

"The Roll of the Dice"

Sunday Evening Message by Ray Reynolds (December 22, 2013)

Introduction: I've never been to Las Vegas, but I'm sure you are familiar with the phrase, "What happens in Vegas... stays in Vegas." I'm told there is another well-known phrase: "My life is all wrapped up in the roll of the dice." In the book of Esther, Haman is rolling the dice, but God knows how the dice will land... and it will all work out according to His upper story plan (**Romans 8:28**). Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. One Dangerous Character = Haman

- A. Persecution of the Exiles
- B. Politics in the Kingdom
- C. Pursuit of a Grudge
- D. Purge of the Jews

II. Two Courageous Characters = Esther & Mordecai

- A. The Beauty & Courage of Esther (**Esther 1, 2:12**)
- B. The Boldness & Courage of Mordecai (**Esther 4:14, 16**).

III. Three Outrageous Plot Twists

- A. The Designation of Esther
- B. The Demise of Haman
- C. The Deliverance of the Jews

Conclusion: There is no doubt that this story is one of the greatest ever told, but not the greatest. It is simply a shadow. A precursor to another great story. We'll get to that story in three weeks. Consider that **Proverbs 16:33** tells us that God controls the roll of the dice. God's name is not mentioned in the Book of Esther, but his behind-the-scene-presence guides all that seems to happen by "coincidence." **Colossians 2:16-17** tell us Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all Old Testament feasts, including Purim. We need not be afraid of anything. Because the Lord is in ALL things! Name your fears....Then take a courageous stand, like Esther and Mordecai, knowing that life may look sometimes just like the "roll of the dice," but God is behind the scenes working all things out for the good (**Romans 8:28**). Are you ready to surrender the dice?