

The Providence of God

(The Book of Esther)

Sunday evening, June 5th

God in His providence controls the lives of the unsaved (Proverbs 21:1). The Book of Esther illustrates this truth.

I. God Has Been Rejected By The Unsaved

A. In Ezra and Nehemiah God is obeyed.

In Ezra and Nehemiah there is prayer to God, praise to God, confession of sin to God, The Word of God is read and preached, there is singing to God, attendance at His house, sacrifices made to God.

B. In Esther, God's name is not mentioned.

The Book of Esther is essentially secular in nature. The Jews in Esther are living in disobedience according to Jeremiah 29:10.

II. God Is Still At Work In The Lives Of The Unsaved

God's name is not mentioned in Esther but His providence is seen on every page. They cannot see God but He sees them. God is fulfilling Dt 31:18.

A. God Providentially Exalts in 1:1-2:20

1. Vashti is divorced in chapter one.
2. Esther is discovered in chapter two. Esther is exalted to later deliver the Jews.

B. God Providentially Delays in 2:21-4:17

1. God delayed Mordecai's reward in 2:21-3:6.
2. God delayed the extermination date for the Jews in 3:7-15.

C. God Providentially Abases in chapters 5-7.

1. In chapter five Haman is exalting himself and at the same time unhappy because of one little slight.
2. In chapters six and seven Haman is abased.

D. God Providentially Delivers in chapters 8-10.

1. God saved the Jews physically from extermination in Esther (Genesis 12:3).
2. God will save the Jews spiritually in the future (Romans 11:26).