podcast, this message, goes on top of that, and adds to it; because not only do we need to recognize that we are here by the will of God, that we were born by the will of God, but also that God brought us forth in order to work through us. And what He is looking to do in this age, as He has done in so many ages, is He is going to work through vessels that He chooses and who are willing to give themselves for that purpose.

When we read this in Esther the eighth chapter, we see that the king comes to Mordecai and he takes away authority from Haman. You say, "How does that make sense?" Well, Christ Himself refers to satan as the prince of the power of the air, the god of this world; there is an authority that was bestowed upon him at one time. When Christ came and moved as the Son of God, that authority was removed from him and it was bestowed upon Christ. Christ was raised to the right hand of the Father, and satan was stripped of all power; and now Christ is seated at the right hand of God. So, we want to see that, and we find this in the working of Yeshua through the Scriptures.

I want to jump to John 5, because your understanding of this point is that the king removed Haman's authority and he gave that over to Mordecai by giving him the signet ring. Therefore, whatever Mordecai wrote or did or spoke, it was the king speaking. And so, when Esther is beseeching the king, "Please do something to deliver my people," the king says, "Look, I gave you the authority, you do something about it. You write what you want to write, and you become my deliverance for your people." So now let's look at John the fifth chapter, verses 17-18.

But He answered them, "My Father..." [this is obviously Christ speaking], "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

That is what we see in Mordecai, isn't it? He was equal to the king. Whatever he said was the word of the king. And we see that in Christ. What God was doing in bringing Christ forth in the flesh, bringing the Word into flesh, is that He was manifesting Himself in humanity so that He would move in full power and authority through Christ as His human vessel and representative on the earth.

Verse 19, "Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.'" In other words, Christ was committed that in wearing the signet ring of the Father, He was only doing the will of the Father. And that was part of how this worked, is that Mordecai was recognized as somebody who had saved the king, and therefore was trustworthy to represent him in all things. Christ came forth in like manner, that He did nothing except what the Father showed Him. What He saw the Father do, what He heard the Father speak, those are the things that Christ did.

Verses 20-23,

"For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."

We see this relationship that was developed between Christ and the Father. This is the determination of what the Father is looking for, and now what Christ and the Father are looking for.

Let's go on into Colossians, and we will begin at chapter 1, verses 13-16. It says,

For He [talking about God] rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son [God brought deliverance, but He brought it through the beloved Son], in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He [speaking of Yeshua] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

We see how far back this concept goes of God moving through the Son in order to bring forth His creation and all things.

Verses 17-22,

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself....

So when the Father wanted to reconcile creation to Himself, to reconcile humanity back to Himself, He did not do it on His own, just like He did not go deliver Israel from Egypt on His own; He did it through the instrument which He brought forth. It was Christ who was in the flesh that He was moving through, because He, as the invisible God, chose to move through that which was visible, and to make these things happen so that He might be glorified.

...having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach.

It is Christ who came in the flesh, and through His fleshly body and through His life in the earth in a fleshly body was able to find us be delivered from sin, reconciled to the Father, blameless and beyond reproach, in order that we might be presented before the Father completely delivered from our old nature.

Verses 23-24,

If indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister. Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

Paul now is the one who is here in the flesh. Christ has moved to the right hand of the Father, and Paul is moving through the flesh as the apostle to bring about this great fulfillment of Christ's suffering to the church. So this goes on – it is a pattern of God's deliverance that He brings. And it is all being told through this wonderful story of Purim, and what Esther must do, and what Mordecai must do, in order to see the Jewish people delivered from this decree of death that they were under; just as we are under a decree of death until we open our hearts to God's instrument in the flesh to bring about our salvation, Christ the Lord.

Paul goes on speaking through verse 29, and you can read that. But it is talking about how he labors and strives, "according to the power which mightily works within me." So it is a power. It is an authority. See, it is just like Mordecai with that signet ring. He had the authority of the king. He had power. Why? Because the army was at his beck and call. And this is the thing that we see God moving in; and I believe this is important, because God is looking to move again in this day and age, some of probably the greatest works that will be done. Christ Himself said, "Greater works than these shall you do." And if we are in fact in these last days, we are going to see tremendous things transpiring. But it is not that God is necessarily going to come down and do it on His own, single-handedly; just like He did not do that in the day of Esther and Mordecai, and He did not do that in the day of Moses, when He was delivering Israel out of Egypt; and just as He did not do that in the days of Messiah, when He brought about His salvation and purpose for mankind in that time, but it was worked through the instruments of His choosing. And we must open our hearts to see, in this day, that we are called, we are put here, we are not here by accident, and God has a great purpose. Open your heart to that which God is able to do through you. Be open to receive that signet ring of anointing and authority that God can place upon you, to work through you for His purposes to bring about the conclusion of this age that we live in.

I just want to leave you with one of the great statements out of the book of Esther surrounding this time of Purim. It is found in Esther the fourth chapter, in verses 12-14. It says, "They related Esther's words to Mordecai. Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, 'Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews.'" Do not think you can do nothing, and just because you can kind of hide in the house of the king that you are going to be safe. You are not going to be safe. "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and

your father's house will perish.'" We do not want to see those perishing. We do not want the body of Christ to be perishing in this time because we refuse to take our place in what God has called us to do.

Then Mordecai utters these famous words, "And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" I want that to be something that lives in every one of our hearts during this season of Purim. Who knows whether the salvation of the Lord has been given to us, and the Holy Spirit and His power and anointing has been given to us, in this day and age, for such a time as this. Yes, we may be facing threatening times. It may even seem like there is a decree of death and destruction on this age, on the church, and on God's people, the Jewish people in Israel. But who knows whether we are not the ones who have come into this anointing and relationship with the Lord for such a time as this. Let's believe that God can work in us and through us to accomplish His will in this day.

Amen.