

MESSAGE # 17: The Ways of God

I. Introduction:

Thank you for joining us today as we continue to think about some of the things learned or observed in the book of Esther. We have finished our text studies even though we know there are many items that could have been studied more fully. But as we have moved through the book we have repeatedly seen items of interest that need wider study and that is what I hope to do in these summary talks. I won't need to review the book with you totally. If you have not been with us for the radio discussions, be sure to read the book! And even the most attentive listeners would do well to go back again and read the book! But against the background of the book we are able to treat some of these interesting subjects and the first of them relates to the ways of God or how God works.

We know from Isaiah 55 and Jeremiah 29 that we are not going to be fully able to understand the ways of God (Romans 11 expresses that as well). So we are not going to be able to develop an analysis that will enable us to see exactly what the Lord is doing from point to point. But we are able to see some general things that ought to allow us to have increased confidence in the working of God and therefore we should be able to live with greater confidence and rejoicing...in any sort or set of affairs. We will move on, then, to some general observations on the ways of God.

II. Discussion

- A. God has a program...and all things are fitted into it according to His purpose and design
- B. God arranges circumstances
- C. God uses people:
 1. He prepares them and positions them for service
 2. He stations them in the situations that are to suit His will
 3. He allows them to work...be creative, ingenious, or even to fail. The people He uses are not robots but responsible individuals.
- D. God provides the help needed