

A DIVINE PROVISION (PART 2)

Esther 2.8-11: A Steward in Charge of the Provision

Theme: Give the provision of God for the lost priority in your life and then present her with confidence.

Esther 2.5-11: Remember, we are seeing God's provision for Ahasuerus... “behind the scenes.”

- The king doesn't see what happens in these verses; he has no idea of the details of what's going on, much like the lost man has no idea what God is doing draw him unto Himself and salvation.
- (v5-7) Mordecai is “providentially” preparing the provision that God has for the king (preparing Esther).
 - ✓ Mordecai, having adopted Esther as his own daughter, “brought her up”—he raised her and prepared her—just like the Holy Spirit prepares the provision of a new, regenerated spirit for the lost man.
 - ✓ His name (Mordecai) means “little man” and it pictures the work of the Spirit who never calls attention to himself, but rather glorifies the Father and the Son.
- (v8-11) Today we see another person enter the scene to care for Esther: Hegai.

But before getting into this morning's passage, let's review the history—what's happening in chapter 2?

- (v5, 7) Esther lives with Mordecai in Shushan the palace (in the capital city).
- (v8) Esther is chosen as one of the “fair young virgins” (v2-3) to be presented to the king as a candidate for his wife (to be queen). And thus she is placed into the care of Hegai, the “keeper of the women.”
- (v9a) Esther immediately gains the favor of Hegai (in addition to her obvious personal beauty—she herself is attractive—we can see that God gave her grace in Hegai's eyes; God's providence is working!).
- (v9b) Esther becomes Hegai's “favorite” among the rest of the “fair young virgins.”
- Hegai, then, is the steward responsible for the stewardship of the women who will be presented as the solution to Ahasuerus's problem.

Hegai is a picture of us today... Christians, who have been given God's provision for the lost man...

I. (v8-9) Hegai: A Steward and His Stewardship

A. Remember our personal pictures and types:

1. Ahasuerus is a picture of the soul of man (still lost in Esther 2, without God's provision: Esther).
2. Esther is a picture of the new, regenerated spirit that replaces Vashti, the rebellious human spirit.
3. Mordecai is a picture of the Holy Spirit who works behind the scenes and prepares Esther...
4. But, he places Esther in the care of a “chamberlain” named Hegai. And Hegai is responsible to care for Esther and then present her to the king...
 - a) ...just like we have been entrusted with God's provision for the lost man (in the Gospel),
 - b) ...and we are to keep that which is committed to our trust so we can present it to lost people.

B. The Steward: (v8a) Hegai is a “chamberlain.”

1. That word *chamberlain* is also translated (in the King James Bible) as *officer* (Hegai is an official in the government of the king) and as *eunuch*.
 - a) The root word Hebrew for *chamberlain* is actually a verb, and it means *to castrate*.
 - b) This man was specifically made (“consecrated”) for his work: Keeping the women.
 - c) And, if we can look past the obvious wrong of this man's mutilation (either by birth defect, accident, or man's hand), we can see a picture that will teach us a lot about some other people who have been *created specifically unto good works* (Eph 2.10).

2. In Hegai's "consecration" to the service of the king, we see a picture of us—Christians.
 - a) We have been created in Christ Jesus unto good works—works the King has given us to do.
 - b) In Hegai we see a picture of this "creation": A total consecration to the service of the king.
 - (1) (Rom 13.8) Just as Hegai was set apart to loyally serve the king, so we are set apart in Christ to serve the lost—to love our neighbor.
 - (2) (2Cor 5.18-21) Just as Hegai was set apart to serve the king by caring for the provision that would meet his need, so we are set apart to serve the lost with the provision of the gospel.
3. However, in spite of his "consecration" to the king, Hegai is just a simple servant to the king.
 - a) Hegai can't order the king around. He can't make the king decide for one woman over another.
 - Hegai's responsibility is to care for the women and present them for the king to *choose*.
 - b) Although we may want to make lost people convert to Christ, we really only present the gospel to the lost. They must choose to repent and turn to Christ in faith.
 - (1) We're just simple servants—ambassadors—sent to lost men to love them by presenting the solution to their greatest need.
 - (2) We trust in the work of the Spirit to convince and convict the lost person who hears the gospel. But even after that, the lost person must choose to accept or reject the message.
4. We are like Hegai: We are *stewards* in Christ, *consecrated* in service to lost people. We have a stewardship... We have been entrusted with the provision for lost man's greatest need...

C. His Stewardship: (v8b) Hegai is the "keeper of the women."

1. Notice that Hegai not only receives Esther (v8b; God's providential provision to meet Ahasuerus's need), but he also receives the rest of the maidens from all the provinces of the kingdom.
2. Remember what we've seen in our personal pictures and types:
 - a) (Est 2.1) Ahasuerus has dethroned Vashti (rebellious human/natural spirit), but he has yet to receive the provision from God in Esther (a new, regenerated spirit). So, we see him "convicted" and in need. Something is still not right—something's still wrong.
 - b) (Est 2.2-4) So, based on the sincere, good-intentioned advice of people close to him, the king starts a useless and futile search out in the world for an answer to his problems.
 - This is a picture of the lost man, under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, seeking out a humanistic solution to his problem (seeking a solution that is "right in his own eyes").
3. And so Hegai, the consecrated servant, receives all the fair young virgins from all the provinces.
 - a) Yes, he receives God's provision, too: Esther. But, along with her... hundreds of other women.
 - b) Just like Hegai, we receive "nice, pretty things" from all parts of the world, things that promise to solve the problems of lost people.
 - (1) Think about it: From society, culture, television, radio, Hollywood (movies), books, teachers, professors, the government... from every province...
 - (2) We receive "fair young virgins" that look good and promise to meet the need the lost man feels when he's under conviction from his Creator:
 - Psychology, humanism, self-help, science, education, a career, religion, hobbies, sex, alcohol, drugs, money...
- c) We are just like Hegai!
 - (1) We are the "keepers of the women"—the keepers of all the potential solutions to the king's problem (the lost man's problem of conviction).
 - We, as stewards of all these "maidens" can offer the king whichever we choose.

- (2) But Hegai also receives Esther, the provision from God—the only true solution to the need.
- (a) And Hegai received Esther from Mordecai: (1Tim 1.11) Just like we have received the provision for the lost man's need from God Himself (pictured in Mordecai; the Spirit)
 - (b) (1Cor 4.1-2) We, like Hegai, are stewards of the “mysteries of God”—the revelation that was hidden, but now is made manifest (the message of the gospel).
 - (c) (2Cor 5.18-21) We, as stewards, have received the provision of God for the lost: The word of reconciliation (the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ).
 - (d) (1Tim 6.20a) We are to “keep” that which has been committed to our trust, just like Hegai was the “keeper of the women.” We are stewards and ought to be found faithful.
4. Which “fair young maiden” will you prefer over the others? Hegai prefers Esther...

D. His Decision: (v9) Hegai prefers Esther over all the other fair young virgins of the world.

1. Hegai quickly realizes what he has in Esther: “...*the maiden pleased him...*” immediately.
 - a) And that, of course, is another picture of God's provision in the gospel: It's attractive!
 - b) (Est 2.17) Esther is different from all the others. She doesn't need to be dressed up and made up in order to impress anyone. She herself is unique and different from all the others.
 - c) And when you place the gospel along side the humanistic, worldly solutions offered to fix lost man's problem... there's no comparison. God's provision is attractive—unique among all!
2. Therefore, Hegai gives Esther a *provision* he doesn't give the rest of the maidens.
 - a) Hegai “speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her.”
 - b) We should also be “speedy” in *providing* things for the provision of God entrusted to us.
 - (1) (Titus 2.10) One thing that comes to mind is a holy life that will adorn the gospel.
 - (2) (Php 1.27) We ought to live in a way that results in *beautifying* the gospel we preach.
3. Hegai also gives Esther a *preeminence* above the rest of the maidens.
 - a) Esther is the only one that receives seven maidens to assist her
 - b) We ought to give the gospel preeminence in our lives—we ought to provide things for the gospel and the preaching of the gospel that we don't provide for anything else in our lives.
 - Think of your time, your talents, your treasure: Does the gospel get preeminence with these things? Or do you take these things and give them to other “maidens” in your life?
4. Thirdly, Hegai gives Esther *priority* in his life (and stewardship).
 - a) Hegai preferred Esther *unto the best place* in the house of the women (*his* house/stewardship).
 - b) God's provision for the lost man ought to have *priority* in our lives, too.
 - It ought to hold *the best place* in our lives (especially among the other “pretty things” the world offers for the solution to lost man's problem).
5. Hegai made the decision to prefer Esther above all the others? So, how about us...?
 - a) Hegai received all the maidens from all the provinces, just like we have received all the philosophies of this world.
 - b) But he also received Esther, God's providential provision for Ahasuerus, just like we have received the gospel which will provide the lost man a new, regenerated spirit (reconciliation).
 - c) And Hegai gave Esther a provision he didn't give the others, preeminence over the others, and priority among the others.

- d) What do we do with God's provision for the lost man that we have received in the gospel?
 - (1) Do we decide each day to prefer that provision (the gospel) over the other pretty things the world offers to solve man's problem?
 - (2) The next time we find ourselves in the presence of a lost person, which will we offer?
 - (a) Will we offer him the humanistic, self-help remedies of the world?
 - (b) Or will we offer him the provision of God in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - (3) We're stewards just like Hegai (set apart to serve others) and we have a stewardship (we have received all the fair young virgins that promise to solve the problem).
 - (a) How can we be sure we are faithful stewards in our stewardship?
 - (b) I think we see a idea of how we can remain faithful stewards in Hegai's name...

E. His Name: “Hegai” ought to be our “name” too...

1. (v3) *Hege* means *meditations* and (v8) *Hegai* means *my meditations*.
2. If we want to make sure we continually (always) prefer Esther to all other things in this world, we have to be a people known for *our meditations*.
 - a) (Josh 1.8) If we hope to prosper and have good success in the stewardship entrusted to us, we have to meditate in God's Word day and night.
 - b) (Ps 1.1-3) If we hope to be fruitful in that which God has entrusted to us, we have meditate in the Law of the Lord, the Scripture.
 - c) (Ps 119.97-104) We have to love God's Word, because only then will we meditate in it always.
 - d) (2Tim 3.15-17) That is the only way to become the consecrated servants that God desires for us to be—consecrated unto the good works He has prepared for us to do (e.g., evangelism).

II. (v10-11) Mordecai: The Spirit and His Watchcare

A. (v10) Mordecai's Control

1. Historical Application: Here we see the providence of God...
 - a) Mordecai instructed Esther not to tell anyone she was a Jew, for whatever reason.
 - b) This prepares the way for God to end the persecution Haman starts and set up Mordecai in Haman's place as prime minister to reign with the king.
2. Personal Application: The Holy Spirit is in control of the situation.
 - a) Even though Mordecai has entrusted Esther to the care of Hegai, he's still in control (he's still taking care of Esther).
 - b) And even though we have been entrusted with the stewardship of God's provision for the lost man in the gospel, remember that God is still in control; the Holy Spirit is always in control of the situation.

B. (v11) Mordecai's Care

1. Historical Application: (v5, 19) Remember, Mordecai works in the palace so he has access to Esther; she is never out of his personal watchcare.
 - (v11) And so he is there, each and every day, checking on Esther, caring for her.
2. Personal Application: Just like Mordecai, the Holy Spirit is always with us. He has access to every corner of our lives, and he will care for the provision of God in our lives... always.
 - It's like Christ's promise in the Great Commission: (Mat 28.18-20) “...and, lo, I am with you *always, even unto the end of the world.*”

Conclusion:

Remember that up to here, Ahasuerus has no idea of the details of what is happening “behind the scenes.”

- That is exactly what happens in a lost person's life: God is working, even though he may not know it.
- And “behind the scenes” Mordecai, having prepared Esther as his own daughter, now entrusts her to the steward Hegai.
- Hegai receives Esther (God's provision for Ahasuerus)... along with all the other fair young virgins (the world's provision for Ahasuerus).

Hegai is a wonderful picture of us: We are stewards, consecrated to be faithful in our stewardship.

- We have received Esther: The provision of God for the lost man in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We have received a host of other “pretty women”: The world's philosophies to solves man's problem.
- Do we “prefer Esther” above all the other women?
 - ✓ Does Esther have a place of priority and preeminence in our lives (like with Hegai)?
 - ✓ Who will we present to the next lost person as a solution to his problem? Esther or another?
- The way to make sure we prefer Esther above all others (the way to make sure we present Esther to the lost man instead of some pretty, worldly solution) is to be like “*Hegai*”:
 - ✓ His name means *meditations* and we ought to be known by that name also...
 - ✓ We ought to be known as a people given to meditation in Scripture (thinking on the things of God continually; loving God's work and thinking about it all day long).