Esther and Mordecai

Lesson 12, 4th Quarter December 14-20, 2025

Sabbath Afternoon, December 16

Memory Text:

"And he said, It is a slight thing that thou shouldest be a servant to me: and to make up the breach of David, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth." KJV – Isaiah 49:6

"Under the Faise shown them by Cyrus, nearly fifty thousand Israelites had returned to their native land, Jerusalem and Judea, to rebuild the temple and the city. There, however, in comparison with the hundreds of thousands scattered throughout the Persian empire, they were but a mere remnant. The great majority of the Israelites had become so settled in the land of their exile that they undergo the hardships of the return journey and the establishment of the new colony in Palestine, they had no desire to do so.

"A score or more of years passed by, when a second decree, quite as favorable as the first, was issued by Darius Hystaspes, the monarch then ruling. Thus did God in mercy provide another opportunity for the Jews in the land of their captivity to return to their own land and to rebuild the city and temple of their ancestors. Many were there during the reign of Xerxes,—the Ahasuerus of the book of Esther,—who were very strongly urged by the prophets, in the hearts of men in authority, but also inspired Zechariah and Haggai to return to their native land. 1T 713

"It was still the Lord's purpose, as it had been from the beginning, that the Jews should be a peoples in the earth, to the glory of His name..." PK 559.2

Sunday, December 17

Captive in a Foreign Culture

Read Daniel 1:1-12, Daniel 5:11-12, and Daniel 6:1-9. However unique these situations, what do these accounts reveal about how God uses His people face living in a foreign culture?

"There was much involved in this decision, which would have a lasting influence upon the Hebrew nation. Daniel and his companions were placed in a crucial test. But they decided that any pretence, even to sit at the table of the king, would be a sin against God and a disgrace, even if they did not drink it, and eat the food of their religious rites. They knew that it was a very fine regale, but they must be, also they would corrupt their ways in Babylon, and they would be tempted to forget their obligations to God and their country. Their influences would remove their company, and they would dishonor God and cause the heathen to dishonor God. 1SM 122, 1897 CT 173.5

"Perhaps the trial of Christian loyalty should take every precaution against falling into error through association with the heathen. Daniel and his companions were placed in a crucial test. But they decided that any pretence, even to sit at the table of the king, would be a sin against God and a disgrace, even if they did not drink it, and eat the food of their religious rites. They knew that it was a very fine regale, but they must be, also they would corrupt their ways in Babylon, and they would be tempted to forget their obligations to God and their country. Their influences would remove their company, and they would dishonor God and cause the heathen to dishonor God. 1SM 122, 1897 CT 173.5

"Trials, precious, vital trials, are bound up with man's probation. Every day is the test day and in the evening the test is opening before us. Scarcely there through Thy truth and Thy grace, we are in the fire. The word of God is to be practiced. It will live and endure forever. While worldly wisdom, worldly policy, worldly ideas and greatness and purposes of men will perish like the grass, "they shall be as the fat of lambs; they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume, they shall be as smoke." Shall we be found wanting? Lift up your head. Lift up your head." Lift up your head." 2T 245.1

Monday, December 18

In a Foreign Court

Read Daniel 2:1-9. What do these verses teach us about the situation of Mordecai and Esther?

"There is little doubt that the king, when he afterward inquired concerning the dream, had forgotten the matter. He was in a state of mind that was not favorable to reflection. Esther Hiatice against Mordecai, a jew. Mordecai had done a good work in saving the life of the king, and the king had had a memorial, in the chronicles of his reign, in his honor, "Haman plotted to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai." Esther 3:6. PK 600.2

"Moved by the false statements of Haman, Xerxes was ready to listen to any proposition that was presented to him. He was "scattered among the people" and "perishing among the people in all the provinces" of the Medo-Persian Kingdom. Haman had taken advantage of this state of mind, and had were to be destroyed and their property confiscated. Little did the king realize that the decree against the Jews had been accompanied the complete carrying out of the decree would be the ruin of his own beloved queen, and would place the king himself in a position in which he would be compelled to see that the law he had made should be preserved the knowledge of the true God. PK 600.3

"The king in his blindness was about to do that which would bring ruin upon his own beloved queen and upon himself. Haman was a "wicked man." Xerxes was a man of various ways through which were to bring suffering to the Jews