

The Terre Haute **Speaker**

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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Esther

John Isaac Edwards

Hadassah, that is Esther (Esther 2:7), is the rising star of the Restoration Period. The book that bears her name finds God, through Esther, a Hebrew maiden who is made queen in Shushan the palace, keeping the seed line alive for the coming of His Son. Wonderful things stand out about Esther.

A Content Woman. Esther could have whatever she desired out of the house of the women, yet she required nothing but what the keeper of the women appointed (Esther 2:13, 15). What contentment! Many today want more than they can have and such is greed and covetousness (Colossians 3:5-6). We need to be satisfied with what God, the keeper of souls (1 Peter 4:19), has appointed us (1 Timothy 6:8; Hebrews 13:5).

A Virtuous Woman. This is implied in the language of Esther 2:17, “And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.” Wisdom writing records, “A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband” (Proverbs 12:4). Women of Esther’s character are a rare breed. “Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies” (Proverbs 31:10).

A Submissive Woman. Esther was an orphan girl, brought up by her father figure,

cousin Mordecai (Esther 2:5-7). Mordecai took Esther for his own daughter and Esther was a reverent, submissive young lady. This is seen as “Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him” (Esther 2:20). We need young men and young ladies today who recognize their role and fill their place (Ephesians 6:1-3).

A Sacrificial Woman. The self-sacrifice of Esther shines in the spotlight as she put her life on the line for the Lord’s people. Esther went before the king, uncalled, with the attitude, “If I perish, I perish” (Esther 4:11-16). Christians must possess this same sacrificial spirit as John said, “...we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16). Such is an expression of our love for God and the people of God.

An Influential Woman. The setting finds the Lord’s chosen people threatened by Haman, the Jew-hater as, “Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus” (Esther 3:6). Esther rose to the occasion as the curse was turned into a blessing (Esther 3:13; 9:5-6) and sorrow turned to joy (Esther 4:3; 8:16-17), through the influence of Queen Esther. As Esther, “...who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14). Hold not thy peace!

Be an Esther!

“As It Is Written”

John Isaac Edwards

One thing that stands out about the children out of captivity is the respect they had for the law of God. Six times in the restoration books of Ezra and Nehemiah it is said that the Lord’s people did “as it is written.” This concept needs to be imbedded in our hearts today.

The Old Testament Was a Pattern to Be Followed. The children out of captivity looked upon the law of Moses as a pattern to be followed. When they built the altar for burnt offerings, they built it “as it is written” (Ezra 3:2). When they kept the feast of tabernacles, to commemorate the booth-dwelling during the wilderness-wandering period, they kept the feast “as it is written” (Ezra 3:4; Nehemiah 8:15). When the Levites were set in place for the service of God, they were set “as it is written” (Ezra 6:18). The appeal of the people was to do all things “according to the law” (Ezra 10:3). They had been taught repeatedly to do as it is written, without adding to or taking away from the word of God (Deuteronomy 4:2). Great blessings were in store when they did as it is written, while severe consequences came as a result of not doing as it is written (Leviticus 26).

The New Testament Is a Pattern to Be Followed. Paul wrote, “...that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written...” (1 Corinthians 4:6). When we observe the Lord’s supper, we observe it as it is written (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). When it comes to the music that is used in worship unto God, the music must be as it is written (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). When we teach and preach, we must do so as it is written (2 Timothy 4:2). When we practice discipline, we must practice it as it is written (2 Thessalonians 3:6-15). When we marry, divorce and remarry, we must do so as it is written (Matthew 19:9). When we do the work of the Lord, we must do it as it is written (1 Corinthians 15:58). When it comes to the organization of the church, the organization must be as it is written (Philippians 1:1). Everything must be as it is written (Revelation 22:18-19). Is it your desire to just do as it is written?

Some today are wrestling with the issue, “Is the Bible a binding pattern to be followed?” As the children out of captivity recognized the Old Testament law as a pattern to be followed, we must look to the New Testament today as a pattern to be followed.

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***The Bible
Is Our
Only Guide!***