

## ***The Fear of God Part 3***

### ***In Building Godly Families and God's Church***

In this message we will continue to tackle examples from the Scripture of men and women who feared God and their God's fearing attitude that had aided them to build their families, protect God's church and worked with God to promote His Kingdom. From those Scriptures we will also learn principles that will guide us to initiate the fear of God in the life of the people around us and under our care.

***5. Esther built God's church, while Zerish wanted to destroy it:*** Zerish was the wife of Haman who in his rage against Mordecai, arranged a conspiracy against all the Jewish; with the King Ahasuerus approval and support, that all the Jews to be annihilated on the thirteen of the twelve month. In hearing that all the Jewish started to fast and finally Esther was motivated to go to the King to request him to intervene to save her life and to save the Jewish people as we read here the story how she was challenged by Mordecai to stand with God to defend His people: ***"1 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry; 2 And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. 3 And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes. 4 So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not. 5 Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was. 6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate. 7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. 8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people. 9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai. 10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai; 11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days. 12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words. 13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. 14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? 15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, 16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. 17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him."*** (Esther 4:1-17 KJV) The story here of Esther when she at first

refused the request is like many Christians now a day who are with the same wrong attitude as with what Esther behaved. Esther at first when she heard that Mordecai was in sackcloth she sent him clothes to change so he can come into the king's gate. But he refused the clothes and he sent message to Esther requesting her to go and make supplication to the king to do something to spare their lives. At first Esther refused because she did not want her life to be at risk. After she got married, married to the king, living in Palace with all the rest of the privileges she did not want to lose her life and all those things that she was enjoying, the food, the dress, the maids, the fame, the peace and the easy life. She knew Mordecai was fasting, because she lived with him, and he was the one who took care of her, and she knew that wearing sackcloth means he was fasting, and sent him clothes because she don't want to fast. **Many Christians now a day they live without fasting, but feasting along the way, enjoying life and parties, and keeping aside the battles of the Lord that needs prayer and fasting. Don't be among such who after God bless them, and they received good things and what they wanted they moved away with their life, their career, their plans; they want to enjoy their life; they leave the church and the ministry; they leave the life of prayer and fasting and they leave the ministry; busy with their own lives, leaving behind the work of God, and caring only for themselves and not aware that the devil had slaved many people who need their help for deliverance.** In their lives there is selfishness and no fear of God, that is why Mordecai when he saw Esther wanted to pull out herself he sent her a rebuke and warning, ***"Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. 14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"*** That rebuked shocked her, and I pray that the message is a rebuke and a warning to everyone who hear the message and come across it. I pray that you will wake up from your sleep and selfishness and be aware of what God wants from you. \* **Don't think that you are in a safe place when you refuse to get involved in the work of God and go into the battle field to do the work of God, you will end up in hell and disgrace because you refused to serve God and do His will. \* Also don't think that the work of God will stop without you, God will bring His deliverance and salvation to others by another way and you and those who stand with you will be in disgrace.**

Esther feared God when she was challenged by Mordecai when he sent her this message: Esther responded to the instruction of Mordecai the person who adopted her, and the warning that he sent her from the Word of God. **Do the same and respond to the message of God that you are hearing today.** Esther with her maids fasted and on the third day she took the risk and entered into the presence of the king. God was with her and she received favor from the king and her life was spared as we read here: ***"1 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house. 2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. 3 Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom. 4 And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him. 5 Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. 6 And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy***

*request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed. 7 Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is; 8 If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.” (Esther 5:1-8 KJV)* I pray that as Esther responded you too who listen will respond to the call of God to you and start to do the work that he is asking you to do.

As we read that Esther invited the King Ahasuerus and Haman to a banquet, and when they attended she invited them a second time. After the first invitation Haman went home happy thinking that he was honored, but he was upset because Mordecai again did not pay him homage. *“9 Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.” (Esther 5:9 KJV)* We should be like Mordecai we should not bow down to people who want us to do wrong things against God and His Word, trusting Him that He will protect us.

Let us continue to read: *“10 Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife. 11 And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. 12 Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king. 13 Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate. 14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased\* Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.” (Esther 5:10-14)* You see here the wicked woman Zeresh how she pushed her husband further to harm Mordecai who was part of God’s church and one of the main leaders.

But on the second day God intervened through the power of prayer and fasting; as we know that all the people were fasting and crying to God. On the second day King Ahasuerus honored Mordecai for a great service that he performed in the past by Mordecai in saving the life of the King. And the King requested Haman to perform the honor for Mordecai. Let us read how this took place: *“1 On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. 2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. 3 And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him. 4 And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. 5 And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in. 6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself? 7 And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, 8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is*

*set upon his head: 9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour. 10 Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken. 11 Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.” (Esther 6:1-11)* Haman with what had happened he was put to shame. God will continue to protect us and do things for our behalf and reward us in His time and in His way as we see what God did here.

*“12 And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered. 13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him. 14 And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hasted to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.” (Esther 6:12-14 KJV)* What had happened and the comments that Haman received from his friends and his wife Zeresh was a warning statement. But they were not repenting when they commented on that.

Finally Haman was hanged on that same day on the same gallows that he prepared for Mordecai. Esther was the woman who fear God and intervened at the right time to save the people of God, His church. *“1 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. 2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom. 3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: 4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage. 5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? 6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. 7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king. 8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. 9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon. 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.” (Esther 7:1-10 KJV)* You see here the power of prayer and fasting, and you see also the woman who fears God how in the place that God had put her she can do great things to God. Even you today my Brothers and



Sisters in any place God had placed you as you fear God you can make great difference to defend the work of God, to protect His church and to promote the Kingdom of God.

Esther further appealed to the King again to issue another letter to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which were in all the king's provinces. The King agreed about that, and he said to Mordecai, ***“8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse. 9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language. 10 And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries: 11 Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey, 12 Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.”*** (Esther 8:8-12 KJV) The King could not cancel his first letter that he issued for Haman, but he in this letter gave permission to the Jews, ***“to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them”***. So the Jewish were not to attack but only to defend themselves if they were assaulted by the group of Haman. **In the same way we need to do our part to protect ourselves from those who are evil doers but we should not harm them or attack them.** So if Haman group including his wife and children will not attack, the Jewish would not attack them. But on that particular day the group of Haman including his ten sons attacked the Jewish, ***“1 Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)*** 2 The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people. 3 And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. 4 For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater. 5 Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them. 6 And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men. 7 And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha, 8 And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha, 9 And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha, 10 The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand.” (Esther 9:1-10 KJV) Zeresh even after the death of her husband she still wanted to revenge and to destroy the Jewish and God's church. **People who do not fear God will not be mindful if God's church got harmed but people who feared God they will do their best to bear persecution in order to protect God's church and the ministries of God as Mordecai and Esther did.**

***“30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.”*** (Proverbs 31:30-31 KJV) Praises are given to women like Esther and those who raise them as Mordecai in the fear of God. **Men and women who fear God are much needed now in the life of the families, in the life of the church and in the life of the ministries of God.**

***My dear and beloved:*** Men and women should fear God and obey Him, and their expression of this fear of God and their faith on Him, when both of them as parents train their children to bruise the head of Satan and to let the work of the devil cease in their lives. That ultimately their children will raise up in the fear of God to go on forward doing and leading the work of God as Mordecai and Esther did.

Therefore: \* It is so important requirement for Godly marriage is that men and women fear God. Because the purpose of marriage is to raise up children who fear God who would ultimately build God's church. \* If you are single and looking to have a family then you need to put in your mind to marry someone who fears God.

Now come to the Lord and commit yourself once again to the work of God and to serve Him. Fear God and commit yourself once again to do all what you can to protect His church and the ministries from the work of the evil one. Commit yourself once again to a life of prayer and fasting. Commit yourself once again to go and preach the gospel and to combat the work of the devil and to help those people who are enslaved to the power of darkness.

Let us pray . . . .

***My Prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that showed me the importance of the fear of yours in the life of your church and the workers who are serving you.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of you worldliness, carelessness towards God's work, and lack of commitment, and your selfishness. Repent of your carelessness to discipline your children, and in teaching them the Word of God and to live their lives for Him and to fear Him in every move and decision they make. Lord I confess and repent from the following sins

\_\_\_\_\_.  
Lord I commit myself to what I learned from your message, to fear you and to do my part to protect your work and your church from the work of the enemies. Lord I commit myself to the principle of prayer and fasting that I learned from the message. Lord I commit myself to raise up my children in the fear of yours, that they will serve you and live their lives to you. Lord give me courage and boldness to go through persecution and the difficult situations that you allow my family and your church to pass through.

Lord thank you for my brethren and my sisters who repented of their sins and committed their lives to live in the fear of you and to continue to serve you. Lord I pray for them to give them discernment so they can recognize the enemies of yours. Lord protect them and give them the

*courage to continue to persevere in your work. Lord provide for them so they will continue to serve you.*

*Lord I pray that you will bless us as a church and let the fear of yours be upon the workers and the church members that each and everyone will do your will. Lord refills us with your Holy Spirit and gives us the Spiritual gifts that we need to go on and serve you. Lord enable us to evangelize and to spread your Word. Lord help us to make new disciples and to train others to serve you to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

The Fear of God Part 3. In Building Godly Families and God's Church. Esther 4:1-17. Esther 5:1-14. Esther 6:1-14. Esther 7:1-10. Esther 8:8-12. Esther 9:1-10. Proverbs 31:30-31.

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