



FALSE IMPRESSIONS

- The Esther of Hebrew Scripture is different than the Esther of films
- Mordechai's parenting plays insignificant role
- These impressions come from the stereotyped Greek additions



ONE MAN CAN MOVE A NATION



- Haman intended genocide on the Jews
- No statements indicating a prejudice of Persian kings or the general population against the Jews
- Seemed, however, to be an underlying ant-Semitism that went undetected
- Right person at the right time can bring down catastrophe on the Jews

ESTHER CHAPTER 8: GREEK ADDITIONS

- Essentially is the supposed text of the edict created by Mordechai and Esther
- Many problems with the Greek
- 1) 1st edict sent out in king's name, not Haman's
- 2) Haman not "hung" on city gates
- 3) Xerxes calls God the God of all things??
- 4) Xerxes orders his subjects to disobey 1st edict ???



ESTHER AND MORDECHAI: JEWISH POWER BROKERS



- Mordechai holds all the power that Haman used to
- Jews of Persia remain in danger as the 1st edict remains in force
- King Xerxes has told Esther that she has permission to mitigate the coming attack on the Jews on Adar 13th
- 70 = God's intervention
- New edict sent to all the provinces in all the languages



JEWES MAY DEFEND THEMSELVES FOR ONE DAY

- Jews may attack only to defend themselves
- New edict did not rescind the 1st one, but it essentially nullified the situation
- 13th of Adar was the day of attack ordered by Haman
- Residents of Susa cheered Mordechai
- Haman was not popular, and Mordechai was seen as a man of principle



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE JEWISH ?



- Many Persians professed to be Jews
- What does that mean?
- How did they become Jews?
- **Yahad** = Judaized themselves
- A century earlier, back in Judah, to become a Jew meant to become an ethnic Hebrew
- New Jews identified themselves with Israel's past, present, and future
- How did Esther and Mordechai see themselves as Jews since they were Benjamites and never lived in Judah?



WHAT MADE MORDECHAI AND ESTHER JEWISH ?



- Was it because their families lived in Judah at one time ?
- Was it a religion?
- Biblical Feasts, Shabbat, Temple and Priesthood were no longer operable
- Judaism is a religion, like Christianity is a religion
- Judaism is a mixture of manmade tradition and Bible, just like Christianity
- The differences reside in the proportions of the mixture !!



UNION *for*
REFORM
JUDAISM



Society for
Humanistic Judaism

ALL KINDS OF JUDAISM

- Reform Judaism
- Least spiritual, doesn't adhere to Rabbinical Law, or Torah or the Bible
- A product of the Enlightenment Era
- Ultra-Orthodox
- Follows Rabbinical Law
- Halakah
- Identity is expressed in their dress and in a rigid system of behaviors
- Secular Jews, humanistic, Jewishness just a fact of life

WHAT MAKES SOMEONE A JEW?

- Thousands of gentiles become Jews each year
- Mostly it is a repudiation of being a gentile
- Is a Jew a race? A religion? A nationality?
- What makes a Christian a Christian is our identification with Christ
- Judaism is a religion
- Jew is an identity



JUDAH-ISM vs. HEBREW-ISM

- Judaism's main expression is the Synagogue →
- Judaism didn't exist until after Judah went into exile
- Hebrew-ism is based on the Torah, Law of Moses, Temple and Priesthood ↘
- Judaism was a manmade response to the impossibility of their condition in exile
- When Judah returned home they brought Judaism with them
- Definition of being a Jew therefore changed





BIRTH OF THE SYNAGOGUE

- In exile Jews couldn't eat kosher, be ritually clean, or atone for sins
- They made prayer the new atonement for sin
- Houses of worship (synagogues) replaced the Temple
- Lay leaders replaced the Priests
- With this, Jews felt no need to return to Judah, as they felt they had solved their problem



CHRIST AND THE SYNAGOGUE

- Esther and Mordechai practiced some sort of Judaism
- Being a “Jew” meant something to the Jews and to the gentile Persians
- The issues of Jewishness and Judaism are the backdrop and context for Yeshua and the Apostles
- He spoke against some of the traditions of Judaism because they no longer represented the Word of God

