# Esther - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 21

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“On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king” — Esther 8:1.

THE king’s insomnia may have seemed but an accidental occurrence on that night when Haman was plotting the destruction of Mordecai, the faithful Jew who would not bow to the enemy of his people and his God. But on that sleepless night, there hung the fate of a nation. It was God Himself who kept Ahasuerus from repose. He was working out His plan for the deliverance of His people and the wakeful king was but a cog in the machinery of the divine purpose. Thus, in ways too innumerable to mention does the Lord work out everything according to His own will. He is never indifferent to His people’s needs. He will never disdain their cries for help, but in every hour of need He is on hand to bless.

—Cowper.

Daily Sacrifice, March 5

“And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king’s provinces”—Esther 8:5.

ESTHER’S words here are very suggestive in regard to prayer: (1) if it please the king; (2) if I have found favor in his sight; (3) if the thing seems right before the king; (4) if I be pleasing in his eyes. It is in an attitude such as this that we should come into the presence of the King of kings, seeking His favor, not in an arbitrary way but in accordance with His infinite love and wisdom, and with the assurance in our own hearts that we are seeking to walk in a way that is pleasing in His eyes, for it is written, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”

Daily Sacrifice, March 4

“Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day; I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish”—Esther 4:16.

AT first Esther did not realize the terrible danger to which her people and she herself were exposed, but when Mordecai made it all clear to her she undertook to act in a manner that has excited the admiration of all who have pondered the record throughout the years. She knew she was really taking her life in her hands by going into the king’s presence uninvited, but realizing her responsibility to her people and with implicit confidence in the God whose name is not even mentioned in the book of Esther, she declared, “If I perish, I perish.” It was the spirit of Christ seen in this daughter of Israel—a spirit that should actuate all believers who are found at any time in perilous circumstances. The body may perish, but all is well for eternity for the one who trusts the living God.

—Jones.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 22

“For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed” — Esther 10:3.

MORDECAI, the faithful Jew who withstood Haman the Agagite, whom he recognized as the enemy of God and His covenant people, became their benefactor when advanced to the position where he administered the affairs of the kingdom at the king’s behest. In this he reminds us that God is now “speaking peace by Jesus Christ,” who has overcome our great enemy. He has annulled him that had the power of death, even the devil, and delivered those who once trembled beneath the sentence of death, and given them that cloudless peace which can never again be disturbed.

—C. Paget.