

we continue in our study of the book of Esther..the account of a remarkable woman but even more an account of a remarkable Sovereign God. We have read of the wicked plot of Haman for exterminating the Jews and have seen Esther taking the first step in being ready to approach the king....knowing that if he does not receive her it is death. And if you wonder why she should worry about this well, he has not summoned her for thirty days...and it must be in her mind that maybe she is being laid aside, too, or something like that...but she will take the initiative and we will see how it is worked out in our text for today, Esther 5:1-8 where we read about the banquet of wine..

II. Discussion:

5:1....Esther comes to the king although not formally invited. She wears her royal apparel and enters the inner court---and waits.

5:2....the king is on the throne and when he sees Esther he holds out the golden scepter to let her know that she is accepted at that point. She approached and as an act of respectful servitude, touched the top of the extended sceptre.

5:3....the king is in a gracious mood...he asks what her request is and assures her that it will be granted even to the extent of half of the kingdom. You must be impressed with the fact that Ahasuerus does not think very much and just takes the actions that seem right to him at the time.

5:4....She invites the king and Haman, his chief officer, to attend a banquet on this very day....one she has prepared especially for them.

5:5....the king is delighted and he urges Haman to lose no opportunity to be ready for the banquet the queen has prepared. They both come.

5:6....And now, once again, the king asks Esther what she wants. (He may have had more experience with others than we suspect). Whatever her petition is it will be granted to half of the kingdom. But Esther does not want that much...in fact,

5:7....she makes a special request

5:8....that they will come to another banquet tomorrow and then she will make known to the king whatever her request is.

III. Conclusion:

How far Esther has thought these things out, I do not know. Some think she was

well But God will see this in our petition