*A Change of Destiny*

**The Healing of the Powerless Man**

In Jewish history there was a feast called Purim (“Lots”) in which the people of Israel would celebrate Esther's defeat of Haman in B.C. 509. Haman, an enemy of Israel and the second in command of the nation of Medo-Persia, hated the Jews and had conspired to have them all slaughtered. The destiny of any Jew in Medo-Persia was death on the 14th day of the month Adar. But God came in and changed their destiny, causing the “lot” to fall upon Haman and his followers. The day of Haman's plot came to pass, but instead of killing all the Jews, he and all his thousands of followers were destroyed.

Although this may have happened thousands of years ago, consider the situation today. How about today's young man who often mocked his parents, avoided school work, and found himself gravitating towards the “less desirables.” What he thinks was a life of independence becomes a deadly trap. Take Jason, for example, who due to a lot of foolish choices and mistakes, he ended up hooked on narcotics as a young teen. His years of slavery to drugs had trapped him, and he was destined to die as an addict.

After years of drug abuse, Jason still inwardly desired a change of destiny. He had heard stories of former users who had gone straight because they saw new meaning in life. These people had attained successful careers or had married themselves to helping others. But these individuals were few and far between.

Jason recounts: “One day while I was waiting for another `hero' to give me the motivation to overcome my life of drugs, I met Jesus. I read in the Bible [John 8:36], “If therefore, the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.” It was as if a still small `voice' asked me if I wanted to be free of drugs? I responded to the `voice' by saying that I had tried for years to overcome, but it seemed that I was destined not to. Then, the speaking lingered and would not let me go. Again, it seemed as if I heard this 'voice' say, “You can live your life without drugs.” And just like that I was free!

I told everyone I knew. But no one really understood, in fact, they mocked me for hearing voices. When they asked who was speaking to me, I was embarrassed because I didn't really know myself. Yet, I could not deny the experience. I began to read the Bible and pray to the One whom I thought had produced the voice. His word in John 5:14 said, “Behold, you have become well; sin no more so that nothing worse happens to you.”

In time, I understood that on one hand. God's enemy, Satan, had conspired to kill me, sealing my destiny with drug addiction. However, I also realized that if drugs had not enslaved me, something else would have. On the other hand, it was Jesus who came and spoke His life-giving words to me. In a moment, my destiny, the lot I had come to accept, was reversed. I was freed from my enslavement to sin.”

What destiny are you going to face? Satan has trapped all mankind, including you, with addictions. Some are enslaved by entertainment; some by money; some with religion; others with pleasure; still others with education or success. The “lot” for all of these is the same ... death.

However, Jesus Christ can reverse the “lot”" that Satan has cast on all mankind. He can free you from that destiny and give you eternal life. You only need to receive Him into your innermost being, by believing into Him and confessing Him as Lord.

Don't be like one of Haman's (Satan's) followers who got deceived because of following Haman (Satan). They ended up being destroyed along with their leader. Today, God is coming to you to change your destiny. Your destiny up until now was to die. However, today, Jesus Christ is offering you a way to reverse such a destiny and live a normal life with Him. CTR

*[The basis of this story is The Gospel of John, chapter 5]*