**Est 1 / 1 Ti 6**

**Main theme: Be arrogant and dethroned, be godly and obedient, contend for the faith**

**-Disobedience / Obedience (be arrogant / be covetous for wealth)**

Golden verses: Est 1:12, 1 Ti 6:5-7

The book of Esther is after the rebuilding of the temple by Zerubbabel and before Ezra returned to his country. It concerned the life and death breathtaking story of the captives of Judah in the Persian kingdom. The main theme of this book discussed the example of Esther's prayer. The whole book did not mention a word of 'God', but the hidden God controlled the history of mankind from beginning to the end. He cares and protects His people. Through the strong and unyielding witness of Mordecai and Esther, they paid the price to pray and rescued God's people from the plague of annihilation. The whole book may be concluded by the words "Will not kneel down or pay him honor" and "If I perish, I perish." The central point of the two chapters discussed on disobedience and obedience. On one side it concerned Xerxes gave a big banquet for his officials and his people. During the feast, the queen Vashti did not obey the king's order. She provoked the king to anger and was thus dethroned. On the other side it concerned Paul encouraged Timothy to obey the order and assignment firmly. He ought to hold on to the faith and fight the good fight. Xerxes was originally a cruel king. Vashti was dethroned. The captive Esther was selected as the queen and in the most crucial moment she saved the Judah tribe. These were all from the will and arrangement of God.

**A. Do not be arrogant, do not covet wealth, enjoy the rich feast and guard against false teaching**

Be arrogant (Est 1:1-12) - Covet wealth (1 Ti 6:1-12)

1.【Exalt God's most high power】1-2 King Xerxes reigned. He was powerful. He ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush. However, his power was from God, “for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” ( Ro 13:1) This teaches us we should further honor the power of the Most High God because our God has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.

※【Humble to be a servant and submit to power】1-2 All who are servants should respect and serve their masters lest God’s name and teaching may be slandered. As no authority except that which God has established, thus to those masters who are believers, the servants should serve all the more , like serving the Lord. The authority of King Xerxes was limited and momentary. Only when Christ reigns, His authority extends to the ends of the earth. (Zec 9:10) Christ is the King of the kings and Lord of the lords. He will reign for ever and ever! He came to the earth and humbled Himself to serve men. What about us, should not we be more submissive to the authority and humble to be enslaved! (Mk 10:45)

2.【Enjoy the abundance of the kingdom together】3-8 The king gave a banquet to all the nobles and officials of the provinces. He also gave a banquet to the people of Susa to show the abundance and glory of his kingdom. This was only earthly and momentary joy. But God has prepared for those who love Him the heavenly and glorious kingdom where no eye has seen, no ear has heart, and no mind has conceived. Therefore we ought to pray for the thirsty heart to enjoy the rich feast of God’s kingdom.

※【Be careful to guard against false doctrines】3-8 Paul encouraged Timothy to guard against those who teach false doctrines and to know their nature of waywardness and love of money. They only cared for this life and coveted for the satisfaction of the flesh. They were self-deceiving, jealous and hypocritical. Therefore we ought to thirst for the richness of the Lord’s words to judge between the true and false and to overcome the wrong path, to be godly with contentment and delight in God. We ought all the more learn from Paul to be abundant in life to guard the Word courageously and to set the feast of the truth to lead men to the right.

3.【Do not be arrogant to disobey the king's order】9-12 Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace. While the king was happily enjoying his wine, he ordered for the queen to come in order to display her beauty. However Vashti was arrogant. She did not stand at her position and was not submissive to authority. She violated the command of the king. She rejected to come out and thus the king became furious and burned with anger.

※【Do not covet wealth and guard the faith】9-12 Paul told Timothy the love of money was a root of all kinds of evil. There were already a lot of people had wandered from the faith and trapped in sins. He exhorted him to flee from all this and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love and be courageous to guard the Word. Timothy had made good confession in the presence of many witnesses. As a queen, Vashti ought to honor the king as great to obey humbly. But she was arrogant due to her beauty. She violated the king’s order and lost her position before the nobles and the officials. We ought to value the heavenly position of a queen to keep the Word humbly without arrogance and presumptuous action lest we may fall into corruption and destruction.

**B. Keep the Word without swerving, disobey and be dethroned**

Disobey (Est 1:13-22) - Be faithful to the assignment (1 Ti 6:13-21)

1.【Against all the nobles and the peoples】13-18 The king asked his surrounding trusted aide, “Queen Vashti has not obeyed the command of the king. According to law, what must be done to her?” The seven nobles of the king felt that the queen had done wrong; not only against the king but also against all the nobles and the peoples of all the provinces so all the women would despise their husbands.

※【Good witnesses】13-19 Timothy had made good confession in the presence of many witnesses. Paul encouraged him to learn from Christ to be strong without compromise for the truth before Pontius Pilate with a better witness. He fervently charged him to keep command without blemish until the glorious revelation of the King of kings! He further encouraged those who were rich in that present world not to be arrogant but be willing to do good and lay up a firm foundation and take hold of the life that was truly life. Vashti thought she was able to give a banquet and became arrogant. She did not submit to authority. This harmed all the nobles and the peoples. This started the despise before all the women and created a very bad influence.

2.【Disobey and is dethroned】19-22 The nobles and the officials unanimously wanted the king to decree to proclaim throughout all his vast realm so all the women would take Vashti as a warning and to honor their husbands as the ruler over his own household. Vashti violated the order and was nullified. Her position was given to someone else who was better than her and could not be repealed.

※【Be faithful to the assignment and is favored】20-21 Paul urged Timothy to guard what had been entrusted to his care and to keep the Word without swerving, and to turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what was falsely called knowledge. The Lord’s Word never changes; listen and be blessed while violating the order will be nullified! Christ is the head of the church and the church is the bride of the Lamb. We ought to humble and obey, and take Christ as the Head to be guarded forever in God’s grace. (Eph 5:22-24)

**Isa 6 / Rev 21:15 Main theme: The holy words measure, be fit for the Lord's use; be stubborn in the heart and is cut down**

**-Need to measure / Be cut down**

Everything in the holy city must fit the measurement. It needs a measuring rod of gold which is God's holy words as standard to measure. (Isa 8:20)

(1)【Be humble to seek and be fit for Lord's use】1-8 The prophet sought and found. He was able to humble and was contrite. He saw himself was unclean and imperfect. His guilt was immediately taken away and burned completely by the spiritual fire. He was sent and fitted for the Lord’s use.

(2)【The heart is calloused and be cut down】9-13 If we love something else other than the Lord, we will not be able to hear and see clearly the words of God. Those who do not fit to the measurement of the holy words will be cut off. Until we become the most desolate leaving the stump, if we are willing to return to God, we will be healed and be favored again.

**Central point of the wheels: Be godly and obey, keep the Word without swerving, be contrite and be sent**

Dear Lord, may You let me be humble to keep the Word, do not desire for the riches of this world, to thirst for your Word and fight the good fight of the faith.

**Est 2 / 2 Ti 1**

**Main theme: Be strong to bear the cross, keep the Lord’s Word firmly and be selected by Him**

**-Be selected / Keep the Word**

Golden verses: Est 2:10-11, 2 Ti 1:7, 12

A discussion on being selected and keeping the Word – on one side it concerned Esther (a star) a Judah girl under the brought up of Mordecai. She was selected to enter the palace and was doted on by the king and made queen to replace Vashti. On the other side it concerned Timothy grew up under the nourishment of Paul. He was chosen to be a young co-worker of Paul. Paul encouraged him to be strong to hold on to the faith and to suffer for the gospel.

Both Mordecai and Paul belonged to the workers of the old generation. They were faithful to God’s assignment and were able to bring up the young generation of Esther and Timothy as their successor to accomplish God’s will.

**A. Be obedient and be favored, consecrate and get prepared, be strong to suffer**

Be humble to obey (Est 2:1-11) – To suffer together (2 Ti 1:1-9)

1.【To summon the beauty for the king】1-4 Queen Vashti was arrogant and violated the order. She was nullified by King Xerxes in his fury. Thereafter the king’s attendants brought all the beautiful virgins to be selected queen for the king. The girl who pleased the king would be the queen instead of Vashti.

※【To summon the workers for God】1-2 By the will of God, Paul became an apostle of Christ. He obeyed His will in all things. In Paul’s second gospel journey, he chose Timothy in Lystra. Thereafter he became his dear son-in-Christ. Now he wrote again to exhort him. The attendants chose the beautiful girls for the king to be selected as queen to comfort him. Paul chose valuable workers for the heavenly kingdom to satisfy God’s heart.

2.【Is summoned to enter the palace】5-8 Esther was originally an adopted child of a Jew named Mordecai because her father and mother died. Mordecai took her as his own daughter and nurtured her when she was young. She became a girl who feared God and loved her people. She was favored by God to be chosen and brought to the palace.

※【Fan the gift of God into flame】3-7 Paul interceded day and night for Timothy. He constantly remembered him and was reminded of his sincere faith which first lived in his grandmother and his mother, just like the godliness and virtue of Esther was from Mordecai her adopted father. Paul encouraged him to be strong and to fan into flame the gift of God, which was in him through the laying on of Paul’s hands. As a Jewish exile, Esther was chosen to enter the foreign palace. She was also given a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

3.【Be humble to obey and suffer the same fate】9-11 After Esther was chosen into the palace, she was still humble and obeyed the order of Mordecai. She had not revealed her nationality and family background. Hegai the eunuch who took care of the girls was pleased with Esther and gave her favor. Mordecai and Esther had gone through thick and thin together. Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her.

※【Suffer hardship together for the gospel】8-9 Paul encouraged Timothy to suffer with him and not be ashamed to testify about the Lord, or ashamed of him His prisoner. Mordecai also cared for Esther and shared the fate with her. God called us to a holy life – not because of anything we had done but because of His own purpose and grace. Being chosen into the palace Esther had nothing to boast. It was completely the arrangement of God’s will to save the life of her people through her.

**B. Be humble, consecrate and is chosen, keep the good Word firmly and is favored**

Consecrate (Est 2:12-23) – Keep the Word (2 Ti 1:10-18)

1.【Consecrate, prepare and ask for nothing】12-15 Before a girl’s turn to go in to the king, she had to purify herself and prepare with oil of myrrh and perfumes. She had to undergo the suffering, the death and resurrection of Christ, and purify herself for twelve months. Anything she wanted was given her. After Esther had purified herself, she went to see the king by turn. Esther asked for nothing other than what was given her. She had no desire for the world. She identified only to be doted on by the king and she would gain everything. Esther had gone through the test of material benefits. Whoever saw her was delighted in her.

※【Put hope in the Holy Spirit and keep the Word firmly】10-14 Jesus overcame death and He manifested His resurrected life through the gospel. No matter in the palace or in hardship, God’s children ought to be humble and obedient to manifest God. Paul suffered to preach the Word and became the role model for Timothy. He deeply knew whom he had believed. He encouraged Timothy to trust in the Holy Spirit and to keep the Word with faith and love, and to guard the good deposit that was entrusted to him for that day. Before Esther was chosen as the queen, she had to purify herself and prepare. She really died completely to the world and there was nothing she desired apart from the Lord. She guarded the good deposit in the foreign palace and transmitted the good fragrance.

2.【Is loved and selected】16-20 The girls were taken to see the king by turns. The king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. For the sake of Esther, the king gave a banquet. He distributed gifts with royal liberality and proclaimed a holiday. Esther was favored and others were also favored due to her.

※【Is rejected for the Lord】15 Throughout the life of Paul, he suffered to deny himself. He preached for three years throughout Asia so the Jews and the Gentiles had heard the truth. (Ac 19:1-20) In the later years before his martyr they forsook him. This might look lonely and desolate in the eyes of men, but he was strong and did not compromise. He was doted on by God so millions were favored due to him. His life was abundant. He was called and chosen and reached the status of ‘the queen’. He became the blessings of many.

3.【Do good without letting others know】21-23 Mordecai sat at the king’s gate and was always watchful. He was faithful and not slacking. He told Esther of two officers who conspired to assassinate the king. The evil men were executed timely and the king was saved. Mordecai only did good silently. He did not ask for any reward or to be known by men.

※【Do good and is remembered by God and men】16-18 Paul commended the good work of Onesiphorus and how he suffered with Paul. He was not ashamed of his chains and he searched hard for Paul when he was in Rome. He also helped him in many ways. The good work of both Onesiphorus and Mordecai was remembered by God. When the time came, they were praised and had their reward. (Es 6)

**Isa 7 / Rev 21:16 Main theme: Reject the wrong and choose the right, believe firmly and obey the Word, grace fills the holy city**

**-Believe firmly / Disbelieve**

The holy city was measured and tested by the holy words of God. Those who keep the Lord’s words firmly will let people from all around be favored due to Him.

(1)【Reject the wrong and choose the right, be steadfast in faith】1-17 No matter what happens, we ought to come before the Lord to reject the wrong and choose the right and stand firm in the truth by faith. Then God is with us and nothing is too hard for Him. He can make a virgin conceive. He turns nothing to something. He makes the dead arise. If we do not believe and instead trust in men, we will be in trouble.

(2)【Grace is abundant verses full of briers】18-25 If we are willing to return and exalt God as holy when we face distress and discipline, we will be favored and become abundant. We may also let the surrounding people be favored due to Him. If we are determined to rebel like Ahaz, we will be full of thistles and thorns, hurting ourselves and others.

**Central point of the wheels: Keep the Word and consecrate, believe firmly and be chosen**

Dear Lord, may You let me be humble to obey without failing your calling, be firm to keep your Word to exhibit your glory!

**Est 3 / 2 Ti 2**

**Main theme: The adversary was exalted; be strong by grace and proclaim salvation extensively**

**-Unyielding / Be a fighting warrior**

Golden verses: Est 3:2, 2 Ti 2:1, 3

A discussion on unyielding and being a fighting warrior – on one side it concerned Mordecai was resolute in his commands and he would not kneel down or pay honor to Haman. Thus Haman was very angry and he used crafty plans to annihilate all the people of Judah. On the other side it concerned that before Paul was martyred, he encouraged Timothy to be strong to be a fighting warrior of Christ to reject any false doctrines and to avoid any evil so that he might be an instrument for noble purposes, a worker who did not need to be ashamed and holy fit for use. Mordecai and Paul were loyal and unyielding during critical moments and made triumphant witnesses.

**A. Be strong in grace, be the Lord’s fighting warrior and keep the Word without yielding**

Unyielding (Est 3:1-6) – Be strong (2 Ti 2:1-10)

1.【Will not kneel down or pay honor】1-2 Haman spoke smooth words to steal power before King Xerxes, thus he was honored and elevated. All the royal officials had to obey the king’s order to kneel down and pay honor to him. But Mordecai the Jew feared the true God. He held fast to the commands and was not afraid of his power. He did not have regard for his life and would not kneel down or pay him honor.

※【Be the Lord’s fighting warrior】1-3 Paul was faced with the persecution from the Roman Empire. His life was endangered. But he still encouraged Timothy to be strong in the grace that was in Christ Jesus and to endure hardship with Him and be a good soldier of the Lord. He further encouraged him not to be afraid of the rampancy of the evil ways. He had to entrust the faith to reliable men who would also be qualified to teach others so that the truth might be passed on to generations. Both Mordecai and Paul were courageous without compromising under the power. They suffered to obey the will and were unyielding. They were worthy of the good soldiers of the generation and a model of the young.

2.【Keep the commands firmly and the enemy is infuriated】3-6Mordecai feared God. He kept the commands firmly and disregarded his life. The royal officials spoke to him day after day. But he still would not listen. He witnessed he was a Jew, people of the Most High God. Haman was enraged. So he conspired to destroy all Jewish tribe of Mordecai.

※【Endure to keep the Word and please God】4-10 As a good soldier of Christ, he should not get involved in civilian affairs but to please the Lord. He also has to hold on to the Lord’s Word just like anyone who competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules. He suffers to endure to preach the risen Christ so the Word of the Lord is not chained. Mordecai was like Paul. In everything he endured and kept the commands. He identified himself as the chosen people of God. Though he met the fury of Haman, he was unyielding despite death. Haman struck a vicious blow to destroy the people of God. Paul suffered to preach the Word to rescue God’s people.

**B. Be away from evil, be holy fit for use to avoid being killed**

Discern the enemy’s plot (3:7-15) – Be away from evil (2 Ti 2:11-26)

1.【Lie to obtain the king’s seal and succeed momentarily】7-11 Haman was the avatar of the devil. He cruelly struck a vicious blow to destroy the Jews without hesitation to pay all the price. He cheated the king for the seal and decreed as he pleased. Thus they cast lot and selected on ‘a day’ to destroy all of God’s people. This was exactly the vicious plot of Satan to destroy God’s will!

※【A worker who does not need to be ashamed and discerns the enemy’s plot】11-19 God’s promise is trustworthy. If we died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him. If we are faithless, He cannot disown Himself. The Jewish tribe was faced with the trial of live and death. Satan made use of the godless chatter and the false doctrines like gangrene to destroy the faith of many. Therefore we ought to see through its evil plot and be a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Haman pleased the king and cheated for power. His trick only succeeded for a while. We ought to learn from Mordecai and Paul to please God only. Then we will be powerful and our foundation will stand firm forever.

2.【Do not be afraid of the enemy’s annihilation】12-15 Haman was crafty. He unscrupulously decreed by the king’s order to annihilate all the Jews on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month. This was the vicious plot of Satan.

※【Be an instrument for noble purposes】20-26 Satan does not only use the false doctrines and heresies to tempt men from the truth. He also makes men be led astray by their sinful nature and be defiled by sins just like the vicious plot of Haman to annihilate all the Jews. Therefore Paul encouraged Timothy to flee the evil desires of youth and to cleanse himself from the ignoble to be an instrument for noble purposes. He also exhorted him to be able to teach and to gently instruct those who oppose him so they might come to their senses to understand the truth and escape from the trap of Satan. Thus, the evil plot of Haman to destroy God’s children would never succeed.

**Isa 8 / Rev 21:17 Main theme: The Lord’s words are the standard, exalt God as holy for outside the Lord is darkness**

**-In the Lord / Out of the Lord**

The wall of the holy city must be built true to plumb (Am 7:7), according to the Lord’s holy words as measurement.

(1)【Ought to take God’s words solemnly】1-8 God’s words are clearly seen and recorded by honest witnesses. The prophets also prophesied. When the time comes, His words will be fulfilled. Thus we ought to pay more careful attention lest we may regret without remedy. We ought to consider the great love of God. He wants men to listen to Him and come under His wings lest they will suffer.

(2)【Exalt God as holy】9-15 Do not be afraid that the nations will go against God. Even when it floods but we will exalt the Lord’s words as holy, then the Almighty God will miraculously save us. But the unbelief will stumble and fall.

(3)【Ought to take the Lord’s words as the law】16-22 Those who face the trouble and are unwilling to turn to God, but instead they turn to mediums and spiritists, they will fall into sorrowful depth of darkness. Only by turning to the right and obey the Lord’s words will be established. They have a share in the holy city.

**Central point of the wheels: Keep the Word firmly, overcome evil, be contrite to obey the Word and be at rest**

Dear Lord, may You let me hold on to your Word, to overcome the evil, do not kneel down or pay honor, be your fighting warrior and the crafty plan of Haman will fail.

**Est 4 / 2 Ti 3**

**Main theme: Know the danger, understand the Scripture, implore fervently and risk your life to proclaim**

**-Implore fervently / Know the danger**

Golden verses: Est 4:3-14, 2 Ti 3:16-17

A discussion on imploring fervently and knowing the danger – on one side it concerned Mordecai repeatedly reminded and advised Esther who was complacent in the palace might be awakened to see the peril of the tribe and thus determine to see the king and implore for them though it was against the law. On the other side it concerned Paul sincerely encouraged and taught Timothy so he might know the wickedness and terrible times in the last days. He encouraged him to be resolved to suffer to proclaim, to learn the Scripture and be equipped for every good work. Esther and Timothy did not fail in their assignment. They restored the lost tribe and God’s church!

**A. Ought to know the terrible times in the last days and intercede for the people contritely**

Give order to the assignment (Est 4:1-8) – Warn (2 Ti 3:1-9)

1.【Implore fervently in calamity】1-3 Mordecai knew very well an extinguishing disaster would come upon his tribe. He put on sackcloth and ashes and wailed bitterly. In every province to which the edict of the king came, there was great mourning with fasting. Mordecai came to the king’s gate and wanted to see Esther who was in the palace. But he was not allowed to enter as he had put on his sackcloth.

※【Ought to know the terrible times in the last days】1-3 The church of the last days would be full of evil. Men’s hearts were corrupted. They were lovers of themselves. Morality was annexed and the evil way was rampant. Paul reminded Timothy to mark these terrible times had come. Esther became the queen and she lived in the palace. She did not know any of the incidences of Mordecai and all the Jews. Mordecai longed to enter the king’s gate to tell her of the national crisis. How can we be complacent today and just love ourselves to the neglect of the life and death of our kinsmen? How can we fatten ourselves in the day of slaughter? We ought to get up to confess and intercede for our nation and our people.

2.【Be absolutely sure of the order】4-8 The hope of Mordecai was on Esther. He rejected to accept the clothes sent by Esther. His heart could not be comforted by this. Thus, it forced Esther to know the reason for this. So Mordecai told her the calamity of himself and all his people. He wanted her to go in to see and plead with the king.

※【Warn solemnly】 4-9 Paul solemnly pointed out to Timothy that the churches of the last days would be sinful. They would be treacherous, rash, lovers of pleasure. They only had a form of godliness. He also stated that those who taught false doctrines would worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women. They opposed the truth and their folly would be clear to everyone. Those ignorant women would be swayed by all kinds of evil desires and be led astray by the heresies just like being under the power of Haman waiting for destruction. They were always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. Thus we urgently need Esther and Timothy to rise up to preach the Word faithfully and intercede earnestly to rescue the crisis.

**B. Understand the Lord’s words, learn the example and resolve to risk the life to implore**

Be resolved (Est 4:9-17) – Suffer hardship (2 Ti 3:10-17)

1.【Be afraid of the difficulty】9-12 Faced with the calamity of her own tribe, Esther ought to disregard everything to come before the king to intercede earnestly. But due to the law, she did not dare to go in the inner court without being summoned. She had a lot of concern to tell of the difficult situation.

※【Resolve to suffer hardship】10-12 Paul commended Timothy had known all about his teaching, his way of life, his purpose… He also encouraged him to set a spirit to suffer for Christ and to obey the will in a godly manner and to learn Paul’s suffering model of preaching everywhere. Esther only focused on the difficulties before her eyes. She hung back and did not have a spirit to suffer. She also forgot about Mordecai’s example to suffer to obey the will. She was momentarily weak and failed the hope of God and man.

2.【Bear in mind the important assignment】13-14 Once again Mordecai warned and taught Esther that if she remained silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews would arise from another place. She would also face the trouble. “And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?”

※【Do not be led astray】13-14 Paul further encouraged Timothy to continue in what he had learned and had become convinced of (Deu 11:18) lest he might be deceived by evil. Evil men and impostors like Haman’s power would go from bad to worse. Esther who was made queen, was for such a time as this – to plead for the people, to rescue herself and save all her people! The warning and teaching of Mordecai shook Esther to break herself and not to miss the chance!

3.【If I perish, I perish】15-17 17The warning and teaching of Mordecai was filled with power and love, so the heart of Esther finally turned. She was determined to risk death to go against the law to the king. “And if I perish, I perish.” She urgently needed the prayer support from everywhere so she might gain the power of the Holy Spirit. She was granted by God to turn the heart of the king to rescue the disastrous fellow citizens. Thus Mordecai and all the Jews and Esther with her maids formed a united prayer battle line. They prayed to God earnestly in one heart at different places and fasted for three days and three nights for the people. Then Esther went against the law to the king.

※【Be equipped for every good work】15-17 Timothy had known the holy Scriptures from infancy. Paul encouraged him to know deeper of the God-breathed Scripture which brought the truth and life, teachings and rebuking to men so he might be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Due to the exhortation of Mordecai, Esther was willing to present herself and was prepared with a determination to die in order to go against the law to the king. On one side was ready to do good work. On the other side was to risk death to do good. Both of them required the price to read the Scripture and to pray. They gained the power from on high and were granted and accepted by God.

**Isa 9 / Rev 21:18 Main theme: Consecrate in distress, return to the Lord and become jasper and pure gold**

**-Be refined bitterly / Pure gold**

The Lord is the light of the Gentiles. We ought to abandon the dark and come to the light and become the glorious holy city. (This prophecy is fulfilled on Jesus. Mt 4:12-16)

(1)【Consecrate, return to the Lord and be greatly favored】1-7 We ought to learn from Joseph who humbled and consecrated in distress. He was able to see the great light and was released from the prison suddenly. Many people gained life due to him. God granted abundant joy. The Almighty God ruled in his heart. God was with him and there was no end of the increase of His peace and joy.

(2)【If we do not return to God, severe punishment will come】8-21 Those who are proud and arrogant, the bitter the more presumptuous, self-finding and do not consider the love of the Lord’s discipline is to let us be blessed, they instead are resentful and even profane God. Their result is destroying themselves. The believers ought to make every effort to pursue maturity to become spotless jasper, refined pure gold and glorious holy city to glorify God and benefit men.

**Central point of the wheels: Risk your life to implore, learn and proclaim the Word, and be refined to shine**

Dear Lord, may You let me understand the plot of Satan, to offer myself, to intercede for the people and lead men to enter your holy city!

**Est 5 / 2 Ti 4**

**Main theme: Consecrate and implore, by the grace of the Lord’s help, proclaim clearly the faith**

**-To implore though it is against the law / Deny one’s life to proclaim**

Golden verses: Est 5:6, 2 Ti 4:2, 17-18

A discussion on imploring though it is against the law and denying one’s life to proclaim - on one side it concerned Esther fasted and prayed before God. She risked death and violated the law to go to see the king. On the other side it concerned that before Paul was martyred, he sang a triumphant song and encouraged Timothy to proclaim the Word wholeheartedly and be faithful till the end. Esther violated the law to see the king and Paul with Timothy denied their lives to proclaim the Word were all for restoring the lives of the tribe and all the people of the earth so they might turn from the sinful power of Haman and accomplish God’s will. Both Mordecai and Paul were selfless and denied themselves for the truth. Their unyielding witness set an example not only for Esther and Timothy, but also to the saints for generations.

**A. Be focus on the Lord’s heart, to go against the law and implore, deny yourself to proclaim the Word**

Implore at the target (Est 5:1-8) – Deny yourself to proclaim (2 Ti 4:1-13)

1.【Violate against the law to see the king and know what you ask for】1-4 On the third day of Esther’s fasting she was given the boldness and faith by God to go to the king against the law resolutely. She put on her royal robes (Ps 29:2) and entered the inner court. She stood before the throne of the king. The king was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter. The king asked what her request was. Even up to half the kingdom would be given her. She did not have any request for herself. She requested the king together with Haman the enemy of the Jews to come to her banquet.

※【No matter when devote to proclaim the Word】1-5 Paul came before God and he also led Timothy to come before God. In view of His appearing and His kingdom, he charged him to preach the Word and save men, be prepared in season and out of season. Esther also had to rescue the lives of her tribe at an inappropriate time. She risked her life to see the king. They both considered the mind of God and presented themselves unconditionally without regard to the environment. In the last days under the power of Haman, men will not put up with sound doctrine and turn aside to myths. Therefore, keep our head in all situations and endure hardship. On one hand to intercede earnestly and on the other hand provide food timely.

2.【Prepare the banquet and implore at the target】5-8 The feast prepared by Esther was full of wisdom, faith, love and boldness. It targeted to attack the power of Haman. During the feast, the king again asked what was her petition and request. The clever Esther had a well-thought-out plan and waited for the chance. She only requested the king to bring Haman to come again to her banquet and then she would answer the king’s question.

※【Willing to pour out like a drink offering and deny yourself to proclaim】6-13 Paul knew he would be poured out and sang his glorious song of victory. By the Lord, he was able to fight the good fight, had finished the race, and kept the faith. His life was endless and he preached the Word unceasingly. How abundant was his ‘feast’! He let millions be saved just like Esther prepared the banquet. Esther did not request for half the kingdom. She only requested for the lives of her tribe. But Demas loved this world and deserted Paul. Only Luke followed Paul and suffered with him as fellow soldier. He was faithful to the end.

**B. Keep the Word without shaking, God will help and enter the heavenly kingdom**

Keep the Word (Est 5:9-14) – Guard against the enemy (2 Ti 4:14-22)

1.【Hold on to the Lord’s Word without shaking】9 Haman returned happily from the queen’s banquet. But when he saw Mordecai sat by the king’s gate and still unwilling to kneel and neither rose, he was filled with rage.

※【Be watchful to guard against the enemy without shaking】14-15 Alexander the metalworker strongly opposed the true Word and did a great deal to harm Paul. (1 Ti 1:19-20) So Paul reminded Timothy to be watchful to guard against him and take hold of the Lord’s Word without shaking. Mordecai took hold of the faith. He did not kneel down or pay honor to Haman from the start to the end. He was determined not to compromise like Paul. Haman and Alexander opposed the truth and oppressed God’s people. They would receive their reward.

2.【Covet worldly wealth and glory】10-12 Haman was overweening and moody. He returned home and continuously boasted of his vast wealth, his many sons and how the king had elevated him. Only he was invited with the king to the queen’s banquet.

※【Deny everything and be saved to enter the heavenly kingdom】16-18 Paul did his best to forsake everything for Christ. Though he was forsaken by everyone before he was martyred, the Lord stood at his side and gave him strength. The Lord would rescue him from every evil attack and would bring him safely to His heavenly kingdom. Haman coveted all worldly things which turned to nothing in a moment. He harmed himself and others and was forever destroyed.

3.【Conspire together to harm the righteous】13-14 Haman and his trusted aide plotted together to kill Mordecai. So they hurriedly built a gallows seventy-five feet high ready to request the king to hang him in the next morning, and then he might happily attend the banquet along with the king.

※【Expedite to save the sinners】19-22 In the final greetings Paul exhibited his zeal for the Word. He again urged Timothy to get there quickly for he had a lot of unfinished charges and he hoped to exhort him face to face. He wanted him to be a good soldier of Christ. Haman and his wife and friends acted in collusion with each other. They plotted with him to harm the righteous. But it was self-defeating and their plan was frustrated. They harmed themselves and were destined to destruction.

**Isa 10 / Rev 21:19 Main theme: Remove all unrighteousness in distress; be refined to become precious stones and the foundation**

**-Be refined / Precious stones**

(1)【God raises disasters for removing the unrighteous】1-4 As there were unrighteousness and unfaithfulness in God’s people, God would raise disaster to punish them.

(2)【By that time God will punish the enemies】5-19 God made use of Assyria their enemy to discipline His children. But he was arrogant. So God destroyed him momentarily.

(3)【The remnants will return to God】20-34 Many people who became more presumptuous in their distress were eliminated. Only those who were willing to humble to trust in God and pour out their sins to remove all unrighteousness, they should not be afraid. The Almighty God would rescue the remnant to become unblemished gems and foundation.

**Central point of the wheels: Risk death to implore, deny yourselves to proclaim and become precious stones and the foundation**

Dear Lord, may You raise workers of this age who will break themselves, to risk death to implore and proclaim, to lead men to be favored and sing out the triumphant song!

**Est 6 / Tit 1**

**Main theme: Keep the faith firmly, be exalted and be wayward, be self-deceiving and ruined**

**-Honor / Purity**

Golden verses: Est 6:10, Tit 1:9, 15

A discussion on honor and purity – on one side it concerned God made everything work for the good of God’s people. As the king was unable to sleep, the situation was turned by the blink of the eye and made Haman humbled. Mordecai was thus exalted and became an honored man delighted by the king. On the other side it concerned Paul was released in Rome and started his fourth gospel journey. During this time he wrote to order Titus to set up overseers (elders) who ought to be blameless, pure and flawless. He also wanted him to rebuke those who preached false doctrines sharply. Both Mordecai and Paul kept the Word in a godly way and became honored men delighted by God. God works for the good of those who love him. (Ro 8:28)

**A. Keep the Word and do good, be blameless and be delighted by the king**

The king delights (Est 6:1-9) – Be blameless (Tit 1:1-9)

1.【Do good, keep the Word and the king works for the good of it】1-3 Mordecai had once saved the king with merit. (Es 2:21-23) But he was not rewarded. He did good silently without wishing others to know. When the time came, God personally did for the good of it and made the king unable to sleep. He ordered the book of the chronicles be read to him and found Mordecai had saved him without any reward.

※【Be godly, keep the Word and God reveals】1-4 The gospel which Paul was entrusted to preach was according to the knowledge of the truth that lead to godliness. It was the eternal life promised before the beginning of time by the God who does not lie. When the time came, His Word was proclaimed through His servants and displayed in men’s heart. Mordecai kept the Word and did good. When the time came, it was revealed. Paul wrote the letter to encourage Titus his true son in their common faith to preach the Word in a godly manner and he would be given grace and peace.

2.【The king is delighted】4-9 The king was just planning to reward Mordecai and coincidentally Haman came. But he came with an ulterior motive. He wishfully hoped the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows he had erected for him. The king first spoke to Haman, “What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?” Without weighing on himself, Haman thought in his heart “Who would he be except me?” So he suggested that the man the king delighted to honor should enjoy all the glory of the king. He should wear the royal robe of the king and ride on the horse with a royal crest placed on its head throughout the city proclaiming to others.

※【Be blameless】5-9 Paul left Titus in Crete so he might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town. As elders they had to be blameless. They had to have godly witnesses both in the family and in their lives. They should not be quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They had to be hospitable and encourage other by sound doctrine. This was exactly what the king delighted to honor. Mordecai kept the Word in a godly manner. He did not seek men’s honor. He was not only delighted by the king but was also remembered by God. Haman was full of greed, selfishness and sins like a self-deceiving folly seeking honor. He was finally hated by God and men. (Pro 26:1)

**B. Humble and be exalted, the evil will be avenged, be pure and flawless**

Be exalted (Est 6:10-14) – Be pure (Tit 1:10-16)

1.【The arrogant will be humbled】10-11 Haman did evil for glory. He never expected the one the king delighted was not him but Mordecai whom he hated! The king ordered whatever he said was to be done to Mordecai without violation. Mordecai was willing to humble. He did good silently and was exalted when the time came. Haman was arrogant and self-exalting. He was humbled momentarily.

※【The mouth will be silenced】10-12 A lot of people were indulging to do evil. They coveted in money and lied. They misled people with wrong teachings. They were lazy gluttons like evil brutes. They had to be silenced. Haman was arrogant and boastful. He did evil and was self-deceiving. When the king ordered, his mouth was silenced. He could not help but obeyed to exalt Mordecai.

2.【Hurry away to the banquet】12-14 Haman was ashamed with grief and went home. He told everything to his trusted aide. They also acknowledged his downfall had started before Mordecai. Meanwhile, the king hurried Haman away to the banquet of Esther to announce his doomsday had come. He had come to ruin momentarily.

※【Rebuke the evil way sharply】13-16 Paul earnestly charged Titus to rebuke the Cretans sharply and not to pay attention to Jewish myths. They had to remove the impurities of their conscience and be sound in the faith. These people were like Haman who spoke and acted differently. They were detestable and disobedient. They were shameful and came to ruin and forever unfit for doing anything good. Paul and Esther deeply understood Haman’s nature of doing evil and leading others astray. They set the banquet filled with power and wisdom. They attacked the crucial point of the enemy and enhanced the destruction of the wicked. The fact testified the enemy would finally come to ruin before the Jews.

**Isa 11 / Rev 21:20 Main theme: Take root in the Lord to become precious stones and save all people with one heart**

**-Inquire of the origin / Precious stones**

God’s children who keep the Lord’s Word in various tribulations will become precious stones just like Hushai and the daughter of Jephthah. They will send out the radiance of sacrificing red. They are holy like beryl and noble as amethyst.

(1)【Take root in the Lord】1-9 After we have accepted the Lord, we ought to obey the Lord’s words and act and take root in Him. So we have the presence of the Lord to be filled with the Spirit and to see thoroughly with the spiritual eyes and change our life. We will then be humble and tender like a baby at the breast but full of power to pray and preach the Word and to attack the evil of the world. God’s will on these people is unimpeded to revive the whole land.

(2)【Redeem the captives and all people are favored】10-16 The Lord’s Word is exalted and the exiles have returned to have partnership in the gospel. so all people are favored.

**Central point of the wheels: Unite with the Lord, keep the Word in a godly way and will gain the honor**

Dear Lord, may You let me be godly to keep your Word, be pure and blameless, be thoroughly humble to wait to enjoy your honor together!

**Est 7 / Tit 2**

**Main theme: Point out the adversary, expound on salvation, destroy the enemy and obey the Word**

**- Request to the point / Expound on**

Golden verses: Est 7:3, Tit 2:12-14

A discussion on requesting to the point and expounding – on one side it concerned that on the second time Esther invited Haman to escort the king to the banquet, she pointed out Haman was the adversary of herself and the whole tribe of Judah. In his rage, the king gave Haman his retribution and he was hanged and died. On the other side it concerned Paul exhorted Titus to expound on salvation, persuade men to turn from evil and do good and to lead a godly life. Esther requested to the point and Titus’ good acts and kind words ought to be our lesson. Our old self is just like Haman, that is the adversary, the vile man, the enemy and must be nailed together with the Lord on the cross. Then we may be favored and be sanctified to do good zealously.

**A. Request to the point, be good at persuasion and the adversary will be terrified**

Implore fervently (Est 7:1-6) – Persuade men (Tit 2:1-10)

1.【Implore fervently for one’s tribe】1-4 The king brought Haman for the second time to the banquet of Esther. What Esther petitioned to the king was not half the kingdom but to spare her life and the life of her people because they were sold for destruction and slaughter and annihilation.

※【The pure Word persuades men】1-6 The request of Paul was the whole church be favored and sanctified. Therefore he exhorted Titus to use sound doctrine to teach the old and young, male and female so they might be godly, self-controlled and holy and not to be the slave of evil. The purpose of his request was the same as Esther’s. On one side was the love for her people while the other side was the love for the church. No matter it was intercession or exhortation, they were according to God’s sound doctrine lest His Word was slandered to become a loss which could not be remedied. If Esther and her people were annihilated, the loss of the king could not be measured!

2.【Request to the point and the adversary is terrified】5-6 Esther’s request before the king was abomination and she targeted to remove Haman the enemy of the Jews. She boldly pointed to the king the enemy who dared to do such was ‘the vile Haman!’ Thus Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. He had nowhere to hide himself!

※【Show the good acts and the enemy is disgraced】7-10 Again Paul exhorted Titus to set an example by doing what was good in everything and be pure in words and teachings which could not be condemned so that those who opposed him might be silenced and ashamed. He exhorted that slaves had to be obedient and be fully trusted, so that in every way they would make the teaching of God attractive. Then they had their witness. Esther was the faithful servant of God. She targeted at Haman and had shown her example of good work. On one side was power to request to destroy the enemy and the other side was the good act to make the enemy shameful. Haman was presumptuous and against God. He was crafty and wanton. He cheated the king for his trust and was finally destroyed in shame.

**B. Nail the old self to death, be redeemed by the Lord and do good zealously**

Destroy the enemy (Est 7:7-10) – Do good (Tit 2:11-15)

1.【Is not contrite and struggle vainly】7-8 Haman’s character was greatly exposed. He saw the king’s anger and he would be condemned. So in his terror he sought the mercy and forgiveness of the queen. He did not repent and he struggled in vain. When the king saw Haman fell on the couch of the queen, he was further furious and determined to kill him.

※【Remove the worldly things and glory appears】11-13 The grace of God that brought salvation had appeared to all men. This teaches us we ought to remove all the worldly desire and be self-controlled, righteous and godly to live in this present age and to wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of Christ. Haman was the old self in our flesh. If we do not humble to be contrite, all struggles are in vain. Therefore we have to put Haman to death and reject the secular, and then we may live our life in a godly manner.

2.【The king decrees and the adversary is avenged】9-10 The king knew that Haman had erected a seventy five feet gallows for Mordecai who had saved him. So he ordered that Haman be hanged as the evil ought to be punished. Thus they hanged Haman and the king’s fury subsided.

※【Be redeemed from wickedness】14-15 Christ is the King of the kings and He still denied Himself for us. He redeems all our sins like the power of Haman so we are His every own. We too ought to nail our old self and be zealous to do good so we may be delighted by the Lord. Paul urged Titus not only to teach the truth but also to use authority to rebuke. He had to first nail his flesh and then he might lead others from evil to do good. Both Esther and Titus were young people, but they did not let others belittle them. They did not fail the assignment of Mordecai and Paul.

**Isa 12 / Rev 21:21 Main theme: Refined to be gates of pearls and pure gold street and lead all people to exalt the Lord**

**-Be refined / Proclaim extensively**

(1)【Be thoroughly bitter and refined】1-2 Endure every possible trials and be strengthened by the Lord, and then we may turn from evil to do good and experience the perfect salvation to be refined to become pure gold and pearls like Joseph who was released from the prison and comforted by God.

(2)【Lead all people to the Lord】3-6 If we have experienced the greatest salvation, then we may lead men completely to the Lord’s fountain of living water. Lead men to be grateful, preach His salvation to all the world and exalt the Lord as the greatest!

**Central point of the wheels: Plead to destroy the adversary, proclaim salvation, die to the old self and become a treasure**

Dear Lord, may You let me hate what You hate, intercede and persuade for all, die completely to my old self, do good zealously and lead a godly life.

**Est 8 / Tit 3**

**Main theme: Overcome and be abundant, intercede sorrowfully and proclaim salvation quickly**

**-Implore fervently / Proclaim quickly**

Golden verses: Est 8:16-17, Tit 3:5, 14

A discussion on imploring fervently and proclaiming quickly – on one side it concerned that Esther and Mordecai were not contented with all the property and power of Haman. They continued to intercede for the fate of their tribe so that the king might decree to remove the evil plot of Haman and deliverance might be proclaimed to all provinces of Judah. On the other side it concerned Paul was imperative for the Word. He quickly proclaimed salvation and encouraged Titus to expound on salvation, to lead men to be sanctified and do good and do his best to obey God’s will to work.

**A. Implore sorrowfully, nullify the adversary’s plot and stress on teaching the salvation**

Implore fervently (Est 8:1-8) – Stress on (Tit 3:1-8)

1.【Is given abundance and power】1-2 Haman stole the authority and gained power for a while. By the blink of an eye he was hanged and lost everything. The king ordered that his estate be given to Esther the queen. The signet ring was reclaimed from Haman and given to Mordecai for Esther had told the king that Mordecai was her adopted father.

※【Submit to God’s authority and always do good】1-2 All authority has been established by God. (Ro 13:1) We ought to be subject to authorities and be ready to do whatever is good. We ought to show true humility toward all men without slandering and be peaceable. Haman contended for power and benefit. He slandered presumptuously and harmed others. As a result, everything turned to nothing by the blink of an eye. Esther and Mordecai showed true humility and were peaceful. They endured all the persecution and finally gained abundance and authority. Our old self must be nailed to death, and then we may enjoy the abundance, do good and have authority!

2.【Intercede sorrowfully to nullify the adversary’s plot】3-6 Esther and Mordecai were not satisfied by the family and authority. They cared for the life of their people. “How can I bear to see disaster fall on my people?....” Esther again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She requested the king to overrule the evil plot to destroy the Jews.

※【Remember the Lord’s grace firmly and be renewed】3-6 At one time we were under the authority of Satan just like the Jews were under the power of Haman waiting for death. How foolish, disobedient and deceived were we. We lived in malice, envy and hated one another. But when the unfailing love of God appeared, we are saved through Christ and renewed by the Holy Spirit. Therefore we ought to bear the mind of God to intercede for our siblings to be redeemed. We ought to plead for the Holy Spirit promised by God to pour on us generously so all people will be revived and the enemy’s plot will be destroyed.

3.【By the king’s decree, implore whatever seems best】7-8 Esther pleaded earnestly and was granted by the king not only to hang Haman the enemy on the gallows and Haman’s estate was given to Esther. The king also agreed with Esther and Mordecai to write another decree in the king’s name to the Jews and seal it with the king’s signet ring. If we ask anything according to God’s will, we will be granted. (1 Jn 5:14-15)

※【Stress on salvation】7-8 Paul encouraged Titus to stress the perfect salvation of Christ including the justification, the sanctification and the redemption so those who were favored to believe might be careful to devote themselves to doing what was good to glorify God and benefit men. The Lord promised to give us the key of heaven so we may plead according to the will of God, be powerful in prayer and be sealed by the Holy Spirit like Esther and Mordecai might plead in the king’s name. (Mt 16:19) We will not only be the Lord’s faithful servant to stress salvation, we will also be prayer warriors full of power!

**B. Turn from arguments, proclaim salvation quickly and overcome with rejoice**

Proclaim quickly (Est 8:9-17) – Come quickly (Tit 3:9-15)

1.【Dispatch the good news quickly】9-14 Mordecai wrote the dispatches in the name of the king and ordered they be written in the language of each province and sent immediately to all the provinces of the nation. The Jews were granted the right to assemble and protect themselves, to destroy, kill and annihilate any armed force of any nationality or province that might attack them on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month. The couriers were spurred on by the king to act quickly.

※【Do your best to work】9-15 In the letter Paul encouraged Titus to avoid foolish controversies and quarrels. He had to warn those divisive persons. Paul was fervent for the Word and wanted Titus to rush to see him. He also ordered him to help the co-workers on their way so they might have everything they needed. He also encouraged all of them to devote themselves to doing what was good, lest they might live unproductive lives. Mordecai was fervent for the Jews and he ordered the Jews to pass on the good news quickly.

2.【Overcome with rejoice】15-17 Mordecai was exalted and second in rank to the king. He put on royal garments and a large crown of gold. He became the blessing of all his tribe. The Jews had honor and were greatly blessed. The king’s edict reached the Jews of the provinces and they were glad. They overcame and rejoiced with feasting and celebrating. Many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them. God’s name was greatly exalted. (Isa 44:5)

※【Greet one another】9-15 Paul finally greeted Titus on behalf of those around him and he also greeted those who loved him in the faith. Mordecai became second in rank after the king. Paul was the apostle of Christ. They both brought triumphant rejoice to God’s children and the grace and peace in Christ.

**Isa 13 / Rev 21:22 Main theme: Turn from evil, believe and obey the Lord’s words and dwell in Him forever**

**-Die to the world / Dwell in the Lord**

The prophet prophesied that the punishment for Babylon is near. God’s children ought to escape from Babylon and obey the Word by the blood and through the Holy Spirit so they may dwell in the Lord to avoid disasters and gain blessings.

(1)【God and the Lamb are its temple】Rev 21:22 Whoever has the Lord’s commands and obeys them, he will dwell in the Almighty God and the Lamb. If he takes root and builds up in Him and presses on toward the goal, he will gain abundant and more abundant life. He will be transformed in the Word, in the Spirit and in love to follow the Lamb closely. He will be submissive and obedient, denies himself to save men and have great joy and peace.

(2)【There is hardship in the world】1-22 God’s children do not be led astray by this evil world (Babylon). Total destruction will come by the blink of the eye from the Almighty One to the whole land. God will punish her with great wrath and subdue the arrogance of the men of violence. The holy people ought to trust in the Lord’s redemption of the cross and to escape from evil completely and to die thoroughly to the world forever (Gal 6:14-15) lest they will have the result of Lot.

**Central point of the wheels: Implore fervently and proclaim quickly, turn from evil and do good and dwell in the Lord forever**

Dear Lord, may You let me not be contented with abundance, but implore for the redemption of the people, to overcome with rejoice and exhibit your glory!

**Est 9 / Phm 1**

**Main theme: Destroy the remaining enemies completely, remember the Lord’s grace forever and be forgiving and love men**

**-Destroy evil / Forgive**

Golden verses: Est 9:28, Phm 1:11-12

A discussion on destroying evil and forgiving – on one side it concerned that whichever Judah provinces received the edict from the king, the Jews were relieved from the enemy and even overpowered them and killed them. Esther continued to plead the king to destroy the remaining adversary. Thus the Jews enjoyed the peace and forever remembered the days of Purim when they were delivered. On the other side it concerned the imprisoned Paul pleaded the forgiveness of Philimon for Onesimus who became the son of Paul while he was in jail. He requested Philimon to welcome a repenting slave. This teaches us on one side to be resolute to destroy the enemies, on the other side we ought to forgive a sinning slave.

**A. Implore to destroy the remaining evil, intercede with love and restore the sinning slave**

Destroy evil (Est 9:1-16) – Intercede (Phm 1:1-12)

1.【A great victory】1-10 Esther risked death to go against the law to the king. She paid the pleading price so the Jews were able to turn danger to safety and failure to victory. The Jews whom the king’s edict reached, rose in boldness to kill the enemies. Mordecai was prominent in the palace. All the nobles of the provinces feared and helped the Jews. In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. They also killed the ten sons of Haman. God’s people had a great victory.

※【Is greatly comforted】1-7 Paul suffered and was in prison to save thousands of sinners from the bondage of sins to be saved. Esther and Mordecai humbled and were exalted so the Jews had peace and rescue. Paul thanks God for Philemon’s faith, love and good work. And because of his love, Paul was greatly comforted and joyful. The Jews were also full of comfort due to the love and good work of Esther and Mordecai.

2.【Continue to plead to destroy the remaining enemies】11-16 God made the heart of the king to be turned for the good of His people. The king asked Esther what was her petition and it would be given her. Esther considered the mind of God. She pleaded deeply and thoroughly and did not stop to petition. She asked the king to let her hang Haman’s ten sons on gallows and exposed them to the public and to allow the Jews of the citadel of Susa to continue to destroy the enemies so they might completely turn from the enemies to enjoy peace.

※【Plead for a favor with love】8-12 Through Paul’s intercession of love, God led many be favored. Now he would not let go even a slave of sin. He deliberately wrote a letter to Philemon for Onesimus whom Paul had conceived when he was in prison. He asked favor on his behalf. Though Paul was an apostle of Christ, he did not use his authority. He rather humbled and interceded by love. He witnessed Onesimus was formerly useless to his master, but now he had become useful to both his master and Paul. He had become his very heart. For this he sent him back to his master. Esther continued to intercede for her kinsmen before the king. She was also full of God’s love just like Paul was self-denying, faithful and he loved men with great zeal.

**B. Remember God’s grace forever, forgive and love men, sorrow turn into joy**

Do not be ungrateful (Est 9:17-32) – Forgive men (Phm 1:13-25)

1.【Sorrow turn into joy and everyone enjoys God’s grace】17-25 After the Jews had destroyed the enemies, they feasted and rejoiced on the next day. They gave thanks and praised. They gave presents to each other and gifts to the poor. They enjoyed God’s grace together. The fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar became their days of celebration to turn their sorrow into joy and their mourning into celebration. They obeyed Mordecai’s order to continue the celebration.

※【No longer be a slave, as dear as a brother】13-20 Paul testified Onesimus had repented and was favored. He was no longer a slave but a dear brother. He was separated for a little while so he might have him back for good. Therefore he asked Philemon to ‘welcome him as he would welcome me!’ Paul was willing to pay whatever Onesimus owed him. Though Paul wanted to let him stay, he did not want to force Philemon. He honored others in every situation more than himself. Paul was confident his own writing would make Philemon turn sorrow into joy, mourning into celebration due to Onesimus. It also pleased the heart of Paul. On one side was sharing God’s grace after destroying the enemies. On the other side was sharing happiness after gaining a person.

2.【Will never forget God’s grace】26-32 The Jews had escaped from the bondage of the enemies and named these two days as days of Purim. They would celebrate this every year without forgetting. Esther and Mordecai wrote the second letter with full authority and words of goodwill and assurance. They strongly charged the Jews to celebrate these days of Purim to remember God’s grace forever. They fasted and lamented and were guarded forever in God’s love.

※【Will surely forgive and welcome】21-25 Paul also used words of goodwill and assurance to plead Philemon to love and forgive Onesimus who owed and wronged him. Paul was confident of his obedience and agreed to his request and would do even more than he asked. The Jews also held firm to the charge of Esther and Mordecai. They remembered the days of Purim for generations. They did not fail the hope and request of God and men.

**Isa 14 / Rev 21:23 Main theme: Return after tribulation, obey the Lord’s words only and the enemies will be shattered**

**-The devil’s light / The Lord’s light**

Through tribulation and return, then we may understand the suffering for not fearing God is great! We then come to understand only the Lord is the true light. We ought to obey His words and act and value His words as great.

(1)【Return after captivation and serve the Lord humbly】1-2, 32 Through hardship return to the Lord with all your heart, and all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind. Then God will show mercy and grace. Your enemies will become a footstool for your feet. Therefore we ought to keep the covenant in trembling, run into the Lord and serve Him humbly.

(2)【God is determined to destroy all the enemies】3-31 God raised Babylon to cut and edify His children. But they thought they were wise, as wise as a god. They radiated the light of the devil to lead the nations astray. Though they shook the earth, God was determined to destroy them. So they were destroyed completely by the blink of the eye. God would save His oppressed people from the heavy yoke and oppression.

**Central point of the wheels: Forgive with love, destroy evil and revive, the glorious light is shining everywhere**

Dear Lord, may You let me understand your mind, be faithful to intercede and gain men with love so your glorious light will shine everywhere and revival may come!

**Est 10 / Heb 1**

**Main theme: Obey the Lord’s command firmly, intercede and proclaim the Word, forever be exalted**

**-Be righteous / Be exalted**

Golden verses: Est 10:3, Heb 1:3

A discussion on righteousness and being exalted – on one side it concerned King Xerxes, the Persian king exalted Mordecai the Jew so he was raised to be the second in rank to the king. He worked for the good of his people. On the other side it concerned God’s son Jesus Christ humbled till the end. He denied Himself and shed His blood. Thus He was exalted by God and sat by His right to intercede for the sinners. He waited for the enemies to be His footstool. This teaches us we ought to pursue righteousness, humility, self-denial, love men, proclaim the Word and intercede all our lives to glorify God and benefit men!

**A. Christ is the King and far exceeds everything, He is worthy of our worship**

Govern men (Est 10:1) – Deliver men (Heb 1:1-5)

1.【The worldly king】1 King Xerxes ruled over 127 provinces of Media and Persia. His power and the greatness of his territory were prominent for a time. The people throughout the empire and its distant shores paid tribute to him.

※【Christ is the King】1-5 Christ whom God prophesied through the prophets is the Son of God and the King of the kings. He did not only create all things, He is heir to all things and He rules over all things. He sustains all things by His powerful word. Christ is the King and He is superior to all. He is the ruler of the kings of the earth. (Rev 1:5) His name is much superior to the angels. We ought to all the more prostrate and worship, to serve Him in a holy and righteous manner and wait for His glorious coming.

2.【Establish the kingdom by violence】1 The kingdom of Persia was prosperous and wealthy and dominated for a while (Dan 11:2) just like the Chaldeans. They built the kingdom with bloodshed and established their towns by crime. (Hab 2:12) They were violent and adulterous. They were finally corrupted.

※【Deny Himself to save men】1-5 Christ is the Son of God. He is the radiance of the glory and the exact representation of His being. Worldly kings build their kingdom with violence and bloodshed. But Christ denied His life and shed His blood to redeem us from the darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son. He cleanses the sins of men and sits on the right side of God.

**B. The lowly will be raised, be righteous and hate evil**

Exalt (Est 10:2) – Be righteous (Heb 1:6-9)

1.【Authority and power will turn to nothing in an instant】2 All the great achievements done by King Xerxes through his power and strength were written in the history of Media and Persia. But this turned to nothing by the blink of an eye. Generations come and generations go. Everything is worthless and there is nothing new under the sun. (Ecc 1:9-11)

※【God’s throne is everlasting】6-9 There is a limit on the earthly authority and strength. Finally it comes to nothing except the throne of Christ is forever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of His kingdom. His kingdom is never destroyed. (Dan 7:27) God’s angels worship Him.

2.【Be humble, unyielding and be exalted】2 King Xerxes raised Mordecai so he was exalted. This was also written in the book of annals of the kings of Media and Persia. The witness of Mordecai done for the only God in the palace of a foreign nation was also passed on to generations. He was faithful and unyielding before Haman the evil man. He kept God’s commands without kneeling down or paying any honor. He also suffered the persecution and was willing to humble. When the time came he was exalted. He overcame completely and rescued the fate of the Jews with Esther the queen.

※【Humbled, denied His life and is exalted】6-9 The scepter of Christ never corrupts. He loves righteousness and hates evil. (Ps 89:14) God anoints Him with the oil of joy. Mordecai was also righteous and hated sin. He was unwilling to kneel before the wicked Haman. He was not perfunctory. Thus God exalted him. Christ was also exalted in this way so His name is above every name.

**C. Deny himself for his people, proclaim the Word and intercede, and the angels work for the good of it**

For the people (Est 10:3) – Work for the good of it (Heb 1:10-14)

1.【Be the prime minister to accomplish God’s will】3 Mordecai was originally a Jewish exile. He was not only exalted by the king, he was second in rank to the king and accomplished the will of God. This shows that God hides Himself. He will save His people in the secret. The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men. (Dan 4:17)

※【Heaven and earth are renewed for God’s will】10-14 “The Lord does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.” (Ps 135:6) He created heaven and earth and He renews heaven and earth. He will roll them up like a robe and prepare the new heavens and the new earth to accomplish His plan of salvation. Mordecai was second in rank to the king. He was preeminent among the Jews and held in high esteem by his fellow Jews. This was another heaven and earth given to the people of God so they were saved in danger and be prepared to welcome Christ to the earth. Joseph, Daniel and Mordecai were willing to humble in their suffering. They kept the commands firmly and were faithful to God’s will. They were exalted by God and ranked high in the foreign kingdoms to glorify God.

2.【Work for the good of his people】3 Mordecai was second in rank to the king. He denied himself for the people. He worked for the good of his tribe and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews so they might be guarded by God in the land of exile.

※【The angels work for the good of it and the enemies become the footstool】10-14 All angels are ministering spirits to serve those who will inherit salvation. Only Christ sits on the right hand of God to be the mediator to intercede. He waits for the enemy to be a footstool for His feet. The foreign king worked for the good of God’s people so Haman was hanged. All the enemies became the footstool. Mordecai was second in rank to the king and still interceded for the people to speak up for their welfare.

**Isa 15 / Rev 21:24 Main theme: Consecrate and be refined to gain the glory; be hypocritical will lose the glory**

**-Lose the glory / Gain the glory**

(1)【The holy city is refined and shines】Rev 21:24 The Lord overcomes all sorts of trials and dawns with a great light to shine on the those in the dark. The holy city is refined and shines so the nations may be blessed like Joseph was released from the prison to shine full of glory.

(2)【Hear the Lord’s words but do not act accordingly】1-9 Moab was the eldest daughter of Lot. Her foundation was not right like the descendants born by the father. They heard the Lord’s words but did not act on them. They built their houses on the sand. They walked the broad path and wanted men to see them. They were outwardly spiritual but inwardly filled with evil and dross. Therefore they turned to desolation momentarily and came to a wailing and tragic result. If they do not repent, God will increase their disasters.

**Central point of the wheels: Be righteous and hate evil, deny yourself for the people and be refined to shine**

Dear Lord, may You make me love righteousness and hate evil, to consider your mind, to intercede for the people, to proclaim the Word and save men till You come again!