

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —

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SPECIAL NOTICE

All correspondence for The Highway should reach us before the 12th and 25th of each month.
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MONCTON, N. B., JANUARY 15TH, 1940

EDITORIAL

CRISES AND OPPORTUNITIES

And who knoweth whether thou art come to the Kingdom for such a time as this." Esther 4-14. The foregoing words were a part of a message sent to Queen Esther by her uncle, Mordecai. Those of my readers who are familiar with the book of Esther will call to mind the story of how Esther, a beautiful Jewess maiden, who was chosen queen by the heathen king Ahasuerus in place of Vashti, who had displeased him. Esther and her uncle Mordecai with very many other Jews who were God's ancient people, were captives in the land of Persia. Mordecai seems to have held a position as porter at the gate of the royal palace at Shushan, where the King of Persia, Ahasuerus, lived. There was also a man named Haman, not a Jew, a chief servant of the king, and because the king wanted to honor him, he commanded all other servants to bow the knee to him as he passed in and out of the palace. Now Mordecai, being a Jew, and a worshipper of the true God, would not bow down to Haman, which thing made him very angry, and he purposed to destroy not only Mordecai, but all the Jews in all the Provinces of Persia. He therefore persuaded the king that the Jews were a very troublesome people, and that they should be exterminated. And he furthermore induced the king to pass a decree to that end, which according to the laws of the Medes and the Persians, could not be altered. When Mordecai heard of this decree he made great lamentation, as did also all the Jews in Shushan with him. He also sent word to Esther, the queen, and asked her to go in unto the king and make supplication unto him for them. At first she excused herself because of the law whereby it was ordained that whosoever should come into the king's presence without being called for, should be put to death. Whereon Mordecai sending to her again told her that if the prosecution came, she need not expect to escape even though she were the queen, for the law was universal, and she and her father's house would perish, but God would not suffer his people to be thus totally destroyed.

He also encouraged her to do her utmost to save her people, even though it meant to endanger her own life. And in this crisis there was a great opportunity to render most valuable service to God and her people. He suggested to her in the words of our text that God might have raised her up for such a time

as this. This beautiful story of Esther reminds us of the many crises which the cause of righteousness, the true church of Jesus Christ has passed through. There have been times when the outlook for the success of the true church was not very bright. Times when it seemed that spirituality would become extinct: When forms, ceremonies, churchianity and ritualism would crowd out real spirituality, and the cause of righteousness and true holiness would be lost. But in those times of spiritual dearth and darkness, God always found a man, or a few people who like Esther of old, saw in the crisis a great opportunity, and was willing to make the sacrifice, "Stand in the breach, make up the hedge.... and thus make it possible for God to save his cause. Among those of modern times we think of Martin Luther, the champion of protestantism. John Wesley, the great exponent of scriptural holiness, and John Knox, the mighty intercessor who cried to God, "Give me Scotland or I die." These were men to whom times of spiritual dearth and decline which would discourage others, presented a challenge, and an opportunity of great service which they with God's help were able to perform. And in their undertakings they were misunderstood, lied about, persecuted, and treated evilly. But with a superhuman courage, a persevering forth in God, and indomitable will, which knew no defeat, they served their God, saved his cause, and left an influence for good in the Church of Jesus Christ, and on this old world which will never die. Beloved, we may be nearer to another such crisis in religious circles than most of us think. Judging from observation of spiritual conditions near by, and from reports which come to us from many parts of Canada and the United States; it seems that the spiritual life of our churches is at low ebb. There is of course in many large churches a good attendance, much of social life and entertainment, and even social service which has its commendable qualities. But real scriptural revivals, where souls really pray through and touch God, and are saved are blessings which for the most part belong to past years. And because of these conditions many preachers are becoming discouraged, and are talking discouragement, and let me say this kindly brethren, a discouraged preacher is a defeated preacher.

Well, what shall we do? First, let us remember that this is no time for discouragement; but it is rather an opportunity to see a mighty demonstration of God's power. Let us learn a lesson from the experience of Esther. When she got the vision of the danger confronting her people, she called a fast of several days, and prayed to God for direction and help. She also became an intercessor before the king who had decreed the destruction of the Jews. And in doing this she risked her all to save her people. She said, "I will go into the king's presence and if I perish, I perish." But she triumphed, and like Moses who stood between God's wrath and ancient Israel when God would have destroyed them had not Moses stepped into the breach, and cried, "Spare thy people oh Lord, or blot me out of the book of life," which prayer God answered. She also got her petition granted by the king and her people were saved.

Friends, some things do not change. We are fighting the same foes which the church has always fought, viz., the world, the flesh, and the devil. Our God also has not changed.

And when he can find men with spiritual vision, heaven-born courage, and a persevering faith, he can still work through them and save his cause. The greatest need of our day is more intercessors. And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this.

"Oh, for a faith that will not shrink,
Though pressed by every foe:
That will not falter on the brink
Of any earthly woe;
Oh, for a faith that looks to God,
And looks to Him alone:
Laughs at impossibilities,
And cries it shall be done."

MARRIED

Randall-Silvius

To greet the arrival of Christmas morning, Miss Ella Bernice Silvius, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Silvius, Macon, Georgia, and Mr. Arnold Lee Randall, son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Randall, Jonesport, Maine, were united in marriage at 12.30 a. m. at the Reformed Baptist parsonage, Jonesport, Me.

The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. E. R. Bradley, while outside the parsonage window the church choir sang Christmas carols. The bride and groom were attended by Miss Violet Randall and Mr. Shirley Redmaker.

Their friends wish that the joyous occasion be crowned with a long, prosperous union.

E. R. B.

Beal-Brown

A quiet marriage took place at the Reformed Baptist parsonage, Jonesport, Me., on Dec. 11th, 1939, at 7.30 p. m., when Rev. E. D. Bradley united Miss Ellouise Brown and Mr. Lyman O. Beal. They were unattended.

The bride is the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Brown, of Jonesport. Her father is superintendent of schools. The groom is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Beal, Jonesport, Me. He is associated with his father in the fishing business.

Mr. and Mrs. Beal will reside in Jonesport. Their many friends wish them a long, useful and happy married life.

E. R. B.

Alley-Chambers

The home of Mrs. Delana Chambers, Jonesport, Me., was the scene of a quiet wedding on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th, 1939, at 9 p. m. when her daughter, Miss Janette Chambers, was united in wedlock to Mr. R. Larson Alley, son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Alley, Jonesport, Me.

The double ring ceremony was performed by Rev. E. R. Bradley in the presence of the bride's mother and grandmother, and the groom's mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Alley will make their home in Jonesport, where he is a successful fisherman in partnership with his father.

All their friends join us in wishing them a happy wedded life.

E. R. B.

Billings-Brewer

A quiet wedding took place at the Reformed Baptist parsonage at Millville on Dec. 23rd, when Basil, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harper Billings, was united in marriage to Georgina, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Brewer.

We extend our best wishes for a happy future.