

Week 29
197/168

Transforming Daily
“ . . . *the enemy could never compensate . . .*”
Esther 7:4

Esther is another of my favorite Old Testament books. One of the outstanding features of this book is the absence of the mention of God's name. However, His presence in the lives of the characters in the book of Esther is very evident. The reason God's name is not mentioned and the mention of Him speaking to the children of Israel not recorded is that at this point in Israel's history, God is purposefully quiet. This is part of the postexilic period that God said would happen to Israel if they didn't repent and return to Him. They didn't repent and return to Him, so they lost their national identity until it was restored in 1948 A.D. The book of Esther falls in the time period which is called the 400 silent years.

Esther's uncle knew that the God of Israel was faithful and would not leave His remnant without hope. As God would have it, while His enemies were still trying to destroy and annihilate His people, He raised up Esther to defend the Jewish heritage. The way Esther did that was with her testimony on behalf of her God and her people. The enemy, as always true to form, sought to accuse Esther's uncle of treachery and deceit against the king of Persia. Without spoiling the storyline for those of you who have not read it, the plot by the antagonists fails and ultimately backfires. One of the lessons learned for the believer is that irrespective of the circumstances of life in which they live he or she is to get and remain steadfast in their belief according to the will and faithfulness of God.

The Psalmist reveals what this can mean in Psalms 1:3. He describes the steadfast believer as a tree planted by the rivers of water. In result, the tree is watered, nurtured, brings forth fruit, bears no withered leaves, and prospers. This is a picture of God's protection and provision on and in the life of the one who trusts Him and follows His instruction.

Are you steadfast in the instruction of God? Do you read His Word? Do you hear His voice from the pages of Scripture as it speaks to your heart and mind? As Esther told the king of Persia that their presence (Israelites) was a benefit to him and his kingdom, so to the Christian is to the community and government in which and under which he or she serves. So much so that the testimony of the benefit of the church to its local community, nation and general citizenry is that, by comparison, the enemy could never compensate.