

Union Chapel M.B. Church

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“Esther 6-10, Part II”

(Study Material from Illustrated Bible Survey: An Introduction)

Esther, a young beautiful Jewish girl becomes queen, saves fellow Jews from slaughter. Esther was in Persia. Joseph was in Egypt. Daniel was in Babylon. Wherever we are in history, His story is one of sovereignty, providence, and redemption for every soul who will trust Him. Esther’s story encourages us that in Christ, we are never too far from God’s reach and protection (2 Chron 16:9; Psalm 139:7-12; John 3:16; 10:27-30; Rom 5:8).

I. Deliverance of the Jews

a. Valor of Mordecai Rewarded

i. **Chapter 6 (sleepless night):** Upon discovering in the king’s chronicles that Mordecai’s previous good deed on his behalf had gone unrewarded, Xerxes decided to reward Mordecai. Inadvertently, Haman was instructed to honor Mordecai in a manner he would have preferred for himself. Humiliated, the angry and frustrated Haman expressed his exasperation to his wife and friends, who warned him that he would not prevail against Mordecai because Haman’s downfall was certain.

b. Venture of Esther

i. **Chapter 7 (second banquet):** The triumph of the Jews over Haman reaches its climax at Esther’s second banquet. When Xerxes asks Esther to state her request, she reveals Haman’s plot to eradicate the Jews and asks the king to spare her life and the lives of her people. The end result was the hanging of Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai.

c. Victory of the Jews

i. **Chapters 8 (supplemental decree):** Because of the unchanging nature of the Persian law, Esther influenced Xerxes to issue another decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves against those who might try to attack them. Because the second decree presents God’s providential work to spare His people from extinction, many have noted how Xerxes’s second decree parallels his first decree.

ii. **Chapters 9 (surpassing enemies; showing appreciation):** Explains the significance of the Festival of Purim (“lots”). Since Haman cast lots to determine when he would execute the Jews, they celebrated their victory with feasting, rejoicing, and sending gifts. To this day the Jews celebrate “Esther’s banquet” at the Feast of Purim on the fifteenth of

Adar (February/March) in remembrance of God's blessing and protection.

d. Vindication of Mordecai

- i. **Chapter 10 (supervision in government):** Esther concludes with a reminder of the blessings or curses individuals experience when they bless or curse God's covenant people. While Haman was hung on his own gallows due to his ambition to destroy the Jews, Mordecai was elevated to second in command in the Persian Empire, so he enjoyed the enduring respect of the Jews on account of his work on their behalf.

II. **Application**

- a. The providence of God is obvious throughout the book of Esther. While God's name is not mentioned, His providential intervention to rescue His people is unmistakable. The timing of God is seen time and time again in the details of Esther's story. We too must learn to trust God even when He seems silent. In reality, He is always at work on our behalf (Psalm 121:4).
- b. When we find ourselves in bad situations (1 John 3:20), it may be for the same reason Esther did – to accomplish something good! Remember who is living in you (1 John 4:4)

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