

**ESTHER**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Esther chapter 7 as we continue our study through the Word of God. And as we have seen and will continue to see here in the book of Esther, God is positioning people and situations to fulfill His purpose of saving His people, the Jews, from extermination. Yes God's name is not openly mentioned in this book, but His handiwork, His signature, is seen throughout the book of Esther.

Now just to set the stage for what we will be looking at this evening we have seen that wicked Haman, who was second in command in Persia, gets the King's okay for a decree to be made that on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month, all the Jews within the 127 provinces of the Persian Kingdom were to be killed. Haman hated the Jews because of one man, Mordecai, a Jew, who refused to bow before him and give him the honor he felt he deserved.

And thus, over time this death sentence for the Jews is posted for all to see, in all 127 provinces of the Persian Kingdom and when Mordecai finds this out he mourns in sackcloth and ashes, as well as the Jews throughout the kingdom. Queen Esther, the cousin of Mordecai, is totally unaware of this decree which will also affect her, since she was a Jew. And as she hears all that has been done, after a little encouragement from Mordecai, she goes before the King to try and stop this evil plan from being carried out. In doing that she was unsure if the King would be glad to see her or not, for he had not requested her presence for some 30 days. If he refused her, she could be put to death for approaching the King without his permission or request. But when King Ahasuerus sees his Queen, he is more than happy to have her come to him.

As she approaches him the King asks her what she wants and her first request is that she be allowed to throw a feast for her King and for Haman, which he allows her to do. And Haman is on top of the world at this point, having a feast with the King and his Queen. Not only that, Esther has requested a second feast to be held on the next day for her King and Haman. It couldn't get any better than this for Haman, or so he thought!

But as Haman heads home from the first feast, he sees that rebellious Mordecai who continues to refuse to bow before him. And he is furious over this situation. As Haman brags to his friends and family about his good fortune, he can't get it out of his mind what Mordecai has done and is doing to him. In fact, all that Haman has he counts as nothing as long as this Jew is still living! So his family tells him to build the gallows in the backyard some 75 feet high and impale Mordecai on this stake for all to see. Haman thinks that this is a great idea, now he only needs to get permission from the King, which he will attempt to do early in the morning.

And keep in mind that God is orchestrating all these things, working with different people to fulfill His plan. And thus, that night the King couldn't sleep, so he calls for his servants to get out the history books to see if that will help him get back to sleep. If that didn't boar him to death and put him to sleep, nothing would or so he thought!

And as they begin to read the history of the kingdom, they just happen to start at the place where Mordecai foils an assassination plot against the King. And the King wants to know what has been done for this man who saved his life, and he finds out that nothing was done to honor him. Remember that we said that from an earthly perspective, that was not fair for Mordecai, but God had a plan and now He was going to reward this man, but not the way many would think. God is going to use what Mordecai did for the King to bring about salvation for His people!

And now it is early in the morning, the sun is coming up, the new day begins to dawn, and Haman just happens to be heading out to the King's court to meet with the King so he could get the okay to kill Mordecai. As he goes into the court the King asks his servants if anyone is out there, and they tell him that Haman has just entered the court. So the king tells them to get Haman and bring him on in.

Now before Haman could ask his question before the King, the King asks Haman, **“What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?”** Pride, ego can really mess with your head, if you know what I mean. And Haman, thinking the King was speaking of him, just pours out his heart, saying to give this person the royal robe, and let him be paraded around the city for all to see and know that this is the man that the King is honoring. And the King is thrilled with this idea and tells Haman to go and get Mordecai and do to him as you have said!

How I wish we had some film footage of what Haman's face looked like when the King told him to get Mordecai and honor him instead of what Haman wanted, to have him put to death! He must have been sick to his stomach over this, because he too was going to have to honor the man he wanted dead. And after a day of honor, Haman heads home, tells his family about the bad day he had, and they responded by saying, "**... 'If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him.'**" Esther 6:13.

It is like Job's wife, "**Curse God and die!**" I mean really. But that was the reality, you can't fight against God or His people and win and they recognized this fact and I think Haman also recognized this. It is at this point we will begin our study tonight, as the Kings eunuchs come to pick up Haman for Esther's second feast. And Haman is probably thinking to himself, "It can't get any worse than this!" Well, not exactly! So let's begin in Esther chapter 7, beginning in verse 1 this evening and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word!

**ESTHER 7****VERSES 1-4**

1. Remember what Mordecai said to Esther, **“... ‘Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?’”** Esther 4:14. It is now the right time, the setting is right, and Esther tells the King what is troubling her. She is pleading for her life, and for her people to be spared from this death sentence that has been issued against them. She tells the King that if her people would have been sold into slavery, as bad as that would be, she would not bother the King, but the kingdom could never gain back the loss of her and her people if they were sold into slavery. You see, King Ahasuerus has no idea that Esther is a Jew, but all that is now coming out in the open. He also does not know who has perpetrated this evil plan, even though he was the one who signed the decree into law. But he is going to find out who did this evil deed very quickly. Let's read on.

**VERSES 5-6**

1. Here we see the King demanding to know who did this, where is this evil man? Like I have said, the King himself signed the killing of the Jews into law but he did so ignorantly. Haman is doing it willingly; he knows exactly what he is doing. Now don't come to the conclusion that life was important to the King, it wasn't. He had no problem killing people, but these were the Queens people and he is furious about this situation, which tells me he loved Esther very much.

2. Now as the Queen is questioned, she points to Haman, he is the one who plans this evil. Now, can you imagine what Haman must have felt when the finger of guilt was pointed directly at him? He was on top of the world for a short period of time and now it is like the world is on him. This was supposed to be a feast, a celebration but it is quickly turning sour, and Haman is terrified over what is now happening to him. The words of his wife and friends were quickly coming to pass, he was not going to defeat Mordecai, in fact he was going to lose out. You see, God is for His people, not against them and in the end, with all the evil plans to destroy the people of God, the gates of Hell will not prevail over His people, His Church!

#### VERSES 7-8

1. Why was the King so mad, so furious over this situation? I believe the King was furious over what Haman had done to him but also I think the King was furious at himself for being such a buffoon, a fool, tricked into allowing Haman to do this. A big reason for King Ahasuerus allowing Haman to put forth this decree was greed and trying to restore some of the wealth of the kingdom after losing their battle to the Greeks. In Esther 4:7 we are told, “**. . . And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king’s treasuries to destroy the Jews.**” And the amount that Haman promised to give to the King was 10,000 talents of silver, which was some 66% of the annual income of the kingdom. I also see him so furious because this was an attack against his wife, the Queen and thus, the King is so mad about this situation he just up and leaves the room, leaving Esther and Haman alone.

2. Now we should not be surprised that he is so angry because the King was given over to fits of wrath, as we saw what he did to Queen Vashti. And history supports this. One time, as some of his men were working on building some docks, a storm came up and destroyed the work, and many of the Persian ships. And the King was so angry over this that he comes down to the sea with a whip in his hand, starts beating the sea and cursing the sea. He then takes those 300 workers and puts them to death. Ahasuerus was not very stable, and Haman was very aware of that fact. That is why he was shaking in his boots over what was happening, or should I say, shaking in his sandals!

3. The Persians, and later on the Greeks, Romans, and the Jews would recline on couches when they ate, with the table being very close to the floor. That is why the picture of the Last Supper, where they are all eating at the table, sitting on chairs, is inaccurate.

Anyway, Haman is most likely pleading for his life to Esther, asking for her to step in and save him, and he has fallen on her or besides her, and as he does the King walks in and thinks that Haman is trying to assault his Queen. Again, keep in mind that the King has a short fuse and he is ready to explode and does just that as he sees what is going on, what Haman is doing to his Queen or thinks he is doing. Talk about your bad days! For Haman, it seemed like it could not get any worse, but it is. The covering of his face meant they were preparing to put him to death!

VERSES 9-10

1. As I read what took place here I have to believe that Haman must not have been liked very much, for even the Kings eunuchs are looking for ways to put him to death, and there, standing in the distance, are the gallows 75 feet high, for which Mordecai was to be impaled upon. But now it is Haman who is going to be impaled upon this stake for all to see. I guess you can say that he was a Haman-kabob! Sorry about that! It truly is as Psalm 37:35-36 says, **“I have seen the wicked in great power, And spreading himself like a native green tree. Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more; Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found.”** The wicked think they are gods, they think that they are in control, and in the end, they are no more!

2. Now think about this for a minute. Everything that happened to Haman was what he was planning for Mordecai, but God turned the tables on Haman. Two points I want to make regarding this. The first is this; in the Bible we see the law of reciprocity or what you sow you will reap. In Psalm 7:14-16 we are told, **“Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood. He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made. His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown.”**

That is exactly what happened to Haman! He had the tables turned on him!



Also, remember the story of Jacob who tricked his brother for his birthright and blessing. Jacob himself was tricked by his sons into thinking that his son Joseph had been killed by wild animals when the reality was his brothers sold him into slavery. Pharaoh wanted all the male Hebrew children killed and God turned the tables and has the firstborn males in Egypt killed, including the son of Pharaoh. You see, the evil that others do is brought back upon them by God. Paul said in Galatians 6:7-8, **“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”** And in Proverbs 26:27 we are told, **“Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.”**

The second point is this. Just when the enemy thinks he has the victory, God steps in and turns the tables. The ultimate example of this is seen in the cross, that for 3 days the realm of evil must have been rejoicing in the death of the Messiah. But on the third day that stone was rolled away, and what looked like defeat, became the ultimate victory as Christ rose from the grave! It is as Isaiah 54:17 tells us, **“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,’ Says the LORD.”**

Yes the enemy may think they have won, they may think their evil plan is a success, but as Joseph said in Genesis 50:19-20, “**. . . ‘Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.’**” God has a way of turning the tables on the enemy and giving His people the victory! May we not lose sight of that fact!

Again notice what Joseph says in Genesis 45:5-7, “**‘But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.’**” What may look like defeat in the eyes of many, God will turn into victory to accomplish His will through willing vessels.

## **ESTHER 8**

### **VERSES 1-2**

1. On that same day that Haman was put to death, the King takes all that was Haman’s and gives it to Esther. That tells me, besides some other things, that Haman was a very wealthy man. And now the King finds out that he is related to Mordecai by marriage and he makes Mordecai second in command of the kingdom, giving him his signet ring, which was the Kings authority. Look at how quickly things turned in favor of God’s people!

VERSES 3-6

1. Even though Haman has been put to death, the decree that was issued to put to death every Jew in the kingdom was still in effect. And if you remember from the book of Daniel, in chapter 6, once a decree was issued and signed into law, it could not be changed or altered in the Persian Empire. And it did not matter how the King felt, even if he changed his mind regarding this decree. And Esther is imploring the King to do something about this situation because her people are still in trouble.

And so we see Queen Esther once again pouring her heart out to the King. She is explaining to him that within 9 months this decree will be carried out and the Jew's destroyed. She can not just sit back and see those things happen to her and her people.

2. What about you? Are you comfortable seeing the lost end up in Hell, eternally separated from God? Or do you have a passion for the lost to see them saved. You see, there is a decree that they will die in their sins and that decree cannot be altered. But there is also a way out. You see, there is another decree that has been issued and it will make the first one null and void if it is applied to your life and that decree is issued through Jesus Christ who has paid in full the penalty for our sins by shedding His blood for us. And thus, all who come to Him are cleansed. May we have that kind of passion for the lost, to see them saved! If you reject the second decree, the first decree will be enforced and you will die in your sins!

VERSES 7-14

1. Again, the King could not change the decree so the Jews would not be destroyed, but he is going to allow Mordecai to write another decree that will counteract the first one. Understand that it can't take away the first one, but it can only make the first one have no effect. Think of it this way, the law of gravity can't be changed. You can step off a tall building and you will find out quickly how the law of gravity works as you come crashing to the ground. But if you were in a plane, the law of aerodynamics counteracts the law of gravity, making it have no effect, unless you step out of the plane or the plane stalls, and then you will see the law of gravity once again take over.

2. As Christians, listen to what Paul tells us in Romans 8:2, **“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”** Here we see two contrasting Laws. There is **“the law of sin and death”** and this Law was established in the Garden of Eden. We are told in Genesis 2:17 by the Lord, **“but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”** In other words, “the soul that sins shall surely die.”

You are condemned when you transgress the Law of God! Now please don't come to the conclusion that the Law of God is bad, it is not. In fact, the Scriptures teach us that the Law of God is good. The Law of God is perfect. The problem is not with the Law but with us, we are bad and we can't keep the Law!

Then there is “**the law of the Spirit of life**” and this Law has set us free from condemnation. This Law is established in Christ as God sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh so that He could be the substitutional sacrifice for our sins. And because of that we no longer receive the wages of sin, which is death, but we now receive the free gift of *LIFE* that is found in Christ Jesus!

Now here is the problem, there are two Laws and how can one Law set us free from the power of another Law? That is a great question and I will illustrate it like this and I think this will help you to understand it. I have touched on this already but I want you to understand this, it is very important! Imagine a 747 airplane sitting on a runway. Its weight is some 900,000 pounds and it can carry around 400 passengers. If that is not big enough for you then think of the Airbus, which weighs some 1.23 million pounds and can carry some 550 passengers!

Neither one of these airplanes are going to just float off the runway, right? Of course they are not, look at their weight. What is holding them down? It is the law of gravity that is holding them down. The law of gravity is in effect. But, if you were to take either one of those airplanes and start up the engines, they will begin to travel down the runway and as they gain enough speed, they will lift off the ground!

But they weigh so much, how can they possibly lift off the ground? How can that be? It is simple, there is another law that is working and it is the law of aerodynamics. It doesn't negate the law of gravity, it is still in effect, just turn off the engines and you will find that out! Once those engines are turned off, those planes would drop to the ground because now the law of gravity would take over.

Now here is the point. The law of aerodynamics supersedes the law of gravity as the plane is flying just as the Law of the Spirit of life supersedes the Law of sin and death as we are in Christ! Does that mean that the Law of sin and death is gone? Absolutely not for those that are not saved. You see, those that are not in Christ will face the law of sin and death, they will face the judgment of God!

But when we are in Christ we are free, we are safe from the judgment of God, and we are thus free from the law of sin and death! In Colossians 3:3-4 Paul makes that point as he tells us, **“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”** The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“For [as far as this world is concerned] you have died, and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in [the splendor of His] glory.”**

But what if we blow it? What if we don't live up to a certain standard? Can we lose our salvation? Listen again to what Paul said here in Romans 8:2, **“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”** The Amplified Bible puts it like this, **“For the law of the Spirit of life [which is] in Christ Jesus [the law of our new being] has freed me from the law of sin and of death.”** And The Living Bible says, **“For the power of the life-giving Spirit-and this power is mine through Christ Jesus-has freed me from the vicious circle of sin and death.”**

Why is this such a big deal to us? Because Paul is saying that the Law of the Spirit of life has made me free and the way this is written it is in the Greek aorist tense and it tells us that this is a once-and-for all freedom that takes place at the time of salvation and that freedom that is eternal is one that frees us from the law of sin and death. How can I say that? Because we are forever in Christ or as Paul put it in Romans 8:38-39, **“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

Please understand that there is absolutely nothing that can separate us, take us away from the love of God for those who are in Christ, those that are saved! It is an everlasting covenant, it never ends, it can never be taken away. I like the way that Spurgeon wrote about these verses as he spoke of the confidence of the great men and women of God and the love that God had for them. He wrote, “They did not speak of Christ’s love as though it were a myth to be respected, a tradition to be revered; they viewed it as a blessed reality, and they cast their whole confidence upon it, being persuaded that it would bear them up as upon eagles’ wings, and carry them all their days; resting assured that it would be to them a foundation of rock, against which the waves might beat, and the winds blow, but their soul’s habitation would stand securely if founded upon it.”

I pray you understand that. Unlike the law of gravity and the law of aerodynamics, once we are saved, the Law of sin and death for us is grounded; it will not impact our lives anymore. The only ones who are affected by this are those that are not in Christ and then the Law of sin and death has power over them until they come to Christ! I hope that clears that up for you that once you are in Christ you are secure, no one can take that away. And yes, I do believe in eternal security!

3. Now keep in mind that in less than 9 months the first decree was set to be carried out, so they could waste no time in putting in writing this second decree, which was to be translated into various languages of the people in the 127 provinces of Persia. And so as this decree is completed, they gather together the fastest horses so they could reach their destination as quickly as possible and post this second decree. Now this second decree did not give the Jews permission to launch an offensive attack against those who were trying to destroy them, but only permission to take a defensive stance against anyone who would try to destroy them or their family.

#### VERSES 15-17

1. If you remember when the first decree was issued, the people were confused, perplexed about what was to happen to the Jews. Now, as the second decree is issued, there is great joy and celebration. You see, as the people saw the hand of God upon the Jews, many of the people turned to the true and living God, they became Jews or proselytes. The Jews were now a light in the kingdom, and as the people looked at them, they saw the hand of God.



2. Let me ask you this question. “Does the Lord promise to keep us from the battle, from difficulties, from trials?” Absolutely not, but what He does promise us is that He will be with us through these battles, through these storms of life and what encouragement that should be as these things come our way. Not only that, but as others see us going through these battles and they see how God brought us through them, they will be drawn to Jesus! Thus, we need to have the correct perspective as we go through these things, may we do so with joy in our hearts because the Lord is with us!

## ESTHER 9

### VERSES 1-5

1. The day of reckoning had come, but at least the Jews could now fight back and defend themselves. And with Mordecai now second in command in the kingdom, the King’s right hand man, the people rightly recognized the hand of God upon the Jews, which brought fear among the people. Thus, those that wanted to destroy the Jews were being destroyed themselves. It is as Deuteronomy 33:29 says, “**Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places.**” And we need to understand that they are only taking a defensive stand against their enemy, and they were soundly defeating those who came against them. They were only trying to save their own lives.

2. Make no mistake about it, we have our enemies that are coming against us and just like the Jews in the days of Esther, God is fighting for us and here's the thing. It is as Paul said, "**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**" Romans 8:31-32.

Now, how are our enemies defeated? Think about it, how are Satan and his demonic powers defeated. How is the flesh defeated? The enemy is defeated with the sword of the Spirit or the Word of God. The enemy is defeated with prayer. May we not forget that because the battle truly belongs to the Lord!

#### VERSES 6-10

1. In the city of Shushan alone 500 people were destroyed at this point, plus Haman's 10 sons, who most likely tried to avenge the death of their father by attacking the Jews, but in the end they were destroyed. All that Haman wanted for Mordecai came upon his life.

2. Notice also that it says that, "**they did not lay a hand on the plunder**" or they did not take any spoil from the enemy. That is interesting to me because they could have gained a great amount of wealth this way. But if you remember, Haman was an Amalekite and when King Saul was to wipe them out, he was told by the Lord not to take any possessions, any plunder from them. But Saul disobeyed the Lord and because of that the Lord was going to remove him from being King in Israel. Here, with Haman's sons, it could be that they were just honoring God's request that He gave to King Saul, not to take any plunder in their battle against the Amalekites.

3. Now here's the thing. We can indulge our lives in the flesh, we can live anyway that we want but I can guarantee that when people do they never calculate the cost. I remember Pastor Mike MacIntosh telling the story of a married woman in his church that somehow found her long lost boyfriend, and over time her marriage was falling apart because she was so infatuated with this man she dated long ago! She had a wonderful Christian husband and children but she was not satisfied.

There was a school reunion that she went to and hooked up with this man, had a sexual encounter with him and the next time Pastor Mike saw her, her body was dying and she was dying of AIDS! She died a short time later and left behind her husband and her children who loved her! You see, the cost of satisfying the flesh will always be greater than what we anticipated! For Haman, it not only cost him his life but the life of his children!

#### VERSES 11-15

1. Here we see that in two days in Shushan 800 of the enemy have been destroyed, besides Haman's 10 sons. And his 10 sons are now impaled upon stakes for all to see, kind of an object lesson for all to take notice for anyone who wants to come against the Jews. And once again they did not take any spoil; they were fighting for their lives not material possessions!

VERSE 16

1. Now we see that in the 127 provinces in this kingdom there were another 75,000 people who came against the Jews and they were destroyed. And once again we see that the Jews did not take any plunder or spoils from their victory. And again, another reason why they did not take any plunder was that this was not about money, it was not about riches, it was about survival!

2. Another interesting point is this. You would think that the enemy would give up, they could easily see the tables turning against them with no way to win, and yet they continued to fight, why? Because the enemy will try and take as many with them as they can, at any cost. Think of it this way, Satan has lost, his time is short, and yet he still refuses to stop destroying lives. He desires to bring down as many as he can, to weaken, stumble, and destroy people's lives. Remember in Revelation 12:12 where we read, **“... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”** Thus, we must continue this battle until we go home to be with the Lord!

3. Let me also say this. Mordecai was a descendent from the tribe of Benjamin and what King Saul did not do, Mordecai did, he completed the judgment against the Amalekites! It is as Spurgeon wrote, “Now it was God's intent that a last conflict should take place between Israel and Amalek: the conflict which began with Joshua in the desert was to be finished by Mordecai in the king's palace.”

VERSES 17-22

1. So we see here that in Shushan it took them 2 days to defeat the enemy and throughout the rest of the kingdom it took them just 1 day. Thus, for 2 days they were to have a yearly celebration commemorating what God had done to save His people from destruction. This feast is called Purim and we will talk about what this is all about in a minute.

VERSES 23-28

1. Remember when Haman came to the astrologers, the wise men, seeking to find the perfect day to carry out his plan, and they cast lots or Purim, which fell on the 13th day of the 12th month, thus this became the extermination day for the Jews. The casting of lots or Purim, the adding of “IM” makes it plural; the singular, “lot” is Pur.

This yearly feast began on the 13 day of the 12th month when they would have a fast, and at night in the Synagogue the book of Esther would be read and when the name of Haman was read, the congregation would say, “Let his name be blotted out!” And the children would make all kinds of noise with noisemakers and rattles. The following day, the 14th day, they would celebrate in the suburbs and the 15th day in the city.

Purim is celebrated in the month of March and the “Feast of Purim” was not one of the seven feasts that God instituted at Mt. Sinai after Israel came out of Egypt. Alfred Edersheim, D. D., Ph.D., in his book *The Temple* tells us, “Besides the festivals mentioned in the law of Moses, other festive seasons were also observed at the time of our Lord, to perpetuate the memory either of great national deliverances or great national calamities (p. 330).”

2. Why did they celebrate this feast? I think the reason may be as simple as this.

Remembering things from the past are important, for those lessons, if not learned, will be repeated!

### VERSES 29-32

1. Letters were sent throughout the kingdom confirming this feast from generation to generation. And again, remembering God's great deliverances in our lives is good because how often we forget His great works, what He has done in our lives!

## **ESTHER 10**

### VERSES 1-3

1. We all know that old saying, "It is always darkest before the dawn" and that truly applies to this book. The Jews were on the verge of destruction by Haman and God turned the tables and spared His people. Haman and his family were wiped out, and Mordecai and the Jews were lifted up. God is still in control and as Paul said in Romans 15:4-6 may we apply to our life. He said, "**For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**"

2. We have seen that from the opening chapter of the book of Esther, till the final word, you can clearly see the hand of God working through various people and situations to fulfill His plan and purpose, and here, to save the Jews from extermination! God continues to work through His people and cares deeply for us.

Listen to what Jesus said in Matthew 6:24-34, **“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”**

You see, we need to have that perspective as we go through life, God is still on the throne, He is still in control and what God brings into our lives or allows in our lives is to test our faith. But also remember that Satan is right there to tempt us to fail. Draw close to God and He will draw close to you and He wants you to succeed in life, He wants your faith to grow, please let Him!

3. Let me close this evening with these words from Jon Courson as he sums things up for us. He wrote,

Mordecai, a type of the Spirit, sought prosperity and peace for the people of God. Haman, a type of the flesh, ended up hung up and done in because God was ever on the scene, watching over, blessing, protecting, and providing for His people. The story ends with the people of God experiencing peace and prosperity, with Mordecai in the place of prominence and power and with Haman hanging.

The path to peace and prosperity remains the same today: with the Spirit as prime minister, directing the affairs of the state of your soul, and with the flesh, like Haman, crucified and reckoned dead (Romans 6:11). This is always the way to peace and prosperity: where the Spirit is the prime minister, directing the affairs of the state of your soul, the flesh, like Haman, crucified, and reckoned dead. Romans 8:16 says to be carnally minded is death but to be Spiritually minded is life and peace.



The Jews were destined for annihilation, but ended up with a brand new celebration. Haman was top dog, but ended up a dead duck. Mordecai was on death row, but now is prime time. God, in a most amazing way to an undeserving people turned the tables. Will He do that for me? Will He do that for you? If we humble ourselves and cry out to Him, the story of Esther tells us the answer is a resounding YES!

- Jon Courson, Application Commentary  
Old Testament, Volume 1, pp. 1279-1280