

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: The Book of Esther – Message 11

2016 VISION: Faithful in little things!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Scriptures for Today: Esther 9:1-32 – The Jews are saved from peril; The Feast of Purim (Part 1)

Title of Today's Message: A Day to Remember – *It is a good day when God brings deliverance!*

INTRODUCTION

We are here today to celebrate the **BIRTH** of our Lord Jesus Christ. However, much of the world is celebrating a Christ-less Christmas on this day. They have dusted off their little baby in a manger right along next to Santa and Rudolf for another year. Soon, they will put the baby Jesus back again and live life as they want. They will reduce the story of Christ to a powerless fairytale. But, has it always been that way? Did Jesus ask for this day to be remembered? By the end of our message, we will answer that question. Today, we continue Esther and focus on how these incredible historical events relate to the holiday we **REMEMBER** and celebrate *every year*.

PREACHING NOTES

The Bible is called the **Word of God**. It is no ordinary Book! There are many pictures in Esther...

Bible Pictures A "**type**" is a person, event or ceremony that is recorded as a picture or foreshadow of **another** future person, event or ceremony.

1. **History** – all Scripture is historically **ACCURATE**. It happened as the Bible says with no errors.
 - Thus far in our study of Esther, we have learned significant details related to history.
 - King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) replaced his Gentile bride (Vashti) with a Jewish bride (Esther).
 - A close advisor to the king (Haman) devised a wicked plan to exterminate the Jews.
 - Haman wrote a law to destroy all the Jews on the 13th day of the 12th month Adar.
 - God used Mordecai and Esther to expose the evil plan, and Haman was hanged.
 - Because the law could not be changed, a new law was written to save the Jews.
 - All the Jews rejoiced over the new law and put their hope and trust in it – believing it!
2. **Doctrine & Prophecy** – there is *prophetic truth* and **key TEACHINGS** to be learned in Scripture.
 - Thus far in Esther, we have learned significant details related to the Tribulation Period.
 - The gentile bride of Christ (His church) will be replaced by a Jewish bride (the Jews).
 - The Antichrist will devise a wicked plan to exterminate the Jews – again!
 - The Jews will believe God's New Testament and pray/trust in Jesus to save them – and He will!
 - God will destroy the Antichrist and the devil at the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ!
3. **Devotional Application** – all Scripture is **PROFITABLE** for us and must be **applied to our lives**.
 - Last week, we learned how the irreversible Law of God has condemned all people to hell.
 - The Bible says the wages of SIN is death and eternal damnation in a literal place called hell.
 - The Law of God (Ten Commandments) was written so that all would know what SIN looks like.
 - The Law doesn't help us, it leaves us helpless. It does not save us, it leaves us guilty before God.
 - But God, who is rich in mercy and love, wrote a NEW DECREE and gave the Saviour to the world.
 - Jesus is God's GIFT to all people. All who BELIEVE IN HIM – repent and trust – can be saved!

4. Esther 9 – Saved from destruction – a MEMORIAL to be **kept** to REMEMBER God’s *deliverance*.

- a. As we begin Esther chapter 9 today, the 13th day of Adar has drawn near...it is time!

Esther 9:1 *“Now in **the twelfth month**, that is, the month Adar, **on the thirteenth day** of the same, when the king’s commandment and his decree DREW NEAR to be put in execution...”*

NOTE The day approached when the enemy of the Jews HOPED to have power over them...

- b. The Jews **smote all their enemies** and THE 10 SONS of Haman – **then** HANGED THE 10 SONS.

Esther 9:14 *“And **the king commanded** it so to be done...and **THEY HANGED** Haman’s **TEN SONS.**”*

NOTE The 10 sons of Haman were already dead according to 9:10. So why HANG them?

- c. The Jews were SAVED and a MEMORIAL was **ordained** to be KEPT **yearly** in remembrance.

Esther 9:27 *“The Jews ORDAINED, and took upon them...so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year”*

NOTE This was to never be forgotten. And, the Jews have never forgotten the Feast of Purim!

5. Doctrinal and Devotional Application – how does Esther 9 relate to *Christmas* and my life?

- a. A day of death and Judgment **draws near** – peril for unbelievers; victory for believers in Christ.

John 3:36 *“He that BELIEVETH on the Son **hath everlasting life**: and he that BELIEVETH NOT the Son **shall not see life**; but the WRATH OF GOD **abideth on him.**”*

1 Corinthians 15:57 *“But thanks be to God, which giveth us THE VICTORY **through our Lord Jesus Christ.**”*

NOTE Like the Jews, the devil HOPES to have power over YOU on that day. Unbeliever – you will perish without Christ. Believer – your **sorrow** is now JOY; **mourning** is now a GOOD DAY!

- b. The Ten Commandments are like **10 cannons** – exposing your 10 great sins against a holy God!

Romans 3:19 *“Now we know that **what things soever the law saith**, it saith to them who are under the law: **that every mouth may be stopped**, and all the world may become GUILTY **before God.**”*

Colossians 2:14 *“**Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us**, which was CONTRARY to us, and took it out of the way, **nailing it to his cross;**”*

NOTE Unbeliever – like Haman’s 10 sons, the Ten Commandments will judge you and bring your ruin without Christ. Believer – we should DISPLAY the Ten Commandments and HANG them high so that we might WARN all people of the great peril and doom coming without Christ.

- c. Jesus Christ **ordained** the Lord’s Supper to be KEPT often by His church in **remembrance** of Him.

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 *“For I **have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you**, That the **LORD JESUS** the same night in which he was betrayed took bread...this is my body, which is broken for you: **this do** in REMEMBRANCE of **me**. After the same manner also he took the cup...This cup is the new testament in my blood: **this do ye**, as oft as ye drink it, in REMEMBRANCE of **me**. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, **ye do shew the Lord’s DEATH till he come.**”*

NOTE The Bible says that Jesus wanted us to **remember** His DEATH and His GIFT of salvation through His blood shed for us on the CROSS **until** He comes for us! It is interesting that He never said, “Remember my BIRTH until I come.” That being said, as the world’s celebration of “Christmas” gets further and further away from CHRIST, may **we always remember** the most glorious truth found in John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that HE GAVE his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting LIFE.”