

From Pastor's Desk

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Dare to Know the God in the Book of Esther;

A point of Discussion

Esther 5: 1ff.

God behind the scenes in Esther;

Much as the name of God does not appear anywhere in the book of Esther, it does not mean that there was no God. Remember there were so many gods in Middle East and Persian Empire. The names of these gods were mentioned on every official document in order to control those who worshiped those particular gods. The Jews were unique, they were people of God, a story about them was naturally of God. For even the name "Jew" carries the connotation of "one who worshiped Yawhch"

God makes Himself known in this way:

Indirect intervention:

Esther who worshiped God became the Queen. (Est. 2: 17)

God's existence and his affairs of men are assumed. (4: 14)

Fasting was a distinct spiritual activity linked and connected with prayer. (4: 16)

Divine intervention:

-Mordecai overhears a death plot and saves the king's life. (2: 21, 23)

-Xerxes could not sleep and decided to read the history book. (6: 1)

-Xerxes reads exactly the page needed for the moment, reminding him of unpaid reward for Mordecai. (6: 2)

Human's plan is exactly reversed- the intended victims become victors. (7: 9, 10)

Strength and accomplishments of Esther

-Esther's beauty and character won the heart of the Persian king- Xerxes

-She combined courage with careful planning.

-She was open to advice and willing to act

-She was so more concerned for others than her own security

Lesson from Esther;

-Serving God demands that we risk our own security.

-God has a purpose for the situations in which He places us

-Courage, while vital, does not replace careful planning