

The World of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther



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Lecture 1

The Survey of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther

A. Survey: Ezra and Nehemiah wrote the last event in the Old Testament dat. The tradition of the later day regulated that Ezra is the last man in the Old testament and described the man who accomplished the cannon. Ezra and Nehemiah consists of one volumn.

B. Theological Theme:

According to Eskenazi, three themes were revealed as followings.

1. We see the transformation that the leader was changed into the community.

2. Holiness no longer was not limited to a special place.

3. We see that the oral was changed into the written document.

C. The relationship to the New Testament.

1. The one who destroys the barrier is Jesus Christ.

2. Jesus Christ who broke the veil to separate the holy place of Holiness of the creature perished the block between the Jews and the pagan. (Eph 2:14-18)

D. Division of contents:

I. Main purpose: Cyrus's ordinance to establish the house of God (Ezra 1:1-4)

II. The community established the house of God. (Ez 1:5-Neh 7:72)

A. Introduction: The people prepared to return into the land. (Ez 1:5-6)

B. The people established the altar and the temple in the opposite power. (1:7-6:22)

C. Ezra returned to the land for the center of polygamy issue established the community. (Ezra 7:1-10:44)

D. Nehemiah returned to the land and he construct the holy wall in the contrasted power (Neh 1:1 -7:5)

E. Conclusion: The list of the returned (Neh 7:6-7:72)

III. Arrival to the purpose: The festival for the completion of God's house according to Torah. (Neh 7:73-13:31)

Lecture 2

The community established the house of God. (Ez 1:5-Neh 7:72)

A. Introduction: The people prepared to return into the land. (Ez 1:5-6)

B. The people established the altar and the temple in the opposite power. (1:7-6:22)

1. Ezra

1. The work of Holy Spirit (Ez 1:1-11)

Ezra is the prophet and the scholar of the laws what God used after Israel returned out of Babylon. What kinds of work of Holy Spirit? First, we see the work of Holy Spirit who He himself began with. The Spirit worked the wonderful event that as the prophesy of Jeremiah at the proper time God made Koresh the king commanded returned to Jerusalem and built the temple in it.

Every work of God is begun by Holy Spirit. The Spirit who worked good things in us absolutely shall accomplish this thing until the day of Jesus Christ. 9 Philip 1:6) Second, he

shall raise the man of the Spirit. Although the Spirit works in us, it does not ignore the activities of men without some plans automatically. The Holy Spirit works that like Ezra works through the men of Holy Spirit and the men who are impressed by God. (5) Third, Only Holy Spirit accomplishes the image of Christ as true temple. For this work we should go to receive the fullness of Holy Spirit. The heart of believer should become the place that God accepts and presents. (1 Corinthian 3:16)

2. The prepared worker (Ez 2:1-54) - In order to accomplish the mission for the construction of temple God prepared all methods concretely. What did the text reveal? First, God prepared the descendants of the first immigrant generation. (1-2) the spiritual leader, Zurubbabel, Nhemiah, Ezra etc. were the inspired persons of Holy Spirit. The one who loves the word and believe it directly is so precious. Second, God prepared the singers. (41) They offered the worship that was the center of God's people. As Abraham offered a male goat to Jehovah in replace of Isaac they should become the one who prepares praising in truth and in spirit. Third, they prepared the keeper of the gate (42) It means that the man who keeps the temple and manage it. Like God prepared the shepherds and magus as Jesus came into the world first,

the Lord works his work through him himself prepared for himself. Establishing the church God uses the prepared person

3. God uses Holy things (Ez 2:55-70) - Among great confusion God used the godly persons, what did the text reveal to us? First, Brasilia prohibited the people who did not take obvious genealogy in serving priestly role and also stopped to eating the offering food in the holy place of holy place until the priest that takes Urim and Thumim was revealed. (62-63) God uses the faithful person. Second, God prepared the workers that take care of holy offering offered for reconstruction of the temple. (69) Until the offered beginning and offered things are used exactly is just God. God receives the purified things in establishing the church. Therefore holiness should be emphasized and examine themselves always. God search for the heart that were offered them voluntarily and heatedly in rejoice. We should go through the precious blood of Christ to be holy.

4. Establishing the Altar (Ez 3:1-13) - As Solomon called for 100000 workers to establish the temple, first of all it proves that the altar was restored and the burnt offering are accepted What construction was it? First, it is the

reconstruction to follow the Word of God. According to the laws of Moses it was restored. It is natural that the priority of the Word of God as the foundation of temple. (Eph 2:20) Second, the altar was restored because establishing on the word of God should be come by restoration of worship. Making the altar and offering burnt offering, peace offering and the burnt feasts offering were practice by these principles. Third, it was the restoration of good behavior. Vertical restoration is the fruit of Holy Spirit and the channel of grace.

5. The Temptation we can overcome (Ez 6:1-12) - Although the reconstruction of temple might be stopped because of the accusation of neighbors, God permitted the proper trial made the work of the Lord developed by his grace. What proofs does the text reveal? First, Darius king permitted to take care of them as the authority of the king. (1-5) the king gave an official document to put the temple instruments on the original position. God is the almighty God who accomplished his will, even though using the pagans. Second, they have taken by warning and comfort (11-12). The king commanded that they should take responsibility to provide every materials until finishing the construction of temple and also to give the severe punishment to the offended the laws.

The stumbling block before the Christian means that God prepared more grace than before. This is the hidden will of God. We should trust God who permits the proper trial and provides the way that escapes out of the suffering. (I Corin 10:13)

Lecture 3

Ezra returned to the land for the center of polygamy issue established the community. (Ezra 7:1-10:44)

1. The prepared man (Ez 7:1-10) - True construction of temple should be establish not the external aspect but the innate aspects. The fact that Old Testament and New Testament stressed the internal part comes out of concentration on the importance of our inner parts. First, he was the 18th generation of Aaron. (15) His forefather Binhas stopped the plagues on Israel by offered his righteous activity to God, which he made God coolly. Through his righteous action God prepared the vessel of redemptive historical work. Second, he was the man who sacrificed to keep the Laws. Second, he is the man who sacrificed the laws (10). He experienced intellectually and experimentally. His decision that he studied the laws obeyed it and taught it in his wholeheartedly were so precious. It proves that he received the grace of God greatly. Third, he began to reform from himself. Before he taught the word of God first,

his heart that keeps the word of God in his life means the prepared offering for God.

2. The Kindling of one person (Ez7:11-28) - The decision of one person made a great thing. When one person, Ezra devoted himself to study the Word of God made every work been free by giving the political power and financial power. How did the help of God reveal? First, God hold him until the day of complete reformation by moving Athasasda king for perfect protection. (11-22) the one who seeks first his kingdom and his righteousness shall experience that God add the others to him by God. (Mt 6:33) Second, it was great that one person decided to the Word of God because he was the role to burn them for spiritual reformation, true reconstruction of temple. The people who abides in the word of God that always is alive and powerful grace shall be used for God's work. As a small frame burnt all mountains, small fire of the word in my heart can burn all things in the world.

3. Reformation of Worship (Ez 8:1-20) - Ezra devoted himself to the word of God and also he to worship God. True reformation did not finish only knowing the word but

applying it to his life to make the man of worship. (Mt 28:19-20) The church should glorify God and enjoy him eternally that is, to offer his whole life to God by offering himself to God. But any priests that work in this precious ministry were disappeared. Then Ezra searched for the proper person for three days and committed the duty to them. Although the Levite was at exit in that time, he found wise persons to serve it. (16-19) Then Ezra declared fasting and seek the help of God. (21) As we worshipped God even we have great bad conditions, so we worshipped God not by the external method but by in spirit and in truth we can meet God. (Jn 4:23)

4. Decision of transformation (Ez 10:1-15) - As the Samaritan woman was changed her life by meeting Jesus out of her miserable marriage life, the decision to accept Christ in his center influences on is whole life. The text reveals the change the life of the woman who lives with the pagans. How did the word- reformation, worship change and marriage life change happen? First, it was raised by the passionate will of Ezra's heart. The faithfulness of a spiritual leader or his calling is able to become a channel of reformation. Second, the decision of the people in the heart

brought about transformation. As the Israelite who followed the ark in silence had the destruction of Jericho city, the people who obeyed the word of God can experience the reformation of the world. Third, the work of Holy Spirit was the core of reformation. Only Holy Spirit is the subject of reformation and revival. The one who presented as another counselor is the seven spirit who God sent to the world for reformation of the world. We should bear cross to reform our world to get the wonderful transformation.

5. True Repentance (Ez 10:16-44) - Through the text, the important persons nearby Ezra committed sin more than the others; we learn the importance of repentance. What is the repentance? First, it is to review him in time. He reviewed them for four months from their family. Repentance is like a spark to happen the work of life. The one who examines himself with his whole heart shall have the absolute way to hope. Second,, He reviewed the people who is nearby. Beyond the human relationship the choir members and priests that took responsibility to the worship. The standing before God's Word should be emphasized always. Third, He wrote the works. He made them approached to true repentance and obedience to the Word of God. True rejoice

was recorded in the book of life and the book of memorial.
We should be precious to the awards of God more than this
present rewards by seeing it always.

Lecture 4

Nehemiah returned to the land and he construct the holy wall in the contrasted power (Neh 1:1 -7:5)

Nehemiah

1.Nehemiah's prayer (Neh 1:1-11) - If Ezra was a faithful prophet but Nehemiah repaired the city wall and ruled over the people because they need the reconstruction of temple and city wall to protect out of the attack of the invaders. Who is Nehemiah and how did he work? First, he was a prepared person. (2-3) His anxiety that heard of the destruction of Jerusalem wall came out of his goodconscience. He loved that the kingdom of God did well and he was worry about that it was reduced because his heart abides in the will of God. Second, he had responsibility and repented before God because it is the key to solve the problem. Third, he depends on the promise of God. (5-11) true repentance had been happened as they depended on god ad his promise. The request of the rightousthat tried to repent had much working power. We should follow the example of Nehemiah's prayer.

2. God's response (Neh 2:1-10) - God worked through Adaxasda king who saw Nehemiah who was filled with anxiety. How did the thing happen? First, it was happened by godly sorrowfulness (1-3). The care that Nehemiah took proved God's working. God's works include holy trouble and anxiety. Second, It was revealed by giving great impression to pagan king. (4-5). This is the evidence of God's working. Just like through Esther's fasting prayer Ahasuero king was impressed (Es 5:1-3) through Jacob's all night prayer Esau was impressed, (Gen33:3-4) God moved the heart of enemy and had much wisdom to accomplish his will. Third, God worked through faith. (5, 7-8) Nehemiah opened his heart before the king and demanded what he wanted by faith and was bestowed greatly. We should approach to God by the prayer of strong request. Only the payer of gaith can move the great mountain.

3. Leadership of Nehemiah (Neb 2:11-20) - As soon as Nehemiah had arrived at Jerusalem within three days. Nehemiah began his mission by checked up actual situation. How did he excecute? First,,he informed the will of God (11-17). He exorted that they should obey the command of God

by informing the oracle of the king that support all financial issue and the power of all men. He taught that what we obey his will by submitting my will means the prosperity. Second, Nehemiah worked through voluntary heart than artificial means.(18) But Nehemiah was waited for that they shall devote not by human means but by Gods method obeyed God prepares always living sacrifice to good work. Third, he controlled immediately the opposite persons to establish the will of God (19-20). Although the opposite was strong, they could not break the will of God. Trough the storm God makes them gone more swiftly. The spiritual leader needs such attitude.

4. Reconstructed Faith (Neh 3:1-32) - The wall of Nehemiah were repaired as 7 gates (sheep, fish, Ephraim, old, well, beauty) and watch tower. Whoever was so faithful to keep each duty established the wall. (1-2). First, we should establish the destroyed wall of faith, (1-2) We should know my stumbling block and apply the repentance and faith. We should remove the craft of Satan and world and carnal desire and should be filled with the power of Holy Spirit. Second, Only Christ is our wall. (Jn10:28-29) We should enjoy Christ

and product abundant fruit by following Him faithfully. No body can not deprive out of us in his hand.

5. The way to overcome the temptation (Neh 4:1-14) -

Gods work also meets some temptation. As Sanbarath and Tobia batherd the work of God, how did Nehemiah overcome? First, he prayed (4) He offered his present state to God and seeks the help of God. As we commit some problems to God and serve the present situation with our own bestthing, we can get some power and the escapable way. (9) Second, he encouraged not to be afraid of it. (14) The target of enemy that attacked ten times was to fall down the frustration. Then Nehemiah said that you should not be afraid of your enemy but you should be fearful of the Lord. When we read the Scripture, meditate it and obey it, he can know God and his widom than the other because God, who we can overcome every temptation is faithful. (I Corin 10:13)

6. The Work of Faith (Neh 4:15-5:5)- As faith meets suffering, it shines more. Although the enemy barthered the resonsreuction of the ciry wall by using several methods how did Nehemiah treat it? First, he hold weapon in his one hand and hold contruction instrument in the hand of the

other hand.(4:15-20) After the will of God was settled he kept straight directly. What the one seeks should be faithfulness because God himself did it. Second, he solved the poverty of brothers by the Word of God. (5:1-5) He reduced the different gap between rich person and poor person by following the standard of the Word because the faith of fear of the Lord includes mercifulness. True faith makes good event by following the word. As we approach by this faith we can be prosperous.

7. Leadership of Serving (Neh 5:6-19) Nehemiah revealed the leadership of serving. First, he stressed the love of brother. (6-9) He prohibited that any one should not give some burden to the poor. In some meeting he rebuked them by making them know the improper activities against God's word. The covetous can not become true leader. Second, He warned that the one who despise the brotherhood shall be miserable state.(13) because the commandment of love is the fruit of fear of the Lord. Third, the reason that he rejected his privilege was what the work of God is so important. He did not despise the right of governor and revealed an example of a person about money. (15-116 18) It was that Paul warned their covet in their pastoral

ministry.(Acts 20:33). The one who has the fear of Lord shall be remembered by God. We should equipped by such things in my life.

8. As we meet unbelief (Neh 6:1-14) - The people who opposed the reconstruction of wall were happened. About the rebellion of Sanbalath and Tobia and Geshem how did Nehemiah treat to them? First, he kept in silence.(10) So as they called for Nehemiah five times (4-5) he did not confronted them directly but he avoided them, finally he overcome every bad rumor in silence. Rather although they planned by using woman prophets and remnant prophets, he could overcome by requesting the work to God. Second, he saw the great God. (10) The devil focuses on the work that they were fallen down into frustration. As he saw the greatness of God the frustration was left immediately. We should contrast the devil in frustration and disappointment by faith, looking at the God.

9 The influence of God's work (Neh 6:15-7:4) - Within 52 days the wall was established what result were happened? First. The enemy was demolished. (6:16). Although many troubles were happened through their passion the

completeness of the wall within short time made them frustrated. They surrendered for looking at the great hand of God. The victory of warfare belongs to the hand of Jehovah every enemies shall be destroyed. Second, the powerful faith of fear of Lord was revealed (7:2) what he holds in the difficult work was the faith of fear of the Lord. As the power was informed to the enemy they were so fearful in their heart. It was same to the Exodus salvation event that God put a dry land in red sea that even though the enemy was destroyed his people praise God because his people received the godly fearful heart and thanked. (Ex14: -15: Refer)

10. Wilderness church returned (Neh 7:5-73) - In the name list that was returned what do we learn? First, the work of God was begun by the Holy Spirit. (5) We find that God himself accomplished his Prophecy through Jeremiah work in the difficult trouble time. The work of God absolutely was begun with the impression of Holy Spirit and was the power of the Spirit. (Philipian 1:7) Second, total 42360 persons were counted according to the genealogy without taking the high and low of position. Although several gifts were revealed, the revealed union points the figure of true church.

They were the church in the Old Testament. The church should grow up as the divine community in the center of God's covenant by believing thing and knowing thing that enjoy the righteousness, peace and delight of the kingdom, because it is the will of God. (Eph 4:13)

Lecture 5

Festival for the House of God

(Neb 7:73-13:31)

1. Beginning of revival (Neh 8:1-8) - The text that reveals a great revival state at the ground before water gate teaches the lessons about Biblical revival. What is it? First, they had the prepared prayer. The heart that the people gathered and wanted to listen to the Word of God is the work of God. (1) This was the gift of saints that they prayed to God in secret place faithfully. Second, as they listened to the word of God the revival was happened. (3) They listened to the voice reading the laws from dawn to evening and then they repented their sins. God's word itself has power because the Spirit worked through the word of God. The Word is the sword of Holy Spirit. (Eph 6:17) Third, as they taught the

Word of God detail to the people, it was happened. (8-9) With the repentance of assembly, the priests that learnt the the word of God by Ezra as the discipleship training style, interpreted them to the people and made them informed them to the others. (7) The fire of Holy Spirit works as the stones of the Word was hit each other is happened. We should try to devote ourselves to make disciple. (Mt 28:19-20 II Tim 2:2)

2. The evidence of revival (Neh 8:9-18) - Historically the stream of true revival follows the same line. In what point was like the revival of the early church time? First, he had the heart to know the word of God obviously. (12-13) First, they have the heart to know the Word of God obviously. (12-13) Like the revival of the early church those are; receiving the Apostle's teaching, devoting them to prayer and fellowship, receiving the word of God continuously was the evidence of revival. (Acts 2:42-47) And they longed to know the Scripture, the Word of God. Second, the activities that tried to be faithful to the word of God. (14-18) And making the tent revealed to follow the command of God. The feast of tent- making proved their faithful figure to his word. The revival was revealed by the faithful passion that lived

according to the Scripture. Third, the holy assembly was revealed. To devote them to gather was the evidence of revival because they knew that God was good, his word was so precious. From my heart the revival should be happened.

3. Lead of Holy Spirit (Neh 9:1-22) - The revival was happened by fasting meeting, prohibition with relationship with the pagans and the worship of God. Especially two responses were happened. First, the crying prayer was brought up. (4) the prayer that 8 priests, the leaders of the people rose on the altar and shouted out came out of the lead of Holy Spirit because the work of God was begun with Holy Spirit and accomplished by the Spirit. The Spirit who worked at creation (Gen 1:3) worked same on the recreation. (Acts 2:17-21) Second, remembering the past they praised God. (5) At the early time, God who descended on the Sinai Mountain led Israel in the life of wilderness by the Spirit. (13) Through good spirit in verse 20 they could be protected by getting every need by the Spirit. Later Paul explained that Christ walked with the Israelite of wilderness. (1 Corin 10:1-4) And also on the way that returned out of Babylon, the Trinity God was with them His lead follow to us always in

Christ. We should admit the lead of Holy Spirit in any situation.

4. Faithful God (Neh 9:23-37) - How did God who led the Israelite, the wilderness church lead them in the oppression of Babylon? First, God led them by keeping the covenant faithfully. (32) The faithful God led them according to the covenant. Sometimes by miracles (21), sometimes by suffering (29-30) to learn the obedience of Gods people. Second, it was revealed by keeping love fithfully. God led them with love and truth. Despite they received great grace God expressed his love to them who had many changeable character. Finally God gave his begotten son to them and made them become as a bride that loves only God. (Hos 14:8) God in Christ lead us with his love and his truth.

5. Restoration of Covenant (Neh 10:1-39) – What does the text, that the names that was sealed by the covenant were written and they should keep teach to us? First, we learn the importance of devotion of the spiritual leader. (10-27) The chiefs, the priests and the Levites in the center of Nehemiah were signatred on ther. the work of God is accomplished by the man of devotion. The life that is offered

to God wholeheartedly is the most blessed one. 28-39)
Second, The contents of first covenant, the order of marriage, to keep the Sabbath day, offering of tithe etc were astained again. (28-39) The method that keeps God well is not to add some new things and restre the first promise and keep it faithfully. The items that Ephesian church was rebuked should be applied to any situation. (Rev 2:5) We should live as the one who was devoted on the covenant of the first love

6. Responsibility of settler (Neh 11:1-12:26) - We learn two thing out of the text that remaks the name lists of the new residents in Jerusalem, the priests and the Levites. First. the leaders of people made them resided to give the responsibility the other people. (11:20-22) Because to sustain the right relationship is the life of the church. Second, the people who resied at the other city should serve sacrifice and live according to their teaching for the people of Jerusalem. (12:1-26) This is the figure that the Old Testament church received the grace of God and it focused on the grace of in the NewTetament church. The church in Christ has the responsibility to live in center of Christ and to enjoy the privillage that enjoys the abundant grace of

redemption. And also duty to proclaim the gospel to the world. We should reveal the fruit of evangelism.

7. Offering accepted (Neh 12:27-47) - How was the dedication of the wall of the city in great impression accomplished by the will of God? First, it is the center. (17-29 36-38) He made them executed the great worship at the dedication time with praising with joy and thankfulness. It was the evidence of reconciliation with God. Second, It is holiness-centric life. (17) He provided their necessity to be concentrated on holiness by choir members, door keepers and priest and the Levite in the daily life. So they keep holiness centric life. As we concentrate on holiness and peace, God shall be accepted. We should walk to the way that is not external figure but the internal life before the invisible God. (19:14) We should devote ourselves to seek the peace in holiness. (Heb 12:14)

8. The Leader to establish the righteousness (Neh 13:1-14)
- After the dedicated worship was finished, the sacrifice to establish the righteousness was processed continuously. How did the faithful example of Nehemiah reveal? First, they hold the word of God, as the standard of righteousness. (1-3) He

applied the order of Moses's law directly to the present affair. They prohibited the way of Ammon, Moab, and the way of Baalam and followed the obvious will of God. The one who is thirsty for righteousness shall be blessed. Second, He established seriously the righteousness. (17) As Nehemiah did not attend at the place, he did not ignore the affair that was happened; he judged it by the ruler of righteousness. He established the righteousness officially by cutting off the privilege of the relative relationship that Eliaship offered a room in the temple to Tobiah. It was impossible without seeking God and his kingdom first (Mt 6:33). We should seek his righteousness and his kingdom as the righteous.

9. True reformation (Neh 13:15-31) - What example does the text that reveals that God establish his righteousness on the several areas reveal to us? First, At the Sabbath day the individual affair was prohibited among the people God prohibited that they took harvest at Sabbath day and transported some burdens to cover God's wrath. (15-18) he wanted that they obeyed the order of creation by worshipping God to get the rest in soul. Second, the pagan marriage was prohibited. (23-28) As Nehemiah saw that even

the high priest gave his daughter to Sanbalrath, he deprived his position to keep Israelite holiness. Third, above all, they were taught by keeping faithfully offering life. (13) True reformation did not finish as negative affair but as positive affair.

Lecture 3

The World of Esther

I. Survey

1. The category of divine kingship includes all nations.
2. Although the book of Esther has no the term, God, the hand of God's providence always had worked.
3. Also the craft of Satan was the tool to accomplish the work of God.
4. God delivers his own people out of all unrighteousness.
5. Prayer changes all things.
6. The devil itself shall be perished by him.
7. God destroyed the death of his people.
8. The people of God should devote himself to fight against himself.
9. Morcai is the type of Christ.

II. Features

- 1) Esther is the special book of the Old Testament.
- Although the book does not remark God and the worship to God about prayer, the considerable and powerful hand of God had worked in the pagan world continuously.

- 2) A certain said that the book of Esther does not reveal the restoration of Jerusalem community but is the story of secular Jews that has lived in the diaspora continuously.
- 3) Maimonide (AD 1135-1204) – The book of Esther is important to next of Torah.
- 4) Luther- I think that they did not exit; because they were inclined into the Jewish society and many Jews are improper.
- 5) Jamnia (100) – The book has the canonical elements.

Introduction:

Until now we reviewed how the restoration of God's image was expressed through the activities of Kingship, priesthood and prophesy in the history of Israel among the history of Old Testament Historical Books. Now we observe how God worked in the foreign area

as Israel was arrested and lived in the land through the book of Esther. This book belongs to the pictorial revelation that the redemptive history of Exodus was repeated again in the providence of God. Just like God planted the seed of redemption in the oppression of Egypt for 430 years and took care of the young buds and finally he gave the promised land, Canaan to them, In Babylon

how god worked in them for reveal the theocarsy in that land, that is righteousness, mercy and faithfulness through the book. We arrange that in order of Scriptures and examine the elements in the perspective of restoration of God's image.

1.The kingship of all nations (Es 1:1-32)

The theme of Esther is to reveal that God is the king in the pagan areas and Israael iis his people. What does the text reveal to us? First, The kingship shall be continued in all nations except Israel. This world that the gospel came into is ruled over by kignship of Christ. The kingship of Ahauero's kingship reveals the kingship of Christ indirectly. The kingship that is the pictorial revelation of Christ points the absolute kingship of Christ who is the king of Jews, the king of all kings and the Lord of Lords who no body destroys. Second, Wasti's arrogance and Ahasuerus' anger reveals the figure that lost good chance. Among them the Lord establish his will because he is the the God of wisidom. But the wrong things should be judged. We who were called for by God to become the king in Christ, we can reveal his kingship to the world anytime any place.

2. The hand of providence (Es 2:1-18)

The book of Esther that has no the term, God, or, Jehovah reveals strongly the invisible hand of providence of God. First, the the event that was happened in the palace was the hand of God. A great banquet of a dictator, the event that a queen was driven out of queen's position were the hand of God. This is the wisdom of God. Although we meet some frustrated thing, the mysterious hand of God prepares always. (Ecc 7:14) Second, The hand is powerful more than miracle. The persons in the event that was happened surround the events shall be get some consolation out of God. When we approach to the Lord and hold his hand by faith, we shall see the wonderful thing that we could not see before in my life. (Jer 33:3)

3. The faith of Morcai (Es 2:16-3:6)

At the background that through Esther the kingship of God was revealed, Mordecai worked. What does the text about his faith? First, the faithfulness to God reflects the faithfulness to the man. The faithfulness to the king Ahasuerus means the one to God. The life of the believer should follow the the Word of God. God works through the man who apply the word of God. Second, he had the faithful faith

not to bow down to Haman. It points the attitude of Morcai that did not bow down to Haman expressed our faith to God. He saw the ungodly attitude in Haman against the fear of the Lord. It was like Daniel's faith.(Dan 1:7) Our God settles his will and watches our walking state and cried out to God and listens to our petition.

4. Craft of Devil (Es 3:7-15)

At what point is Haman the symbol of devil? First, he observed that Haman try to destroy all people because of personal reason. The Jews are the people of God and the church of Old Testament. Although Devil try to destroy the church always with any channels, Any power of hades never destroy her. Second, because he rebelled the faith of the fear of Jehovah. The Satan who knew the unique attitude of Morcai came out of the fear of the Lord tried to kill Morcai against the knowing God. Satan concentrates on demorishing the block of Satan. Third, He used the absolute power to achieve the purpose. Haman offered some gifts to the king and got his permission to kill all Israel. He planned the detailed stragety to kill them with illegal method. We should be careful to the attack of Satan.

5. The consciousness of mission (Es 4:1-16)

The book of Esther reveals among the gentiles only God is the king. Among them, the fury of king, driven out of queen position, replacing Esther, the fear faith to Jehovah and the killing crisis to the Jews God rules over his own people. Especially Morcai's faith in Es 4:4 was expressed by calling consciousness with absolute faithfulness. First, he had the assurance that God shall save his people surely out of any troubles. The faith that if Esther did not help the event God can call for the other method is true faith. The reason that God provides extreme situation is that God makes them depended on only God totally. (II Cor 1:9) Second, he had assurance that the position of the queen come out of God for accomplish his purpose. She was a steward that serves actual good condition as the channel to serve God rightly. The chance that devotes himself to the Lord is blessing of blessing. We should offer ourselves to God to establish righteousness.

6. The change of prayer (Es 5:1-14)

What change did the prayer of Esther bring? First, she himself was changed. He had boldness to come to the king after three day fasting. Just like when Moses confronted the

face of the Lord, his face was shone by the presense of God in his soul. (Ex 34:29-35) And second, it is the change of the king. The king who did not call for her pulled his scepter before her because he was charmed by her spiritual beauty. Like as Esau saw Jacob who prayed at Peniel, his avenging violence of Jacob was disappeared and met in tear each other, the prayer makes the enemy melted. Third, the change of situation was transformed. The favor that the king promised to give until the half area of the country was focused on the solution of Esther's issue. The prayer makes everything changed and is the master key to bring the power. By the secret prayer the door was opened. (Mt 6:6) Absolutely the one who seeks shall receive the best one that is the Holy Spirit, the source of blessing. (Lk 11:13)

7. The prayer of faith (Es 6:1-13)

What situation did the prayer of Morcai and Esther make before Haman's craft that tried to kill all Jews at one day. First, he achieved to transform the heart of the other. The prayer of faith solved more difficult issue and begot greater work. (Jam 5:16) Second, after prayer every environment was inclined to Esther. Owing to his sleeplessness the king reviewed the palace diary and found the good work of

Morcai among many writings. It was not accident and Gods work of his prayer. The thing that Haman, who came to recieve the permission of the king, received the important mission by the king is the hand of God. The thing that he was cooperated to Esther's work was the answer of the prayer. Such swift events were led by God. Although they met the chance and the accident, God put them in the category of the prayer of thesaints. Ths was the power of prayer.

8. Death to kill death (Es 6:14-7:10)

When we meditate the series of events in the light of gospel in the book of Esther, we think the death of Christ.

First, as the craft of Haman, Devil planed to kill all people of God completly. The event that Christ was died once of all is gospel. (Heb 2:14) Second, although the devil make him dropped into spiritual death, our Lord , Jesus Christ accomplished complete salvation. His death destroyed the death (Rom 5:8) As we look at the Lord with faith we can get freedom by being solved all weakness and diseases, sin , curse and death. So we can live in the assurance of Paul, that God soon shall bruise the Satan on my feet. (Rom 16:20)

9. New laws proclaimed (Es 8:1-17)

Although Haman was died, the laws of Basa that kills the Jews still was survived. Then Esther did not finish death of Haman and seek to destroy the laws, finally the new law was declared, that is, the Jews shall be lifted up on day. The work of God's salvation shall not kill the enemy, Satan, the old man, the death, the curse should be killed by God. (Gal 5:24) God raised the eternal transformation by planting his laws in their heart by sending the Spirit. (Jer 33:3) The death, the resurrection, the ascend of Christ Jesus accomplished our salvation completely. As the Jews were lifted up, the born again Christian shall be sat down in the highest seat in the future by united with Christ.

10. Holy warfare (Es 9:1-19)

The text reveals that our three enemies are Satan, world and flesh obviously. First, as the death of Haman, Satan was destroyed by the death of Christ. Because of this fact Paul could teach that we should live in the center of Christ and his cross. (I Corin 1:23) Second, as his sons were killed, the world and the flesh were died on the cross of Christ. Now the Christian was promised the victory of victory and crown on crown. We should claim that we shall get the crown

because we shall overcome this warfare in the name of Jesus. Surely God shall make us enjoyed the victory of the one who was rode on the white horse. Just like this one, although according to requests of Morcai all eneies were killed, but nobody could touch their property. If the Chritian does not take care of their victory, they can leave out of Christ because of the activity of honor and covet just like Anania, Saphira, Achan, Gehasi and Balaam. Like Paul did, we should serve God with obedience and purity.

11. From death to life (Es 9:20-10:3)

God did that wonderful thing by changing sorrow into delight, and larmentation into joyful day. What character of gospel does the text reveal to us? First, the Prum of death was changed to the Prum of life. The gospel always makes the greatest miracle. If anybody believes in Christ only, the dead must be revived because God transferred them from death into the life and from darkness to light. (Acts 26:18) Second, through Morca and Esther the wonderful work was happened. (Philippians 4:5-6) The lfting of Mordcai reveals the lifting of Christ and his descend. As Morcai ruled over the entire world by the grace of God, the Christian became the one who ruled on the entire world in Christ. We should live

the abundant grace in the world by believing the gospel.

Conclusion:

In the pagan nation that Israel was persecuted, the hand of God always protected his own people and accomplished his purpose, restoration of God's image. Several events that is, anxiety, crisis, pain, frustration, complain, lamentation and tension made them purified out of their dirty things in their heart by the hand of God. Just like a craftman that removes the dirty part in the silver in the fire wait for until his face shall be appeared on the surface of the pure silver, God works in us to reveal his character in our life by his wonderful wisdom. Finally God reveals his image, righteousness, mercy and faithfulness in us until we attain to the climax of theocracy for his glory.

A. Redemptive Historical Verses - Ezra

B. Redemptive Historical Verses – Nehemiah

- 1. Prayer of Nehemiah** (Ne 1:5) "And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,"
- 2. God's Answer** (Ne 2:6) "And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time."
- 3. Leadership of Nehemiah** (Ne 2:20) "Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim^a in Jerusalem.""
- 4. Reconstructed Faith** (Ne 3:28) "Above the Horse Gate the priests repaired, each one opposite his own house."
- 5. The Way to overcome the temptation** (Ne 4:9) "And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night."

6. The Work of faith (Ne 4:20) "In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."

7. Leadership of serving (Ne 5:19) "Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people."

8. When we meet unbelief (Ne 6:9) "For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, ^bstrengthen my hands.

9. The Influence that God's work brought (Ne 7:2) "I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many."

10. The Wilderness Church who returned (Ne 7:5) "Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles and the officials and the people to be enrolled by genealogy. And I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up at the first, and I found written in it:"

11. The Beginning of Revival (Ne 8:8) "They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, ^band they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading."

12. The Evidence of Revival (Ne 8:12) "And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions

and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them."

13. Guidance of the Spirit (Ne 9:1) "Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads."

14. Faithful God (Ne 9:20-21) "You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. [21](#)Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell."

15. Restoration of covenant (Ne 10:36) "also to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks; "

16. Responsibility of resident persons (Ne 11:2) "And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem."

17. Offering accepted (Ne 12:47) "And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah gave the daily portions for the singers and the gatekeepers; and they

set apart that which was for the Levites; and the Levites set apart that which was for the sons of Aaron.”

18. Leadership that establishes righteousness (Ne 13:1) “On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people. And in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God,”

19. True Reformation (Ne 13:31) “and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.”

C. Redemptive Historical Verses – Esther (11)

1. **Kingship of All Nations** (Esther1:1) “Now in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces”

2. **Hand of Providence** (Esther 2:18) “Then the king gave a great feast for all his officials and servants; it was Esther’s feast. He also granted a remission of taxes to the provinces and gave gifts with royal generosity.”

3. **Mordecai's Faith** (Esther 3:5) "And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury."

4. **Conciousness of Mission** (Esther 4:14) "For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

5. **Determination of One thing** (Esther 4:16) "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish."

6. **Changing by Prayer** (Esther 5:13) "Yet all this is worth nothing to me, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

7. **Prayer of Faith** (Esther 6:11) "So Haman took the robes and the horse, and he dressed Mordecai and led him through the square of the city, proclaiming before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor."

8. **Death to kill Death** (Esther 7:10) "So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king abated."

9. **New Laws Proclaimed** (Esther 8:15) "Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown^b and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced."

10. **Holy War** (Esther 9:19) "Therefore the Jews of the villages, who live in the rural towns, hold the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a day for gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and as a day on which they send gifts of food to one another."

11. **From Death to Life** (Esther 9:22) "as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the

month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor"