

"Secret Sovereignty: Part 3"

The Shape of God's Deliverance

1. God does not leave deliverance to chance

The structure of Esther displays God's sovereign designs

A The Greatness of Persia (1-2)

B Haman Elevated (3a)

C Haman's decree to kill the Jews (3b)

D Esther's 1st banquet; Mordecai's gallows (4-5)

X The king can't sleep (6)

D Esther's 2nd banquet; Haman's gallows (7)

C Mordecai's decree to save the Jews (8a)

B Mordecai elevated (8b)

A Mordecai and Esther's greatness (9-10)

2. God's deliverance produces generous and obedient people
9:22

"He who has God and everything else, has no more than he who has God only." - C.S. Lewis

8:11-13

9:10

9:15

9:16

3. God's deliverance reminds us that there is only one Deliverer who is totally pure

Ephesians 6:12

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

3 Responses

Acknowledge and praise God:

1. For His Judgments

Acknowledge and praise God:

2. In Every Celebration

Acknowledge and Praise God:

3. For the ordinary little things

"He who loves his dream of a community more than the community itself becomes a destroyer of [his Christian community], even though his personal intentions may be ever so honest and earnest and sacrificial. God hates visionary dreaming; it makes the dreamer proud and pretentious. The man who fashions a visionary ideal of community demands that it be realized by God, by others and by himself...When things do not go his way, he calls the effort a failure. When his ideal picture is destroyed, he sees the community going to smash. So he becomes, first an accuser of his brethren, then an accuser of God, and finally the despairing accuser of

himself...if we only keep complaining to God that everything is so paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together