

## PART ONE

### THE FESTIVAL OF PURIM

#### Esther 9

26 So they called these days Purim, after the name Pur. Therefore, because of all the words of this letter, what they had seen concerning this matter, and what had happened to them, 27 the Jews established and imposed it upon themselves and their descendants and all who would join them, that without fail they should celebrate these two days every year, according to the written instructions and according to the prescribed time, 28 that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city, that these days of Purim should not fail to be observed among the Jews, and that the memory of them should not perish among their descendants.

This Jewish festival commemorates the work of Esther and Mordecai to overcome a plot to kill the Jews in Persia.

The first question that we must address is ..... who is the Israel of God?

In the beginning the name Israel was given to ONE man, Jacob.

#### Genesis 32:28

28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

This is the first time that the name Israel is mentioned in the scriptures.

Hebrew definition of the word Israel.

יִשְׂרָאֵל yisrā'ēl: A proper noun designating Israel:

The name given to Jacob after he successfully wrestled with the messenger of God. The ".name means "he (who) struggles with God

This is a prophetic name that would eventually apply to a people who would struggle with God and man and they would overcome.

We now see that the name that was given to one man, now applies to the nation of Israel.

God sends a message with Moses to Pharaoh....

#### Exodus 4:22-23

22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. 23 So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn."

Now we see that the Jews are collectively called the FIRSTBORN SON OF GOD.

From the name of one man, God has now named His people, the Jews, Israel.

The migration of the name continues.

The Jews are described as a vine that God has brought out of Egypt.

Jesus declares:

John 15

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

In the Book of Exodus, Israel is described as the "firstborn of God"; now the great apostle Paul, a highly educated Jew who was educated by great teachers like Gamaliel declares that Christ is the firstborn over everything that was ever created.

Colossians 1:15-18

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

The Lord told the Jews....

Exodus 19:6

6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

The apostle Peter refers to the church as....

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Paul explains that believers in Christ are the seed of Abraham

Galatians 3:29

29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

From these scriptures we conclude that the church is spiritual Israel of God.

We can learn Kingdom spiritual principles from Purim that can advance believers in Christ to greater levels of maturity.

PART TWO

SPIRITUAL KINGDOM PRINCIPLES FROM THE BOOK OF ESTHER

THERE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL TO ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE KING; BUT THERE ARE PROTOCOLS

Esther 2:1-4

1 After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus subsided, he remembered Vashti, what she had done, and what had been decreed against her. 2 Then the king's servants

who attended him said: "Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king; 3 and let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather all the beautiful young virgins to Shushan the citadel, into the women's quarters, under the custody of Hegai the king's eunuch, custodian of the women. And let beauty preparations be given them. 4 Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti."

This thing pleased the king, and he did so.

The protocols for the carnal/natural King. The protocols were determined by the servants who were close to the king.

Beautiful young virgins were sought.

They would be placed under the custody of Hegai, the eunuch of the King

Prepare them to be beautiful

These protocols focus entirely on the external. These are the attributes that this world is searching for; everything must please the carnal senses. No demand is placed for inner purity and reformation.

#### KINGDOM PROTOCOLS IN THIS PRESENT DAY

Beauty.

Righteousness is not measured on external beauty.

Proverbs 31

30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing,

But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

Custody of Hegai

Esther 2:8-9

8 So it was, when the king's command and decree were heard, and when many young women were gathered at Shushan the citadel, under the custody of Hegai, that Esther also was taken to the king's palace, into the care of Hegai the custodian of the women. 9 Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favor; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women.

Hegai is the picture of the set man. Hegai is responsible for preparing Esther to meet with the king. Hegai provided all the beauty preparations for the young women. Esther pleased Hegai; more than the other women.

#### THE SPIRITUAL KINGDOM APPLICATION IN THIS PRESENT DAY

Many young women came into the citadel at Shushan. This is a picture of many individuals who come into the church.

We must honor and serve the set man (Hegai) who will prepare the individuals to meet with the King of Kings (Jesus Christ)

The set man releases grace into the lives of his sons and daughters; he makes them presentable for the King. As sons in the house, we must learn to respect and honor the grace of the set man.

This is a favorite scripture of mine.....

Exodus 23:20-22

20 "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. 21 Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him. 22 But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

The nation of Israel was promised leadership of an angel. The Hebrew word for angel is....

MALAK

(This definition is extracted from Strong's Complete Word Dictionary)

מַלְאָךְ mal'āk: A masculine noun meaning a messenger, an angel. The term often denotes one sent on business or diplomacy by another (human) personage. Jacob sent messengers on ahead to his brother Esau in the hope of finding favor in his eyes (Gen. 32:3[4], 6[7]). The elders of Jabesh sent me

PART THREE

SPIRITUAL KINGDOM PRINCIPLES FROM THE BOOK OF ESTHER

THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION

Esther 2:5-7

5 In Shushan the citadel there was a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite. 6 Kish had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been captured with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. 7 And Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

The genealogy of Mordecai is interesting. His grandfather Shimei was the same man who cursed David. Shimei came from the family of Saul who persecuted David.

2 Samuel 16:5-14

5 Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came. 6 And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David. And all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. 7 Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: "Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue! 8 The Lord has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place

you have reigned; and the Lord has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you are caught in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!"

9 Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over and take off his head!"

10 But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the Lord has said to him, 'Curse David.' Who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?' "

11 And David said to Abishai and all his servants, "See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now may this Benjamite? Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the Lord has ordered him. 12 It may be that the Lord will look on my affliction, and that the Lord will repay me with good for his cursing this day." 13 And as David and his men went along the road, Shimei went along the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went, threw stones at him and kicked up dust. 14 Now the king and all the people who were with him became weary; so they refreshed themselves there.

David could have allowed Shimei to be killed, but he refused to kill Shimei. David recognized that God may have allowed Shimei to curse him....such was the righteousness of David. Even when people attack and curse him, he is willing to say that it is of the Lord. What an amazing example! No vengeance.

Later Shimei repented. (2 Samuel 19:16-23).

Mordecai was part of the exiled group who returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel...

Zerubbabel was a direct descendant of David, Solomon and Rehoboam.

He was always connected to the High Priest. Zerubbabel was involved in the rebuilding of the temple.

Ezra 2:2

2 Those who came with Zerubbabel were Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah.

The apostle Paul came from the tribe of Benjamin. Paul declared "Let brotherly love continue".

Esther was adopted by Mordecai.

We also understand that when we come to Christ we disconnect from the influence of our biological roots and we connect to "Abba Father"

Romans 8:14-15

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."