

TYPES & PICTURES IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER

Part 2 of 2: The Personal Application

Theme: Understand that victory will only come when you give control of your kingdom to Mordecai.

We've talked before about the “three applications” of Scripture...

- We studied the three applications/contexts in our *How to Study the Bible* series on Wednesday nights.
- I've mentioned it every now and then on Sundays, and quite a bit in our Revelation study Wednesdays.
- As we study through Esther, you are going to get a very good understanding of just what these applications (or “contexts”) are, and how they apply to Bible study.

The Historical Application of Esther: Remember that Esther is basically a book recording specific events that happened in the life of Israel just after the 70 years of the “Babylonian Captivity.”

- In this historical context, we've seen lessons on God's providence and His “intentional silence” in the life of His people when they were not walking in complete obedience to His Word.
 - ✓ Esther 1-2: King Ahasuerus removes his gentile queen from the throne because of her disobedience to his commands, and he chooses a new and better wife to be queen, a young Jewish lady named Esther.
 - ✓ Esther 3-7: King Ahasuerus unknowingly places the enemy of the Jews, Haman, in command of his kingdom. And Haman devises a plan to exterminate the Jews.
 - ✓ Esther 8-10: But, through a providentially ordered series of circumstances, Haman is discovered for what he is and killed. Ahasuerus then places Mordecai (Esther's cousin) in charge, in Haman's place.
- And thus all of God's people “lived happily ever after.”

The Doctrinal Application of Esther: Last week we took a look at the “prophetic” context of Esther.

- Through the study of pictures and types, we can see God's future plans in this world...
 - ✓ Esther 1: In Vashti's removal from the throne we see the rapture of the Church.
 - ✓ Esther 2: In Esther we see the restoration of Israel (reconciled with her Husband, God).
 - ✓ Esther 3: Haman is a picture of the coming Antichrist.
 - ✓ Esther 3-7: Haman's persecution of the Jews is a picture of the Great Tribulation.
 - ✓ Esther 8: Mordecai shows us a picture of the victorious second coming of Jesus Christ.
 - ✓ Esther 9-10: In the victory and feast of Purim, we see a doctrinal picture of the Millennium.
- But, there's more. There is *much* more to learn in Esther... another “set” of pictures and types...

The Practical Application in the Book of Esther: There is a very practical teaching in Esther for us...

- Have you ever asked yourself: *What really is the “victorious Christian life”... what do they mean when they talk about “being spiritual”?*
- You can find so much bad teaching about “victory” and “spirituality” today that it make you want to throw your hands up and walk away (it's everything from tongues or feel-good music to legalism).
- In the Book of Esther, God teaches us about true spirituality and how to gain that victory.
 - ✓ Esther is a book about the struggle and fight for the spiritual life.
 - ✓ Esther is a book about our personal fight for true spirituality.
- And we are going to see that...
 - ✓ ...it has very little to do with the silliness that goes on in churches today;
 - ✓ ...it has very little to do with the mystical weirdness that's being pedaled by “Christian” bookstores.

I. King Ahasuerus: A picture of our soul.

- A. It's interesting to note that the word *king* appears about 195 times in the short Book of Esther.
1. All of the history we see unfold in the Book of Esther revolves around what the king decides.
 2. This is the *key* to understanding this element of the personal pictures and types in Esther.
- B. What we see in the king is the *free will* of a human being to *decide* certain things in his life.
1. And in that free will, we see a picture of *us*, the *soul*.
 2. The human soul is the “me” of our being: The soul is made up of everything we are “on the inside”... our personality, intellect, emotions, and... our will (ability to decide).
- C. Just like King Ahasuerus has the authority and the ability in his kingdom to decide much of what will happen in that kingdom, so we (soul) have authority and ability to decide what goes on in our lives.
1. And what the king decides not only affects the capital city where he lives (Shushan)...
 2. What the king decides also affects all the other areas of his kingdom (where he has influence).
 3. The decisions we make can affect where we live (the body) *and* all other areas of our lives where we have influence (family, work, community, city, etc.).
- D. In King Ahasuerus, we see a very practical picture of *us*—the soul inside, the person that decides.

II. Shushan, the Capital City: A picture of our body.

- A. (Est 1.2) The king lives in Shushan (called the palace, but later referred to as the capital city of the kingdom of Ahasuerus).
- In Shushan the king makes his decisions and those decisions spread from there out into the rest of his kingdom.
- B. Our soul (King Ahasuerus) lives in our body (Shushan). And in this body we make decisions that go out into the rest of our kingdom and affect every area of our lives.

III. The Kingdom of Ahasuerus: A picture of our lives.

- A. (Est 1.1) King Ahasuerus has control and influence over a kingdom made up of 127 provinces.
- What he decides in the capital city Shushan affects 127 different areas in his sphere of influence.
- B. His kingdom is a picture of our lives—the areas of our lives over which we have control and influence.
1. What we decide in the capital (Shushan, our bodies) will have consequences in many other areas of our lives—our little kingdoms.
 2. For example: Our families, our workplaces, our schools, our friends, and our communities.

IV. Queen Vashti: A picture of our human/natural spirit.

- A. (Est 1.12) Vashti is rebellious and disobedient. She refuses to submit willingly to the king.
- B. (Eph 2.1-3) That is exactly how all of us were before we were saved. We were just like Vashti!
- C. (Est 1.19) And what God wants to do is replace Vashti (the rebellious, disobedient, human/natural spirit) with one that is “better than she.”

V. Queen Esther: A picture of our new (renovated/regenerated) spirit after converting to Christ.

- A. Esther is that new queen (and wife) who is “better than she”—better than rebellious Vashti.
1. Vashti is rebellious and disobedient. She refuses to submit to the desires of the king.
 2. Esther, in contrast, is meek, beautiful, and submissive. She is everything that is “better.”
- B. Esther even has an influence over the king that we never see in Vashti.
1. Esther ends up having a lot of influence over the king, but her influence is very subtle.

2. She's not pushy and arrogant and proud. She submits and asks and leads the king to her desires.
 3. And we even end up seeing that Esther has a *lot more* influence over the king once the king permits her to do so (when he wants her influence in his life and decisions).
- C. Esther is a great picture of the new spirit that God gives us when we convert to Christ.
1. That new renovated/regenerated spirit in us is not at all rebellious and disobedient. It's a new spirit!
 2. It's a meek, beautiful, and submissive spirit that subtly influences us... and will influence us even more when we want that influence.
- D. Much of the Esther's influence in the life of King Ahasuerus comes from Mordecai's instruction.
1. Esther is a close relative of (she has a very close relationship with) Mordecai. And through Mordecai's instruction, Esther works in the king's life to lead him to victory over Haman.
 2. Just like Esther, our new spirit has a “close relative” that instructs us and leads us to victory: God's Holy Spirit. More on this in just a minute...

VI. The Marriage (Ahasuerus and Esther): A picture of our conversion to Christ.

- A. If Esther is a picture of our new renovated/regenerated spirit that we receive at salvation, then the marriage (when Ahasuerus divorces Vashti and chooses Esther) is a picture of our conversion to Christ.
- B. We repent of our sins (Vashti) and choose God's provision (Esther). And everything is new!
1. And the great thing with getting Esther is that she comes with a “package deal.”
 2. Like with just saw, with Esther comes Mordecai's influence in the king's life (even though the king doesn't know it for a good long while!).

VII. Mordecai: A picture of the Holy Spirit.

- A. (Est 2.5-7) Like we saw before, Mordecai is Esther's cousin—he is a close relative of Esther's (there is a very close relationship between them).
- (1Cor 6.17) There is a very close relationship between the Holy Spirit (Mordecai) and our new renovated/regenerated spirit (Esther).
- B. (Est 4.7-9, 13-14) Mordecai influences the king through Esther and he does so for the good of the king and the king's kingdom.
- (Rom 8.16) The Spirit of God influences us (our souls) through our new, regenerated spirit; and He does so for our good and the good of every area of our lives (that God may be glorified).
- C. Mordecai is also the one who is “working behind the scenes” (through Esther) to bring about victory over Haman.
- The Holy Spirit often works in our lives without us even knowing it, and He does it in order to lead us to greater and greater victory over the flesh...

VIII. Haman: A picture of our “old man” (the flesh, our sin nature).

- A. Where does Haman live? He lives in the same city as King Ahasuerus, Shushan the capital.
- Where does our old man (sin nature) live? Yep: In our bodies... our flesh (Shushan).
- B. Haman is the enemy of all that is good in the kingdom of Ahasuerus (all that is from God).
1. Haman deceives the king, takes control of the kingdom, and strives to exterminate the Jews.
 2. Our flesh (the old man, our old sin nature) will do just the same: It will continually strive to deceive us, take control of our lives, and destroy all that is of God in every area of our lives.
- C. (Gal 5.17) Haman hates Mordecai (and the two are at constant war).
1. There is only one way to obtain the victory: The king has to kill Haman.
 2. (Gal 5.24) We have to crucify the flesh with its desires.

IX. The Jews in the Kingdom: A picture of those “points of light” in our lives as Christians.

- A. Haman (the enemy of God and the king) wants to exterminate all the Jews throughout the entire kingdom of Ahasuerus.
- B. The Jews in the kingdom are a picture of what we can call “points of light” in our lives where people around us can see God in and through us.
 1. (Mat 5.14-16) The Jews are “points of light” where people ought to be able to see God.
 - a) Specifically: (Mat 5.1-2) Christ is speaking to His *disciples*.
 - b) In the Jews in the kingdom of Ahasuerus, then, we see a picture of those “points of light” where people around us can see a *follower of the Lord Jesus Christ*.
 2. We're talking about points in our lives where God is manifest—made known.
 - For example: The preaching of the Gospel, holiness, good works, a changed character.
- C. And these “points of light” are all over our “kingdoms” (in every area of our lives): People ought to be able to see the light of God in our families, our friendships, our words, our desires, our work ethic...
 1. And it's right here where we see the struggle and the fight for true spirituality.
 2. Haman (the flesh) wants to “put out” each and every light in our lives, and we need to fight him in order to kill him and allow God's light to shine everywhere, throughout all 127 provinces of the kingdom.
 3. That victory will only come when Esther replaces Vashti (salvation) and we (Ahasuerus, the soul) allow Mordecai (the Holy Spirit) to reign and rule instead of Haman (the flesh).
 4. And when that happens... we have a celebration of victory going on...

X. The Feast of Purim: A picture of the fullness of Christ.

- A. The Feast of Purim for the Jews was a time of joy in celebration of the victory they won because Ahasuerus killed Haman and put Mordecai in charge of his affairs.
- B. And when we (Ahasuerus, the soul) choose to crucify the flesh (Haman) and allow the Holy Spirit (Mordecai) to fill every area of our lives (our kingdoms) with His influence through Scripture...
 1. There will be great joy in celebration of the “victorious Christian life.”
 2. That's true spirituality: It's victory over Haman (the flesh) by replacing him and his desires with Mordecai (the Holy Spirit).
 3. And when that happens, every “point of light” in our “kingdoms” can shine! People will know God is in our lives!
- C. But, we need to understand this: Just like the Jews had to fight for the victory Mordecai provided for them, we'll have to fight every day for the victory over the enemies of God in every area of our lives.

Each and every one of us is a living “Book of Esther”:

1. (Est 1-2) Each of us has a conversion story of how we turned from Vashti to Esther (or get one!).
2. (Est 3-7) We all struggle against the influence of the wicked and deceitful Haman (the flesh).
3. (Est 8-10) And we can have the victory if we will follow Mordecai (the Holy Spirit through Scripture).

The Book of Esther shows us our daily fight for true spirituality—for the “victorious Christian life.”

- What is “spirituality” and what does the “victorious Christian life” look like?
- That's exactly what we are going to be studying in detail starting next Sunday with Esther 1.1.

But right now understand this: Victory will only come when you give control of your kingdom to Mordecai.

TYPES & PICTURES IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER

	Doctrinal (Revelation 12)	Personal (Romans 6, 7, 8)
1. King Ahasuerus	God	Soul
2. Shushan, Capital		Body
3. The Kingdom	The Kingdoms of this World	Areas of Life/Influence
4. Queen Vashti	Church	Human Spirit (of Man)
5. Esther	Israel	New Spirit (Regenerated)
6. Marriage (with Esther)	Reconciliation (Israel & God)	Conversion to Christ
7. Mordecai	Christ (Spirit of Christ)	Holy Spirit
8. Haman	Antichrist	Flesh / Old Man
9. Jews in the Kingdom	Jews in the World	Points of Light (Mat 5.16)
10. Feast of Purim	Millennium	Fulness in Christ (Spirituality)