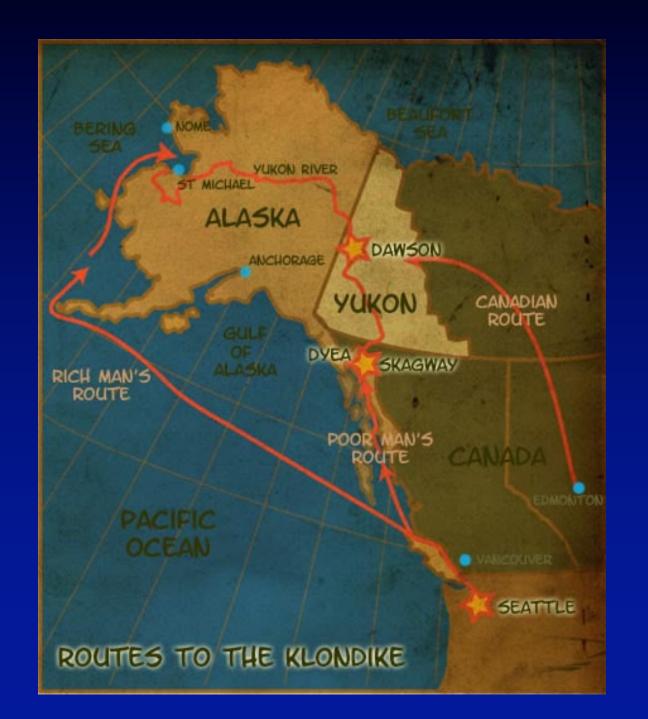
The Revelation of

Esther – Part 1



Roger Seheult









Hugh McCrorie (1862-1928)







"The study of the Bible demands our most diligent effort and persevering thought. As the miner digs for the golden treasure in the earth, so earnestly, persistently, must we seek for the treasure of God's word."

Education 189



By many, man's wisdom is thought to be higher than the wisdom of the divine Teacher, and God's lesson book is looked upon as oldfashioned, stale, and uninteresting. But by those who have been vivified by the Holy Spirit it is not so regarded. They see the priceless treasure, and would sell all to buy the field that contains it. Instead of books containing the suppositions of reputedly great authors, they choose the word of Him who is the greatest author and the greatest teacher the world has ever known, who gave His life for us, that through Him we might have everlasting life. Christ is the truth. His words are truth, and they have a deeper significance than appears on the surface. All the sayings of Christ have a value beyond their unpretending appearance. Minds that are quickened by the Holy Spirit will discern the value of these sayings. They will discern the precious gems of truth, though these may be buried treasures. COL 108

"The Bible contains all the principles that men need to understand in order to be fitted either for this life or for the life to come. And these principles may be understood by all. No one with a spirit to appreciate its teaching can read a single passage from the Bible without gaining from it some helpful thought. But the most valuable teaching of the Bible is not to be gained by occasional or disconnected study. <u>Its</u> great system of truth is not so presented as to be discerned by the hasty or careless reader. Many of its treasures lie far beneath the surface, and can be obtained only by diligent research and continuous effort. The truths that go to make up the great whole must be **searched out and gathered up**, "here a little, and there a little." Isaiah 28:10.

When thus searched out and brought together, they will be found to be perfectly fitted to one another. Each Gospel is a supplement to the others, every prophecy an explanation of another, every truth a development of some other truth. The types of the Jewish economy are made plain by the gospel. Every principle in the word of God has its place, every fact its bearing. And the complete structure, in design and execution, bears testimony to its Author. Such a structure no mind but that of the Infinite could conceive or fashion. Education 123



We must not think, "Well, we have all the truth, we understand the main pillars of our faith, and we may rest on this knowledge." The truth is an advancing truth, and we must walk in the increasing light...

New light will ever be revealed on the [divine] word . . . to him who is in living connection with the Sun of Righteousness. Let no one come to the conclusion that there is no more truth to be revealed. The diligent, prayerful seeker for truth will find precious rays of light yet to shine forth from the [sacred] word . . Many gems are yet scattered that are to be gathered together to become the property of the remnant people..."

Counsels to Writers and Editors, pp. 33, 34



Let none think that there is no more knowledge for them to gain. The depth of human intellect may be measured; the works of human authors may be mastered; but the highest, deepest, broadest flight of the imagination cannot find out God. There is infinity beyond all that we can comprehend. We have seen only the glimmering of divine glory and of the infinitude of knowledge and wisdom; we have, as it were, been working on the surface of the mine, when rich golden ore is beneath the surface, to reward the one who will dig for it. The shaft must be sunk deeper and yet deeper in the mine, and the result will be glorious treasure. Through a correct faith, divine knowledge will become human knowledge. COL 113



Let <u>all</u> seek to comprehend, to the full extent of their powers, the meaning of the word of God. A mere superficial reading of the inspired word will be of little advantage; for every statement made in the sacred pages requires thoughtful contemplation. It is true that some passages do not require as earnest concentration as do others; for their meaning is more evident. But the student of the word of God should seek to understand the bearing of one passage upon another until the chain of truth is revealed to his vision. As veins of precious ore are *hidden* beneath the surface of the earth, so spiritual riches are concealed in the passages of Holy Writ, and it requires mental effort and prayerful attention to discover the hidden meaning of the word of God. Let every student who values the heavenly treasure put to the stretch his mental and spiritual powers, and sink the shaft deep into the mine of truth, that he may obtain the celestial gold,—that wisdom which will make him wise unto **salvation**. – {CE 100.2}

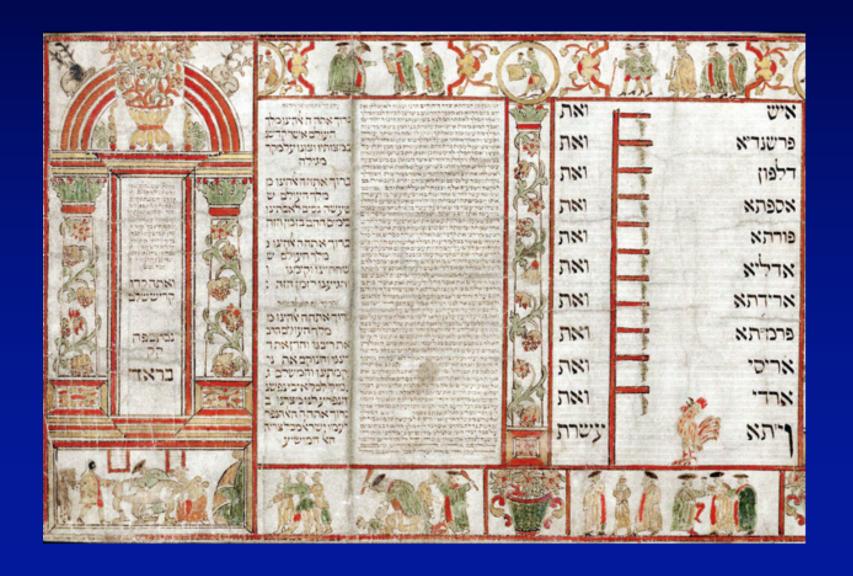
To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Isaiah 8:20



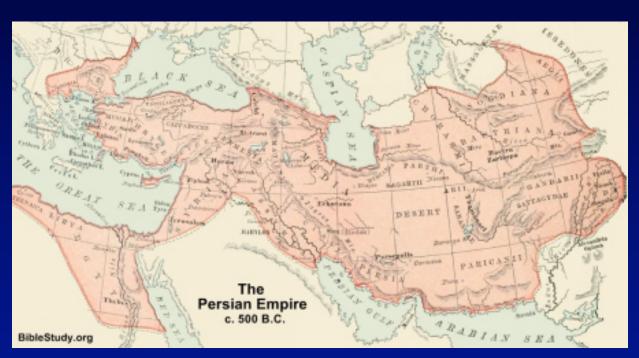
The Book of Esther

Written circa 450 B.C. (2500 years ago) ~70 years after Daniel's Vision of 2300 days



The Persian Empire





Setting the Stage

- -Cyrus released all the Jews in 539 B.C.
- -Xerxes (Ahasuerus) became King in 486 B.C.
- -still 29 years before 457 B.C (2300 days)
- -still about 1 million Jews living in Persia
- -City of Shushan (Palace)

Esther begins with:

- -King giving a 180 day feast then...
- -public wine feast of 7 days in a garden
- -Vashti's refusal to appear before Ahasuerus
- -Vashti deposed (not executed)
- -Search for a new Queen
- -Esther taken to palace and made Queen

- -Mordecai saves the King's life (Bigthan & Teresh)
- -Haman is promoted
- -Haman resents Mordecai and wants to take revenge on his race (Jews)
- -Haman's decree to exterminate the Jews on Nisan(1) <u>13</u> for Adar(12) <u>13</u>

Esther Champions the cause of her people 4:1 to 5:8

- -Jews fast because of the decree
- -Mordecai appeals to Esther
- -Esther accepts the challenge
- -Esther goes before the King and lives
- -Esther entertains the King at a banquet

The Fall of Haman 5:9 to 7:10

- -Haman's plot to hang Mordecai
- -King reminded of Mordecai's service
- -Haman compelled to honor Mordecai
- -Second night of the banquet
- -Esther accuses Haman before the King
- -Haman executed on his own gallows

The triumph of the Jews over their enemies 8:1 to 10:3

- -Countermanding Haman's decree
- Mordecai advanced and his people restored to favor
- -Deliverance of the Jews
- -Proclamation of the Feast of Purim
- -Mordecai made Prime minister of Persia



"...The events that followed in rapid succession,--the appearance of Esther before the king, the marked favor shown her, the banquets of the king and queen with Haman as the only guest, the troubled sleep of the king, the public honor shown Mordecai, and the humiliation and fall of Haman upon the discovery of his wicked plot,--all these are parts of a familiar story."

PK page 602

Let's start



The Fall of Vashti

Book of Esther

- -The King of Persia "Ahasuerus" or "Xerxes" sat on his throne and ruled over the largest empire the world has ever known.
- -The 2nd in command was insubordinate to the King of Persia
- -This was associated with a 7-day wine banquet ("Mishteh") where drinking wine (doctrine) was according to every man's pleasure
- -There was an investigation in Kingly courts to decide what should be done with the Queen and she was eventually deposed and expelled out of the courts for the better of those remaining as she would be a bad influence
- -War? Daniel 11:2 Greeks

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Great Controversy

- -The King (God the Father) sat on His throne and ruled over all Universe
- -The second in command was insubordinate to the King of the Universe
- -His downfall was associated with the creation of man which occurred during a 7-day period (EW 145 and Ezk 28:13-16)
- -Lucifer had free will to choose which doctrine he would follow
- -There was an investigation in Kingly courts to decide what should be done with Lucifer and he was eventually deposed and expelled out of heaven for the better of those remaining as he would be a bad influence
- -There was war in Heaven

"Mishteh" - מִשָּׁתֵּה

- -Used several times in the old testament
- -Usually a wine banquet followed by a **Judgment of some sort**
- -Lot entertained two angels at a *mishteh*
- -Issac was weaned from Sarah and Abraham had a *mishteh*
- -Pharaoh had a birthday *mishteh* and invited the Baker and Butler
- -Samson had a *mishteh* for his wife and made a riddle about the lion and honey
- -Nabel and Abigail and David at a *mishteh*
- -Daniel and his three friends eating from the King's Table (*mishteh*)
- -Belshazzar and the writing on the wall at a *mishteh*
- -The last supper (new testament) same idea
- -The marriage supper of the Lamb (new testament) same idea

Danger - Judgement

What comes next

Xerxes goes to War

Book of History

(Between Esther 1 and 2)

-480 B.C. The Battle of Thermopylae

"Battle of the Hot Gates" or Gates of Fire

"cavernous entrance to Hades"

- -"God-King Xerxes led 60,000 troops to fight a very small Spartan force of 300
- -approximately 20,000 of his forces were lost including an elite faction known as "the immortals"
- -Xerxes won the battle but suffered loses
- -Leonidas the leader of the Spartans was defiant even though he was offered to be King of Greece. Mo λ ών Λ α β έ "Come and take them" he said. "For me it is better to die for Greece than to be monarch over my compatriots."
- -Leonidas means "Lion"

Xerxes goes to War

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Great Controversy

-There was war in Heaven

- -1/3 God's Angels who were formerly immortal were lost to the other side
- -God won the battle but suffered losses
- -Lucifer was offered forgiveness before the war started but refused and was ready to fight (Story of Redemption pp 15 18)
- -Lucifer is noted as a lion seeking whom he may devour 1 Peter 5:8

Leonidas



What comes next

Esther is discovered

Book of Esther

- -Esther grew up in obscurity
- -Esther hid her origins until the time was right
- -Esther was orphaned and raised by a adopted father
- -Esther was fully Jew and fully Queen and was the only one able to intercede because of that quality
- -The Jewish Targum states that Esther was as beautiful as the morning star
- -Esther was visited every day by Mordecai
- -Esther was loved by the king more than all the women.
- -Esther's appointment to the Queenship was done in a High-Priest like manner

Esther is discovered

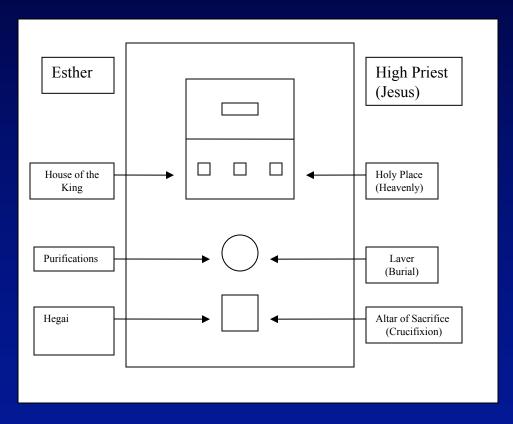
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Great Controversy

- -Jesus grew up in obscurity
- -Jesus hid his origins until the time was right
- -Jesus was orphaned on this earth and raised by a adopted father
- -Jesus was fully man and fully divine and was the only one able to intercede because of that quality
- -Jesus is the morning star
- -Jesus was trained every day by the Holy Spirit
- -Of Jesus, Heavenly Father said, "Behold my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
- -Jesus is our High Priest

Esther is discovered - elevated



"Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her." (Esther 2:15)

Hegai = "groaning or separation"

What comes next

Fall of Bigthan and Teresh

Book of Esther

- -Bigthan and Teresh kept the door of the king
- -they sought to lay hand on the king
- -it occurred as one was leaving their post according to the Jewish Megilla 13B
- -And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king. (Esther 2:23)

Bigthan = In the press giving meat (Hitchcock)

Teresh = desire (Scheft)

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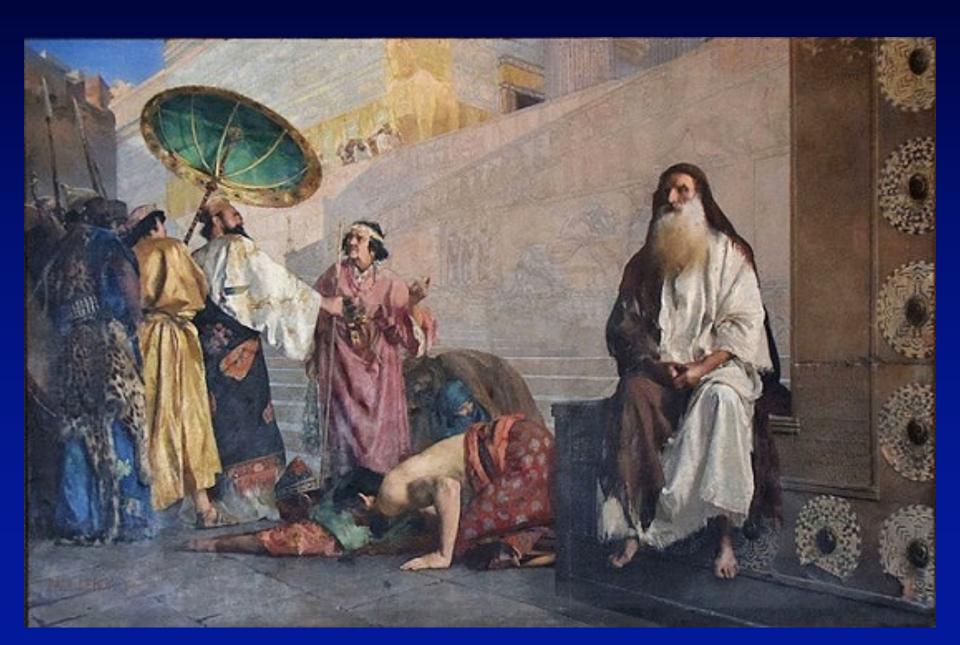
Great Controversy

- -Adam and Eve were given a special place of honor in the Kingdom of God
- -Adam and Eve raised heir hand against the King of the Universe
- -It occurred because one left their post
- -An investigation was conducted and they were found guilty and were sentenced to death
- -In the day that they ate they died
- -Adam: In the sweat of they face thou shalt eat bread (Gen 3:19)
- -Eve: thy desire shall be to thy husband (Gen 3:16)



Mordecai was the one who saved the king so who should be elevated?

Haman



Haman

- -Father is Hammedatha the Agagite (Saul versus Agag)
- -wants to kill Jews because Mordecai won't bow down
- -informs King that there are <u>some in the Kingdom that don't</u> <u>follow his Laws</u> and that they should be put to death (the accuser) –to pay to the treasury <u>10,000 talents of silver</u>
- -demands worship
- -gets the King to issue a death decree to all Jews
 - -issues it on 13th day of first month (Nisan)
 - -to be executed on 13th day of twelfth month (Adar)

Lucifer/Babylon/Haman

"Are these," he says, "the people who are to take my place in heaven, and the place of the angels who united with me? They profess to obey the law of God; but have they kept its precepts? Have they not been lovers of self more than lovers of God? Have they not placed their own interests above His service? Have they not loved the things of the world? Look at the sins that have marked their lives. Behold their selfishness, their malice, their hatred of one another. Will God banish me and my angels from His presence, and yet reward those who have been guilty of the same sins? Thou canst not do this, O Lord, in justice. Justice demands that sentence be pronounced against them." PK 588

Esther 3:8-9

- ⁸ And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws [are] diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it [is] not for the king's profit to suffer them.
- ⁹ If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring [it] into the king's treasuries.

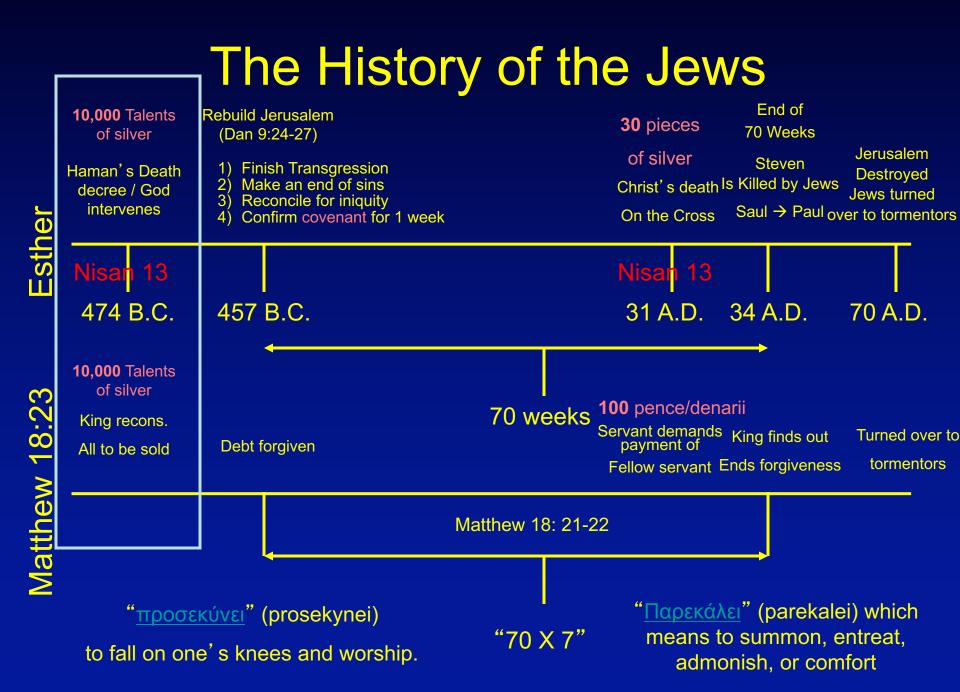
Death Decree

"And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey." Esther 3:13

The Great Controversy

This death decree is a typology of the death decree given to Adam and his offspring by God and accused by Lucifer

- -it is a law that cannot be changed (Daniel 6:8,15)
- -young, old, male and female are under its charge (Esther 3:13)
- -it will wipe out all
- -there is no hope without an intercessor



Denarii from Matthew 18

Debasement and evolution [ed

The denarius has a link from the Roman time

Year	Event	Purity			
267 BC	Predecessor	6.81g	?		
211BC	Introduction	4.55g	95- 98%		
200BC	Debasement	95- 98%			
141BC	Debasement	3.9g	95- 98%		
44BC	Debasement	3.9g	95- 98%		
14AD- 37AD		3.9g	97.5- 98%		
64-68AD	Debasement	3.41g	93.5%		

100 denarii X 3.9 grams =

390 grams of silver

390 grams ÷ 30 pieces of silver =

13 grams

Tyrian Shekel

Rare silver coin found in excavations in Jerusalem

19 Mar 2008

A silver coin that was used to pay the half-shekel head tax to the Temple was found in what was the main drainage channel of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period.

(Communicated by Israel Antiquities Authority)

This coming Thursday, before reading the Scroll of Esther, all devout Jews will contribute a sum of money, "a reminder of the half shekel" which was paid by every household in ancient times for the purpose of maintaining the Temple. Today, this sum is translated into local currency and donated to the needy.

A rare ancient silver coin, of the type used to pay the half-shekel tax in ancient times, was recently discovered in an archaeological excavation that is being conducted in the Walls Around Jerusalem National Park near the City of David, in what was the main drainage channel of Jerusalem during the Second Temple period.



Tyrian Shekel

The annual half-shekel head tax was given in shekel and half shekel coins from the Tyre mint, where they were struck from the year 125 BCE until the outbreak of the Great Revolt in 66 CE. At the time of the uprising, the tax was paid using Jerusalem shekelim, which were specifically minted for this purpose. In the rabbinic sources, the Tosefta (Ketubot 13:20) states "Silver mentioned in the Pentateuch is always Tyrian silver: What is Tyrian silver? It is Jerusalemite." Many have interpreted this to mean that only Tyrian shekels could be used to pay the half-shekel head tax at the Temple.

The shekel that was found in the excavation weighs 13 grams, bears the head of Melqart, the chief deity of the city of Tyre on the obverse (equivalent to the Semitic god Baal) and an eagle upon a ship's prow on the reverse. The coin was minted in the year 22 CE.

Despite the importance of the half-shekel head tax for the economy of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period, only seven other Tyrian shekels and half shekels have previously been found in excavations in Jerusalem.

The shekel that was found in the excavation weighs 13 grams,

10,000 Talents of silver Haman's Death decree / God intervenes 474 B.C. of silver Matthew 18 King recons.

10,000 talents represents "Adam's Death Decree" and the price that we could never pay – the price of sin which *Justification* removes and forgives all sin.

457 B.C.

31 A.D. 34 A.D. 70 A.D.

er to

10,000 Talents

All to be sold

The pardon granted by this king represents a divine forgiveness of all sin. Christ is represented by the king, who, moved with compassion, forgave the debt of his servant. Man was under the condemnation of the broken law. He could not save himself, and for this reason Christ came to this world, clothed His divinity with humanity, and gave His life, the just for the unjust. He gave Himself for our sins, and to every soul He freely offers the blood-bought pardon. COL 244-5

"προσει

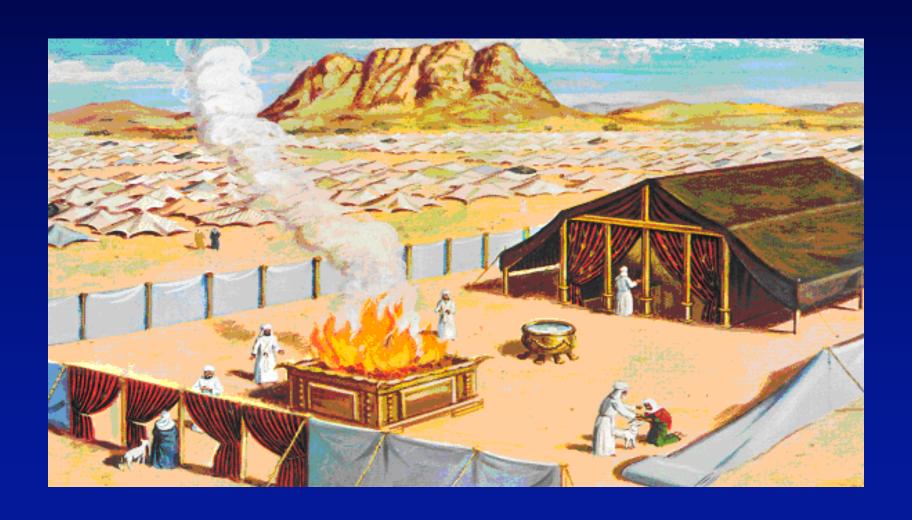
to fall on one

What comes next

The Great Controversy

- -Matthew 18 is a prophecy
- -"10,000 talents" = price of justification
- -13th day of the month is representative of justification and the covenant

The Plan of Salvation



The Plan of Salvation



The Book Esther

- **4:11** All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the *king into the inner court*, who is not called, there is one law of his *to put him to death*, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these *thirty days*. **12** And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.
- 13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.
- 14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?
- 15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,
- **16** Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: <u>and if I perish, I perish.</u>
- 17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

The Book Esther

- 1 Now it came to pass on the <u>third day</u>, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the <u>inner court of the king's house</u>, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.
- 2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.
- 3 Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom. 4 And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.



Jesus/Esther

Only Esther because of her royalty might stand in the inner court and then the presence of the king and live but she could die if he did not find favor in her. Only Jesus because of His divinity might stand in the Holy and Most Holy Place and in the presence of God and live but He could die if there was sin found in him.

Esther was absent from the king for 30 days prior to her ministry but was given encouragement from Mordecai to embark on her mission.

Jesus was absent from His Father for 30 years prior to His ministry but was given encouragement from the Holy Spirit to embark on His mission.

Esther asked all the Jews in Shushan to fast and pray for her as she struggled with her decision to potentially sacrifice her life for her people. It could be in vain. Jesus asked his disciples to pray and fast for Him as He struggled with His decision to sacrifice His life for His people. It could be in vain.

Esther submitted to the will of Mordecai and resigned to die if it was necessary on Nisan 14 and fasted and prayed on Nisan 14, 15, and 16.

Jesus submitted to the will of the Father and resigned to die as it was necessary on Nisan 14 and rested in the tomb on Nisan 14, 15, and 16.

Jesus/Esther

On Nisan 16, Esther put on her royal apparel and rose up and went into the inner chamber of the king's palace, was accepted and entered the Throne room.

On Nisan 16, Jesus put on His "royal apparel" and rose up and went into heaven the inner chamber (Holy Place) and was accepted in God's presence and entered the Most Holy Place.

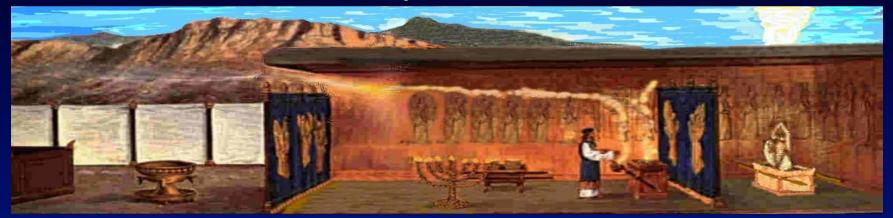
Esther then entered the king's throne room to plead on behalf of her people against a law that could not be changed. She had one request:

Jesus then entered the Most Holy Place on Oct 22, 1844 again in the presence of God and the <u>investigative judgment began</u> – pleading on behalf of His people against a law that could not be changed.





Sanctuary/Esther/Christ















Jesus refused to receive the homage of His people until He had the assurance that His sacrifice was accepted by the Father. He ascended to the heavenly courts, and from God Himself heard the assurance that His atonement for the sins of men had been ample, that through His blood all might gain eternal life. The Father ratified the covenant made with Christ, that He would receive repentant and obedient men, and would love them even as He loves His Son.

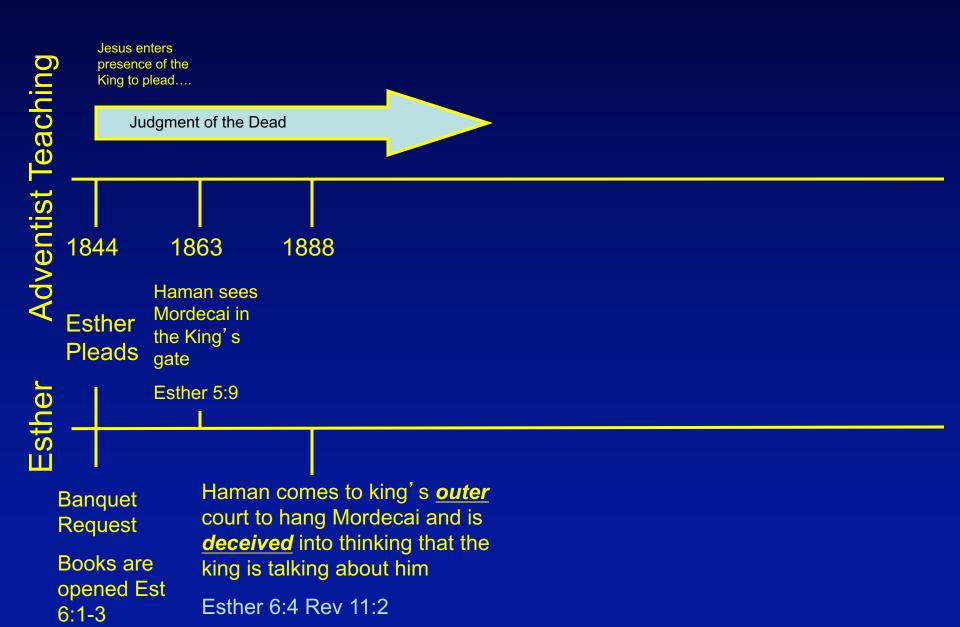
Desire of Ages page 790

Shushan Palace



Esther in Shushan Throne room → 1844 → 2300 → Daniel

Post 1844 to Future



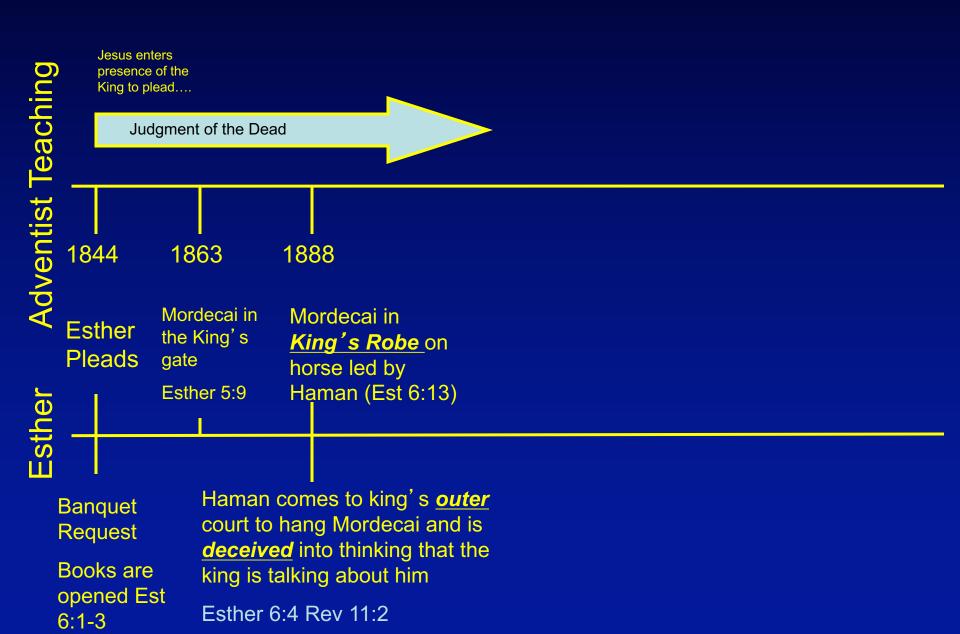
Ellen G. White



"The Protestant world today see in the little company keeping the Sabbath a Mordecai in the gate. His character and conduct, expressing reverence for the law of God, are a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling upon His Sabbath; the unwelcome intruder must by some means be put out of the way." R&H – The Return of the Exiles -11

Gallows = Sunday Law

Post 1844 to Future



Ellen G. White



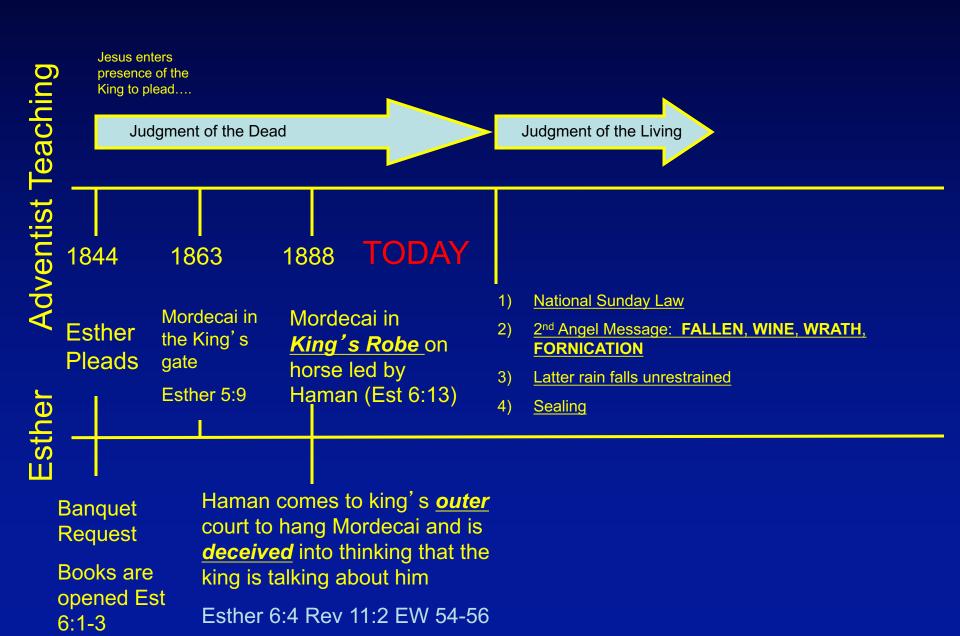
In the atonement made for him the believer sees such breadth, and length, and height, and depth of efficiency,--sees such completeness of salvation, purchased at such infinite cost, that his soul is filled with praise and thanksgiving. He sees as in a glass the glory of the Lord, and is changed into the same image as by the Spirit of the Lord. He sees the robe of Christ's righteousness, woven in the loom of heaven, wrought by his obedience, and imputed to the repenting soul through faith in his name. When the sinner has a view of the matchless charms of Jesus, sin no longer looks attractive to him; for he beholds the Chiefest among ten thousand, the One altogether lovely. He realizes by a personal experience the power of the gospel, whose vastness of design is equaled only by its preciousness of purpose. Faith and Works 106-107

Ellen G. White



"Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, 'It is the third angel's message in verity.'"-The Review and Herald, April 1, 1890.

Post 1844 to Future



Ellen G. White



"She made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Revelation 14:6-8). How is this done? By forcing men to accept a spurious sabbath.—<u>Testimonies for the Church 8:94</u> (1904). Last Day Events (LDE) 198.2

Not yet, however, can it be said that ... "she made *all nations* drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." She has not yet made all nations do this.... LDE 198.3

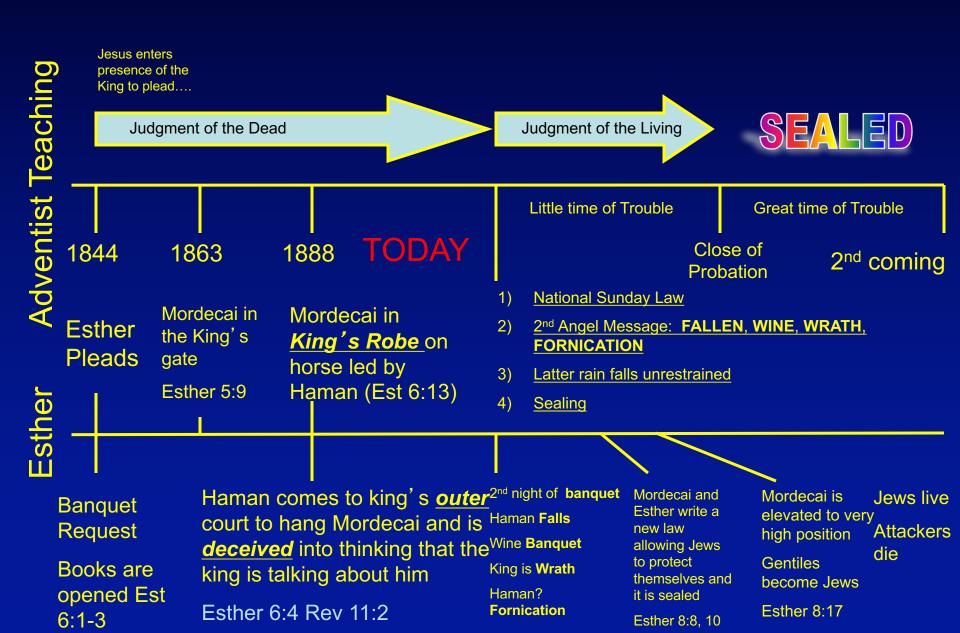
Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete. The change is a progressive one, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 is yet future.—The Great Controversy, 389, 390 (1911). LDE 198.4

Haman is falling but not completely fallen before the 2nd banquet. (Esther 6:13)

Esther's Banquet = Investigative Judgment (IJ) -judgment always happens after banquet -two nights of banquet (Esther 7:2)

After 1st night of Banquet	After 2nd night of Banquet
Books opened (Esther 6:1)	Haman falls completely (Esther 7:8)
Bigthan and Teresh names brought up (Esther 6:2)	Haman hanged on his own gallows (Esther 7:9-10)
Mordecai rewarded (Esther 6:8-10)	Mordecai elevated to highest level and countermands the death decree (Esther 8:1-17)
Haman <i>falling</i> but not yet completely (Esther 6:13)	The decree is Sealed (Esther 8:8, 10)
	Non Jews are converted to Jews (Esther 8:17)

Post 1844 to Future



12th month (Adar) (Esther 9:1-19)

13th

14th

15th

Defend themselves

-500 attackers die

-10 sons of Haman die

- 1) One more day to defend themselves in Shushan only
- 2) Hang Haman's 10 son's bodies on his own gallows

Defend themselves

-300 attackers die

-Haman's sons hanged



Defend themselves

-<u>75,000</u> attackers die



Esther Chapter 9:1-32

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8 27	9	7	3	6	4	5	2	1				8	1	3	9	5	2 19	7	4	6		

