

Title: Insomnia is by God's Hand

Text: Esther 10: 3

Date: September 26, 2013

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

**Esther 10: 3: For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.**

Does God really work all things together for good for believers? Scriptures says he does.

Romans 8: 28: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Psalms 135:6: Whatsoever the LORD pleased, *that* did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

**Proposition:** The book of Esther shows us that God sovereignly works all things together for the salvation of his people by Christ and in Christ. Let's go back to chapter 1 and see it.

## **I. FIRST, LET ME GIVE YOU AN OVERVIEW OF THE CHARACTERS AND THE STORY.**

### **Characters and Their Types**

**Ahasuerus** the King of Persia—his name means “Venerable Father.” Though a sinner, and not in regard of his sinful deeds, but in his office, power and relation to others in the story—we will see some things that reminds us of God our Father.

**Mordecai**—“Little Man” —At first, he was viewed by his enemies as unimportant—Christ had no form that made us desire him. Yet Mordecai was the one who brought about God's will of saving his people—so was Christ. At last, he was highly exalted above all others to the right hand of King Ahasuerus, the venerable father—that is where Christ sits today.

A beautiful woman named **Esther**—she was the cousin of Mordecai, who he adopted. Esther means “Star”—Esther becomes the new queen—the Star beside the King—that is what Christ is at God's right hand. Her name was also Haddassah (Myrtle Tree)—which is a symbol of peace and blessing—Is 55: 3: “Instead of the thorn shall come up the myrtle tree.” Just as great peace and blessings came to God's people through Esther's intercession in the inner court in the presence of the King—likewise great peace and blessing come to God's people by Christ's intercession in the inner court of God.

**Haman** —means “Magnificent” —for that is how he saw himself and what he sought. He was an Amalakitite, a son of Agag—God's sworn enemy. Haman wanted to kill all God's people. Yet, he was brought to nothing by the King, by Mordecai and by Esther. Haman reminds us of all our enemies: our old man of sin, every sinner, even the devil himself. Though our old man attempts to exalt himself—though sinners and the devil attempt to exalt themselves—at last our great God and Savior, shall bring our old man and every sinner to nothing, including the devil himself.

### **The Story**

Here is the story. King Ahasuerus threw an extravagant party for the princes and rulers throughout his empire. He sent an order for his wife, Vashti, to come to his party to show her off. When she refused, the king and his cabinet were furious—so the king divorced her. They proposed a law in

Esther 1: 19:...**let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.**

In chapter 2, Mordecai and Esther come into the story. As we begin reading in verse 5, consider all the things that had happened to this man and to Esther.

**Esther 2: 5: Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; 6: Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. 7: And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.**

Do you suppose when Mordecai was taken captive that he considered it great sorrow and sadness? Surely, when Esther's mother and father died, that was a sad time. It was probably difficult for Mordecai to add this girl to his responsibilities, to adopt her and raise her. Yet, in all of this, God was putting them both right where he would have them to be.

Next, King Ashaerus seeks out the most beautiful woman in the kingdom of Persia to be his new Queen. Esther won.

**Esther 2:17: And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti. 18: Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.**

In Vashti's disobedience and the fact she was replaced by one highly favored of the king above all—I think of Adam. Adam rebelled against God and was replaced by Christ the last Adam—the favored of the Father, who has a crown on his head, and a feast of fat things prepared for him and through Christ's feast—he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king—so God does to his people through the gospel of Christ and him crucified.

At this time, Mordecai—still unknown to the people as Esther's adopted Father—yet probably through her influence—he was promoted to a position in the king's court—he sat in the king's gate. Then while Esther is being showered with gifts in the King's house, Mordecai thwarts an assassination attempt on the King.

**Esther 2: 21: In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. 22: And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name. 23: 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.**

Then evil Haman, the Magnificent, the Amalekite, enters the story in chapter 3. The king promoted Haman so he was over all the princes in the kingdom. Everybody bowed before Haman.

**Esther 3: 2:...for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence....6: And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.**

So Haman brought the matter before the king-- Haman is a great picture of Satan who is the accuser of the brethren, and of the self-righteous Pharisee in each of our sinful flesh.

**Esther 3: 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. 10: And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy. 11: And the king said unto Haman, The silver *is* given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.**

Letters were sent out to all the people with the king's signet—with the command—destroy the Jews, receive a reward. The Jews became sorrowful, so did Mordecai and so did Esther the queen. So in chapter 5, Esther put on her royal apparel and approached the king on his royal throne.

**Esther 5: 2:...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. [she asked the king and Haman to a banquet of wine] 6 And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What *is* thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what *is* thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed. [she tells them both to attend her banquet the next day and she would make her request known] Esther 5: 9: Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai. 10: Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife. 11: And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all *the things* wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. 12: Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king. 13: Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate. 14: Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.**

Do you realize what will happen if Haman's plan is carried out? The Jews would be eliminated. God's promise that Christ was coming through the seed of Abraham would not be fulfilled. God's eternal purpose would not be carried out. Christ would not come into the world. God's holy law would not be magnified and fulfilled by Christ for his people. None of God's elect would be redeemed. You and I would be forever lost. Do you think there is a remote possibility that Haman will succeed? Not even the slightest.

## **II. LET'S LOOK AT SEVEN LESSONS NEEDFUL FOR US TO LEARN.**

### **Right Where We Need to Be**

First, God sovereignly rules all, putting everyone in the position we need to be in to promote his glory and our good. He put each of these people in place to bring about his will, and also, to glorify his Son, Christ Jesus.

Here we have a Jewish woman, promoted to Queen of Persia because God put her there to make intercession on behalf of his people and to glorify his great name. What a type of Christ she is. Her parents had died. Her people had been carried away into captivity. And a great enemy is set on destroying all the children of Israel, her brethren. That is why she emerges. Adam and Eve died in sin. All Christ's people were carried away into captivity. Satan and all our enemies sought to utterly destroy us. That is why Christ came forth.

She represented God's people in the inner court where the King resided. Christ is at God's right hand where "he everlives to make intercession for his people." When Mordecai mourned out in the street in sackcloth. **Esther 4: 4:..."the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him:"** Christ is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities." When God brings his child to mourn over our sin, over God's sorrowful providence or to repent in sackcloth, Christ sends forth his robe—the robe of righteousness to clothe us, he comforts us in all our sorrow in this world.

Esther was willing to lay down her life for her people. The king holding forth his golden scepter was a token of acceptance in his presence. But 30 days went by and Esther received no such beckoning from the King to approach him. **Esther 4: 6:...so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.** In her willingness to stand in the place of a lawbreaker and perish for her people we see Christ's willingness to take our sin and willing to take our place before God's wrath. God puts his people where he will to glorify him.

Then we have Mordecai in the gate among the people, among his brethren—he is a wonderful picture of Christ dwelling in our midst. Christ has a work to do in the presence of the Father—pictured by Esther. And he has a work to do among his people in the earth pictured in Mordecai.

**Esther 4: 16:** [Esther told Mordecai] **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;...17: So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.**

As Christ is making intercession in glory, he is separating his people in the earth unto himself. When born of God we begin a fast from this world and from our flesh, as we feed upon Christ and await the 3<sup>rd</sup> day when he shall arise as the Daystar in his return.

Brethren, God overruled everything sorrowful in Esthers life and Mordecais' life to put them there to save his people and show forth this wonderful picture of his Son: from her parents dying, to their captivity, to all the details in being exalted to this position to Haman who sought his astrologers. They cast lots on which would be the best day—the lot was cast but God disposed of the whole matter—they gave him a day 12 months out—which allowed for all this salvation to come to pass. So it is that God rules everything in our lives to put us where he would have us to be.

So serve God where he has put you. Maybe it is a dark place of captivity. Maybe it is in the presence of royalty. Maybe it is in the company of paupers

1 Corinthians 7: 20: Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. 21: Art thou called *being* a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use *it* rather. 22: For he that is called in the Lord, *being* a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, *being* free, is Christ's servant. 23: Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. 24: Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

### **Lose Your Life to Save Your Life**

Secondly, stand ready to lose your life, by speaking up for God and his people, when you have opportunity, rather than trying to save your life by being silent. Notice what Mordecai tells Esther.

**Esther 4:14: For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, *then* shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place;**

Mordecai was a man who believed God. He told Esther, if you hold your peace, God still will use someone else to deliver us—that is true. Either we will be willing to lay down our lives for Christ or he will use someone else.

**Esther 4: 14: but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed:** Christ said, Lu 9:24: For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will **lose his life** for my sake, the same shall save it. But get this lesson

**Esther 4: 14: ...and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?**

Next, time we have opportunity to speak the gospel or keep our mouths shut to save ourselves, we ought to say this to ourselves, **“who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?”**

## Come to God in the Royal Apparel of Christ's Righteousness

Thirdly, know that if we approach God's throne of grace, with the royal apparel of Christ's righteousness, we shall be received and our petition granted.

**Esther 5: 1: Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, 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.**

None ever perished confessing his sin and seeking God's forgiveness at the footstool of mercy. The sinner who approaches God with nothing on but the royal apparel provided by Christ our King—shall be received with favor. God is faithful to his promises and just to his Son “to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Hebrews 4: 16: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

## God Rules Even the Smallest Details

Fourthly, remember that God is ruling the smallest details, as well as the big things, for the exaltation of Christ and of his child in Christ. After Esther told the King and Haman that she would let her request be known the next day at a banquet

**Esther 6: 1: On that night could not the king sleep,...**

Even Insomina is by God's Hand

Matthew 10:30: But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

**Esther 6: 1:...and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. 2: And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.**

This was not luck or chance—but God's sovereign hand that the king found this info at just this moment.

**Esther 6: 3 And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.”[Right at the time, the king hears a noise from without—because God is ruling everything going on.]4: And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him... 6: So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself? 7: And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, 8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king *useth* to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: 9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man *withal* whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour. 10: Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, *and* take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken. 11 Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street**

**of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.**

You can count it—thus shall it be done unto the GodMan, Christ Jesus, whom God delighteth to honour. And for you in Christ—thus shall it be done for the sake of Christ.

### **God Shall Destroy our Enemies**

Fifthly, God is ruling all things to destroy our enemies. So Haman comes to Esther's feast the next day to see what her petition to the King is.

**Esther 7: 3: Then Esther the queen answered...let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: 4: For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish....5: Then the king Ahasuerus answered...Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? 6: And Esther said, The adversary and enemy *is* this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen...9: And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon. 10: So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.**

Acts 4: 26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. 27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. 29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

### **Christ is Doing it All**

Sixthly, the reason all things are working for our good is because the God who is doing it is our Savior, Christ Jesus the Mediator, at God's right Hand.

**Esther 8: 1: On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he *was* unto her. 2 And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.**

Christ is over the house of all our enemies. He wears God the Father's ring so that he can do what he pleases over all.

**Esther 8:8: Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse....10: And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries:**

As Esther petitioned the king to reverse all the accusations against her people so Christ petitions the Father on behalf of his people to erase all Satan's accusations. So here I am as a post sent of God to you tonight to tell you of this good news that what Christ has accomplished for us can never be reversed.

### **Christ Shall Receive All Glory**

**Esther 8: 15: And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced**

**and was glad. 16 The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour....9: 4: For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater. 5: Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them....10: 3: For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, [Christ is at God's right hand] and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.**

**Amen!**