

Esther (6)

ESTHER 9:1-5 (2 SLIDES)

- A. The **DELIVERANCE** of the Jews (9:1-19)
- When the scheduled day came, the Jews were invincible (v1-4)
 - ✓ Jews had prepared to fight (v2)
 - ✓ Everyone feared the Jews (v3)
 - ✓ Persian leaders helped defend the Jews (v4)
 - In Shusan alone, over 500 enemies of the Jews were destroyed including 10 sons of Haman (v5-11)
 - Though allowed, the Jews did not take their enemies' plunder – they were not fighting for material possessions but for survival (v10, 16)

ESTHER 9:12-13

- The king fears that if Shusan had 500 enemies of the Jews, there must be others so he asks Esther what she would like him to do (v12)
 - ✓ Imagine the king now consulting Esther
 - ✓ “An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her...” (Proverbs 31:10, 11)
- Esther asks the king to do two things (v13-14)
 - ✓ Give a one-day extension to hunt out their remaining enemies
 - ✓ Allow the 10 sons of Haman's bodies to be displayed publicly (impaled) as a visual warning
- The next day another 300 enemies were killed in Shusan and 75,000 enemies were killed over the 2 days through the kingdom (v15-19)

ESTHER 9:20-23

- B. The **DEDICATION** of Purim (9:20-32)
- Mordecai proclaims a national 2-day holiday to commemorate this triumph when God saved the Jews (v20-23)
 - ✓ The feast was called Purim
 - ✓ It included a feast
 - ✓ It included giving of gifts to each other and to the poor
 - The feast was so named because the word “Pur” means “lot” and Haman cast lots (3:6, 7) to determine the day of execution (v24-26)
 - The feast is celebrated today including reading the book of Esther
 - ✓ Little children and adults dress up in costume

✓ People boo and jeer when Haman's name is mentioned; People clap and cheer when Esther and Mordecai's names are mentioned

- Mordecai decrees this holiday to include a time of fasting symbolizing their fasting before Esther approached the King (v29-32)

PURIM READING

ESTHER 10:1-3

- C. The **DIGNITY** of Mordecai (10:1-3)
- The power, might and greatness of Mordecai (a Jew) now becomes part of the official Persian history (v2)
 - This greatness of Mordecai was characterized by his generosity and interest in helping others (v3)

God is always at work behind the scenes orchestrating the details of our lives

- “After these things” (2:1) – a 4-year period in which Vashti is gone and the king suffers a devastating loss in battle
- “In those days” (2:21) – Mordecai uncovers a plot of assassination and saves the life of the king but is never rewarded
- “After these events” (3:1) – a 5-year period inbetween Mordecai saving the king and Haman being promoted to 2nd in command
- The pur (lot) falling on a day in the 12th month for the extermination of the Jews (3:7)
- “During that night” (6:1) – On the night before Haman would ask for Mordecai's execution, the king has a case of divine insomnia

The people God uses are usually the unexpected ones
(David, Moses, Rahab, Jesus)

God is never absent (even though the book of Esther never mentions His name, God's hand and plan is visible on every page of its writing)

In the end, God wins (Proverbs 21:1)