

A King and His Kingdom

welcome to the ekklesia fellowship
March 5, 2006

Spirit or Me

- **1 Thessalonians 5:23**
 - Wholeness!
- **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**
 - Inner & Outer man
 - How does the "inner man" get released?
- **Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17**
 - Only the Spirit can do the work of separating our inner and outer man.

Spirit or Me

Before giving Christ Lordship of our lives.

Spirit or Me

After giving Christ Lordship of our lives.

Spirit or Me

Those who resist the breaking work of the Spirit – **an unbroken WILL**

- I can do it!
- God needs me! (and will tell you all about it)
- They've got it all together!

Spirit or Me

Those who resist the breaking work of the Spirit – **unbroken EMOTIONS**

- Overly sensitive
- Easily offended or angered
- Shut down or blow up really quickly!

Spirit or M

Those who resist the breaking work of the Spirit – **unbroken dependence on the MIND**

- Very critical of others; judgmental
- Quick to speak; answers to everything, just ask!
- *Compare themselves to people constantly!*

Spirit or M

The Spirit begins the work of breaking us.
Why? Because we're too mixed to be of use (Matthew 12:3; 2 Corinthians 4:7)

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Spirit or M

What is the result of brokenness?
2 Corinthians 2:14 (Romans 8:28)

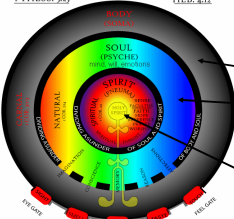
A King and His Kingdom

THE THREEFOLD NATURE OF MAN
1 THESS. 5:23 HEB. 4:12

- The book of Esther:
 - An accurate illustration of *our story*.
 - A picture of what God is doing in our hearts.
 - A story of a king and his kingdom.

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THE THREEFOLD NATURE
OF MAN
(1 THESS. 5:23) HEB. 4:12



The book of Esther

The **Empire** includes all that he *influences and touches*

Capital City: *Body*

Kingdom: *Soul* (mind, will, emotions)

King (seated upon the throne): *Will*

Queen: *Spirit* (This is the deepest and most sensitive part of our being, the part designed to be in touch with God, the place where God himself is to dwell.)

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1. Display of Glory – **Esther 1:4**

- This king (Hebrew: Ahasuerus; Greek: Xerxes), had nothing to do but to display the glory of his kingdom
 - This is a picture of man when he first appeared on earth
 - He had nothing to do but display the glory of God who indwelt him and to rule in dominion over the earth given to him.

2. The Fall (Reason over Revelation) – **1:10,11**

- This king lifted himself up in pride and tried to destroy his queen.
 - He tried to disgrace her by summoning her to display her beauty before the whole court.
 - He chose to assert his reason over the supremacy of revelation.

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3. The Spirit Leaves – **Esther 1:19**

- The king issued a decree that the queen was to be deposed from the throne.
 - This decree became the law of the Medes and the Persians and the king could do nothing about it once it was issued.
 - From then on he became a lonely king.
 - In his loneliness he began to search for a new queen.

4. Esther is chosen (the Spirit Received) – **2:7,9**

- Mordecai – the Holy Spirit – comes with her.
 - These two are the most important figures in the story.
 - Esther is controlled by Mordecai (little man)
 - Mordecai *instructs* Esther to not reveal that she is a Jew (v. 10)
- ◆ **Do you realize that you have the Holy Spirit with you?**

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5. The Enemy, Haman the Agagite – **Esther 3:1**

- Haman is a picture of the flesh.
 - An Agagite was an Amalekite, and Amalek was that race of people, descendants of Esau, against whom God had said he would make war forever. (Ex. 17:16).
 - "the flesh" always rises up to oppose the Spirit and do all it can in its subtle, clever, crafty way to hinder the work of God in us.
 - **Notice the delay in Haman's appearance – the flesh.**

6. The flesh is at war with the Spirit – **3:2**

- Mordecai is completely unimpressed with Haman.
 - **The Spirit is never impressed with the cleverness, craftiness, or brilliance of the flesh – never.**
 - Why did Haman hate Mordecai? Because he was different (v.8)

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7. The flesh's attempt to remain in power – **3:9 4**

- The story of this book is about the way God works to get the wrong man out of control and the right Man in.
 - Because the Jews are God's people, Haman is furious in his rage against them, and he concocts a terrible strategy.
 - **This man was very clever, just as the flesh within us is very clever in its strategy to keep us under bondage.**
 - The reason we have problems as Christians – especially after our new birth – is that the flesh subtly and cleverly opposes all that God attempts to do in our lives.
- Notice how Paul puts it in **Galatians 5:16,17!**
- Haman convinces the king to conduct genocide on the Jews.

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8. A kingdom in confusion – **3:15**

- Haman, then, becomes the power behind the throne. He controls the king – **the flesh in control!**
 - The king does what Haman wants him to do, and issues an edict to eliminate the Jews from all the kingdom.
 - **Just as in our lives the flesh continually strives to render inoperative the control of the Holy Spirit and to cause us to continually walk according to the old self-serving, self-loving, self-satisfying principles that prevail in the world around us.**
- When the king listens to Haman, his kingdom becomes a state of confusion.
 - How often is this a picture of us – unaware that in our utter folly we have done the very thing that will wreak havoc in our lives and put us entirely at the mercy of this deadly enemy within, the flesh.

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9. The Spirit grieved – 4:1
 - The minute we listen to our old man, the flesh, the Spirit if immediately grieved.
 - Notice that Esther (our spirit) doesn't know what to do (v. 4) so she sends a change of clothes.
 - How often do we "do something good" to counter listening to the flesh instead of the Spirit?
 - Mordecai instructs Esther to approach the king and to plead with him to not kill off the Jews. (4:9)
 - The delicate problem is to get the king to understand that Haman is not his friend.
 - For us – learning to really believe God when He tells us that the principles that characterize the flesh cannot produce life.
 - "the mind set on the flesh is death" Romans 8:6

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10. Esther approaches the king – 5:1
 - The king has to be told that the man to whom he is listening is not his friend, but a vicious enemy.
 - v. 4:11 – "You don't know what you are asking me to do. You are asking me to die."
 - There must be another way.
 - v.4:13 – do not try to deal with the flesh yourself!
 - Esther must learn that the only one who is capable of handling Haman is Mordecai and she must be willing to die to her own resources in order to handle this man.
 - Esther agrees to do it. "if I perish, I perish" (4:16)

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10. Esther approaches the king – 5:1
 - Esther presents herself uninvited to the king.
 - "on the third day"
 - The King sees her in the beauty of the resurrected life – on the day of resurrection, in power and glory – and his heart is captivated by her beauty.
 - v.2-3 He says to Queen Esther, "Ask anything you want. I will give it to you, up to half of my kingdom."

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11. Esther's unexpected request – 5:4
 - Esther doesn't ask for the obvious, Haman's head on a platter.
 - She asks that Haman and the king dine (v. 5)
 - She asks for it a second night (v. 8)
 - What is the significance of this?
 - Trust the Lord, don't try to figure out what He is doing!
12. The flesh is in the house! – 5:9
 - Haman was walking on air – not only was he the king's pet, he was also the queen's pet!
 - v. 9 – Mordecai remained completely unimpressed.
13. Kill him! – 5:14
 - Haman is so upset over Mordecai that he agrees to kill him.

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14. Saved by indigestion – 6:1
 - The king couldn't sleep, so he asks for the records to be read.
 - He soon discovers that Mordecai saved his life (v. 2)
 - And that he never rewarded or thanked him (v. 3)
 - Who is in the court?
 - Good old Haman! (v. 4)
 - The flesh is always there when you need it.
 - The king asks Haman how to reward someone who the king "desires to honor."
 - The flesh always knows who that is! (v. 6)
 - Go and do this for Mordecai. (v. 10)
 - But the important thing is, he does it. The flesh will do whatever is necessary to remain alive – even be religious. v11

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15. Order restored to the kingdom – 8:1
 - The plot revealed.
 - v. 7:6,7 – Esther reveals the truth about Haman
 - Now it's a serious issue to kill a prime minister, but that is exactly what had to be done to restore peace and order to the kingdom.
 - The king issues the order to hang Haman on the gallows built for Mordecai (v. 7:9)
 - And on that day, peace and order were restored to the kingdom.
 - Mordecai is now in the place of power.
 - This is the fullness of the Spirit.

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- **Romans 8:3-4**
 - “who walk not according to the flesh [Haman-minded] but according to the Spirit [Mordecai-minded].”
- Is your kingdom divided?
- Are you listening to the wrong person?
- Are there areas of your kingdom in which the flesh is the Prime Minister?