



# DELIVERANCE IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE FREEDOM

***“Embrace freedom by walking in obedience, faith, and purpose”***

Today sermon focused on the discussion of the Book of Esther, emphasizing themes of women's emancipation, the importance of obedience, and God's providence in difficult times. The Evangelist, Arnold highlighted Esther's journey from an orphan to a queen, her courage to confront challenges, and the significance of faith and community support.

## Key Points

### Introduction to the Book of Esther

The Evangelist, Arnold has been reading the Book of Esther for two weeks, feeling a divine connection to the themes of women's emancipation, particularly relevant to March 8th, International Women's Day.

### Historical Context of Esther

- The story occurs during the reign of King Ahasuerus, who ruled over the Persian Empire, following the Babylonian exile of the Jews.
- Cyrus the Great allowed some Jews to return to their homeland, but many remained in Babylon, setting the stage for Esther's story.

### The King's Arrogance and Queen Vashti's Rejection

- The king throws a lavish feast and commands Queen Vashti to appear, but she refuses, leading to her dismissal.
- The Evangelist, Arnold questions the king's treatment of women and suggests that the roots of emancipation are found in this narrative.

### Esther's Rise to Queenship

- Esther, an orphan raised by her cousin Mordecai, is selected to become the new queen after Vashti's dismissal
- Mordecai advises Esther to conceal her Jewish identity as she enters the palace, highlighting the importance of wisdom and discretion.

### **The Favor of Esther**

- Esther gains favor with the king, who chooses her over all other women, indicating her unique qualities and God's hand in her life.
- The Evangelist, Arnold emphasizes that Esther's beauty was not just external; her character and faith played significant roles.

### **Mordecai's Loyalty and Haman's Plot**

- Mordecai uncovers a plot to assassinate the king and informs Esther, showcasing the importance of loyalty and vigilance.
- Haman, elevated by the king, plots to annihilate the Jews, creating a crisis that Esther must confront.

### **Esther's Courage and Call to Action**

- Mordecai urges Esther to speak up for her people, reminding her that her position may be for such a time as this.
- Esther decides to fast and pray for three days, demonstrating her commitment to seeking divine intervention.

### **The Banquet and Revelation**

- Esther invites the king and Haman to a banquet, where she plans to reveal her Jewish identity and Haman's plot against her people.
- The king's favor towards Esther is evident as he offers her anything she desires, even half of his kingdom.

### **The Downfall of Haman**

- Haman's plot backfires as he is ultimately exposed and punished for his treachery against the Jews.
- The king honors Mordecai for his loyalty, illustrating the theme of justice and divine retribution.

### **Conclusion of Esther's Story**

- Esther's actions lead to the deliverance of her people, emphasizing the power of faith, courage, and community support in overcoming adversity.