

Our God; Our Deliverer
God Prepares His People for Defense
The Queen's Gambit (Esther) Series – Part 5

9/11/21-9/12/21

Esther 8:3-10:3

Introduction

• **Let me State Three Facts:**

1. **This World is Broken and it's People are Broken** – There is a lot of suffering in this world and a lot of bad people doing bad things.
2. **There is still an active Enemy alive and well** – Satan is still actively trying to ruin what God loves.
3. **BUT God has not left His people unarmed or vulnerable**
 - **The Armor of God**¹ - in Ephesians 6:10-20 Paul the Apostle lays out a demonstration of the defense system that God designed for Christians. He called it the Armor of God. He said...
 - *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm...”*
 - **He then describes what the Armor represents:**
 - Belt of Truth
 - Breastplate of Righteousness
 - Shoes of the Gospel
 - Shield of Faith
 - Helmet of Salvation
 - Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)
 - Prayer to alter reality
 - **The Binding of the Strongman** – In Matthew 12² Jesus explained that He was casting out demons by the Kingdom of God and He asks the question: *“How can someone enter a*

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² Matthew 12:25-30 – “Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. ²⁶ And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first

strong man's house and plunder his goods without first binding the strong man?" – His point was that He was doing all that demon casting because He had already limited Satan's power because He was in charge³.

- **The Power and Authority from God** – When Jesus taught, people were shocked because He taught with authority⁴. When Jesus healed, people freaked out because of the authority he wielded⁵. When He fought spiritual warfare, people couldn't fathom that type of authority⁶. But He didn't just keep all of that power and authority to Himself, He gave it to His followers...
 - **The 12 Apostles** – Matthew 10:1 - *"And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction."*
 - **The 72** – Luke 10:17-19 – *"The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!'"*¹⁸ *And he said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. '19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.'"*
 - **Us** – when Jesus was leaving this earth He had one last talk to His followers and this is what He said...
 - **Great Commission** - Mt 28:18–20 - *"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. '19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, '20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"*
 - **Promise of Holy Spirit Power** - Ac 1:8 – *"...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*⁷
 - **The Gates of Hell will Not Prevail** – Matt 16:18 explains that Satan's strongholds can't stop the power of the Holy Spirit working through the church.
 - **Stronghold Demolishing Weapons** – 2 Co 10:4 - *"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds."*⁸

We Are Built for VICTORY⁹

binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. '30 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

³ This was a huge deal because in Luke 4:6-7 the Devil was able to offer Jesus authority and power over this world in the desert temptation (even though God/Jesus gave it to him in the first place – Col 1:15-16). Clearly Jesus didn't need it because the Holy Spirit empowered Him to take authority and power and control over everywhere He went. He hadn't yet conquered the world (He would do that partially at the cross – Col 2:15 - and finally when He returns and condemns the devil to the lake of fire – 1 Cor 15:24; Eph 1:15-23; 1 Peter 3:22), but He was pressing in and everywhere He was present, the Kingdom of God was there and authoritative (Luke 7:8; John 5:27). Jesus even had authority over His own death and resurrection (John 10:18; Rom 1:4)

⁴ Matthew 7:29; Jn 12:49

⁵ Matthew 9:8; Jn 14:10; Mark 5:30

⁶ Mark 1:27; Luke 4:14; Acts 10:38;

⁷ Cf. Acts 3:12; 4:33; 6:8; Rom 15:18-19 (Paul wasn't at the Ascension or Pentecost); 1 Cor 2:4-5

⁸ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (2 Co 10:4). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁹ 2 Peter 1:3

- **Recap the Story of Esther** – Previously on Esther...
 - **Esther Becomes Queen**
 - **Mordecai vs. Haman & the Purge**
 - **Mordecai asks Esther to Help**
 - **King Acceptance & 1st Party** & she invites them for a second party, this time it has a surprise
 - **2nd Party – Outs Haman**, King's furious – they kill Haman on the very set up he built to kill Mordecai
 - **Esther gets Estate & Mordecai the Position**
 - **BUT, there's one problem left.** The Jewish Purge. Can't change it, so now what?

Lesson

- **Esther Goes Before the King Again** – [PARAPHRASE] – **Esther 8:3-14**
 - **2nd Risk Move to King (for Plan)** - Esther has to go before the king and risk again, but this time she's on better standing and she brings Mordecai with her. He extends the scepter and listens. She explains that they never developed a plan on how to protect her people. She asks the king to revoke the Purge (Genocide Edict).
 - **Follow Through with a Flaky King** – Since this guy is king and self-obsessed, it's very likely that in his anger he wanted to be alone for awhile and it's also very likely that he would forget about the whole 'killing the Jews thing' (since he didn't remember when Esther mentioned it the first time). So, thankfully she kept pressing in for total victory.
 - **Are we pressing in for total victory?** – the story of the arrows hit against the ground.
 - **Elisha and King Joash Story**¹⁰ – shooting the arrow of victory Eastward – victory over Syria – strike the ground with the arrows – he did it 3x's – you should have done 5-6x's so you won't have total victory, only partial –
 - **King Xerxes' Response** – You can develop any plan you want and sign my name to it, but you can't just revoke the last one, it's permanent. Doesn't seem like he wants to brainstorm a solution here, but maybe he knows his lane.
 - **Mordecai's Plan** – Mordecai develops a plan that is signed by the king's ring and sent into all the kingdom.
 - Es 8:10–11 – *“And [Mordecai] wrote in the name of King [Xerxes] and sealed it with the king's signet ring. Then he sent the letters by mounted couriers riding on swift horses..., ¹¹ saying that the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to gather and defend their lives, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any armed force of any*

¹⁰ 2 Ki 13:14–19 – “Now when Elisha had fallen sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash king of Israel went down to him and wept before him, crying, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” ¹⁵ And Elisha said to him, “Take a bow and arrows.” So he took a bow and arrows. ¹⁶ Then he said to the king of Israel, “Draw the bow,” and he drew it. And Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands. ¹⁷ And he said, “Open the window eastward,” and he opened it. Then Elisha said, “Shoot,” and he shot. And he said, “The LORD's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Syria! For you shall fight the Syrians in Aphek until you have made an end of them.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Take the arrows,” and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, “Strike the ground with them.” And he struck three times and stopped. ¹⁹ Then the man of God was angry with him and said, “You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck down Syria until you had made an end of it, but now you will strike down Syria only three times.””

people or province that might attack them, children and women included, and to plunder their goods,..."

- **Recap** - The edict gave the Jews legal right to fight back and defend themselves on the Genocide Day¹¹. This time the government was on THEIR side. The Jews could legally take VENGEANCE on their enemies.
- **Oh Happy Day**
 - **[PARAPHRASE] Es 8:15–9:2**
- **The Jews Rise in Power**
 - **Mordecai got more famous & Jews were Overjoyed**
 - Es 8:15–17 – *"Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced. ¹⁶ The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor. ¹⁷ And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them."*
 - **Pagan People Wanted to Convert!** – did you see that last line? Non Jews wanted to get in on the right side of this fight and saw the injustice of it all, so they joined forces with the Jews and actually converted.
 - **Viva La Resistance! (the DAY)** – The Jews fought back and actually turned into offense as they killed those who were plotting against them (they had obviously revealed themselves when the first edict went out).
 - **Haman's Sons** - Even Haman's 10 sons were hung¹².
 - **Extra Vengeance Day** - Esther asked for an extra day to kill their enemies and it was granted.

¹¹ "The author considered it important that they "did not lay their hands on the plunder," for he said it three times (vv. 10, 15–16). The Jews were careful not to use material gain as the reason for their action. They simply defended their right to live." NAC Commentary

"The decree Mordecai wrote was sent out in the third month . . . Sivan (June-July) 474. Since this was a little over two months after Haman's decree (3:12) the Jews had about nine months to prepare themselves for the conflict (up to the 13th day of the 12th month, the date Haman had chosen by lot; cf. 3:7, 13; 9:1)." Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures (1:711). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books

"Now the contents of this epistle were these: "The great king Artaxerxes to our rulers, and those that are our faithful subjects, sendeth greeting...(20) but since I perceived that these Jews, that were by this pernicious fellow devoted to destruction, were not wicked men, but conducted their lives after the best manner, and were men dedicated to the worship of that God who hath preserved the kingdom to me and to my ancestors, I do not only free them from the punishment which the former epistle, which was sent by Haman, ordered to be inflicted on them, to which if you refuse obedience, you shall do well; but I will that they have all honor paid to them...they may defend themselves the very same day from unjust violence, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is Adar; for God hath made that day a day of salvation instead of a day of destruction to them;..." Josephus – Antiquities of the Jews, Antiquities.11.6.12

¹² "Many have questioned why the Jews wanted to impale the already dead bodies of Haman's 10 sons. This was not an unusual practice in the ancient Near East. It was a visual warning that others better not commit the same crime as the punished ones." Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). The Bible knowledge commentary

- **Feasts of Celebration Purim¹³** – The Jews held a special feast celebrating God’s protection of them and revenge on their enemies. Mordecai ended up making that a national holiday called Purim and they sent gifts to one another¹⁴.
 - **Purim means** to ‘cast lots’ because Haman cast lots against the Jews but it turned around on him and came up death for him and his family.
- **Mordecai Takes Haman’s Place** – Mordecai is officially made second-in-command to the King. And the Jews loved him and honored him.
- **A Perfect Old Testament Description of God’s Plan for Believers**
 - **Tell Me if You’ve Heard this One Before**
 - **Bad Guy Attacks People** - A super powerful bad guy wants to wipe out a whole bunch of people.
 - **1st Contract = Bad guy in charge** - Because the initial contract was signed saying the bad guy is in charge,
 - **2nd Contract Counters but doesn’t stop the first** - it’s not revoked immediately but a second contract is signed.
 - **2nd contract limits bad guys power & allows Fighting back** - The second contract declares that the bad guys does not have all the power but that the oppressed people group have the right to fight back and they are allowed to do so by authorization and power from the King!
 - **The Oppressed people end up winning and celebrate their victory.**
 - **Let’s Try This Again**
 - **Satan wins 1st Covenant** - Satan lures Adam and Eve to sign a contract in sin that allows Satan to run this world.
 - **God Launches New Plan** - God doesn’t immediately stop Satan but puts a new plan in play.
 - **New Covenant Limits and Empowers Christian Retaliation** - The New Contract/Covenant says that God limits Satan’s power and Christians are allowed and empowered to fight back (spiritual warfare).
 - Col 2:13–15 – “...you, who were dead in your [sins], God made alive together with [Christ], having forgiven us all our trespasses,¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

¹³ **What Purim Means** - Es 9:24–26 – “For Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur (that is, cast lots), to crush and to destroy them.”²⁵ But when it came before the king, he gave orders in writing that his evil plan that he had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. Therefore they called these days Purim, after the term Pur.”

²⁶ “On both days of the feast, the modern Jews read over the Megillah or Book of Esther in their synagogues. The copy read must not be printed, but written on vellum in the form of a roll; and the names of the ten sons of Haman are written on it a peculiar manner, being ranged, they say, like so many bodies on a gibbet. The reader must pronounce all these names in one breath. Whenever Haman’s name is pronounced, they make a terrible noise in the synagogue. Some drum with their feet on the floor, and the boys have mallets with which they knock and make a noise. They prepare themselves for their carnival by a previous fast, which should continue three days, in imitation of Esther’s; but they have mostly reduced it to one day [JENNING, Jewish Antiquities].” Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., Fausset, A. R., Brown, D., & Brown, D. (1997). A commentary, critical and explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments

- **God & Christians Win** - The Christians win and eventually God, the King, throws Satan into the Lake of Fire and the Christians celebrate their victory.
- **Conversion Motivation** - Oh, and just like pagan people converted to Judaism when they saw the oppression of the enemy and found out who the winning side would be....YEP, that's one of the reason non-Christians want to become Christians today¹⁵.

Conclusion

- **We were built for Victory** – God doesn't want us living lives with our heads down, bullied and harassed. We are not people like sheep without a shepherd¹⁶. We have a good shepherd, a great bodyguard, a Good Father and a Mighty King.
- **If you are not a Christian today** – and you are tired of getting picked on and played by the enemy of God and you finally see what the winning side is, today is a day to pledge your allegiance to Christ and allow Him to cleans your sins and make you a Child of God.
- **Pray victory over our people as their pastor**

¹⁵ Satan's lies are exposed. See the oppression in their lives and others. See the benefit of being on the right side and Christian = getting saved.

¹⁶ Matthew 9:36