

*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*  
Current Book: The Book of Esther – Message 12

**2016 VISION: Faithful in little things!**

## Scriptures for Today: Esther 9 & 10 – The Feast of Purim (Part 2) and Mordecai’s Greatness

**Title of Today’s Message: An Ordinance to Remember – *A memorial is to be kept without fail!***

### INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw God’s supernatural deliverance of the Jews from their enemies. They were doomed to be exterminated, but God provided a way of escape that they might be saved. God **turned** their *sorrow* into \_\_\_\_\_, and He **turned** their *mourning* into *a good day!* We also learned how the historical events of Esther 9 relate to the holiday we **REMEMBER** and celebrate **every year**. Today, we will review the key elements of chapters 9 and 10 and conclude the book. It is fitting that Esther **ends** with the **GREATNESS** of Mordecai and the Jews. Once again, we will see in Mordecai a \_\_\_\_\_ of what will happen at the **end** of the Tribulation Period to the Jews. We should be praying for this good day and honor and peace for God’s people (Ps 122:6)! As we begin another year in 2017, may we consider that this could be the year that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ for us. When He does, the glorious events found in Esther will shortly come to pass! At the end of our service, we will have our **day of remembrance** as we partake of the **Lord’s Supper** and *shew* our Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_ until He comes for us.

### PREACHING NOTES

#### 1. Historical Application – the Bible records historical events as they occurred – without error.

- The following historical events were recorded in Esther 9 and 10 and preserved for us.
  - The 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month came and the king’s decree **drew near** to be put in execution.
  - The enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them and destroy them.
  - **God turned it to the contrary, so that the Jews had rule over them that hated them!**
  - **The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces.**
  - No man could withstand them – they slew 500 men in Shushan the palace, the 10 sons of Haman, and 75,000 of their enemies in one day throughout all the king’s provinces.
  - **The Jews laid not their hands on the prey (spoils) as they were allowed by the king’s decree.**
  - Esther prayed the king to give the Jews 1 more day in Shushan and hang the 10 sons of Haman.
  - 300 more were killed in Shushan and the Jews had rest and a day of feasting and gladness.
  - The *Feast of Pur* was ordained to be kept every year as a memorial of God’s deliverance.
  - Mordecai and Esther wrote all these things in the BOOK of God so that it would never fail.
  - **King Ahasuerus laid a tribute to the lands, and Mordecai was next unto the king and great.**
  - **Mordecai sought the wealth of his people, and spoke PEACE to all his seed (Psalm 122:6).**
    - **Psalm 122:6 – Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.**

#### 2. Doctrine & Devotional Application – Reminders from last week

- a. The 13<sup>th</sup> day of Adar and the day of destruction and doom drew near...it was time!
  - A day of death and Judgment **draws near** – peril for unbelievers; victory for believers.
- b. The Jews **smote all their enemies** and THE 10 SONS of Haman – **then** HANGED THE 10 SONS.
  - The Ten Commandments are like **10 cannons** – exposing 10 great sins against God!
- c. The Jews were SAVED and a MEMORIAL was **ordained** to be KEPT **yearly** in remembrance.
  - Jesus Christ **ordained** the Lord’s Supper to be KEPT in **remembrance** of Him.

### 3. Doctrinal and Devotional Application – Other Highlights – how does Esther relate to my life?

- a. The Jews had **victory over their enemies** as they GATHERED THEMSELVES TOGETHER.

- We are victorious **together** – do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

Hebrews 10:25      *“Not forsaking the ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: AND SO MUCH THE MORE, as ye see the day approaching.”*

Ecclesiastes 4:9      *“TWO ARE BETTER **than one**; because they have a good reward for their labour. For IF THEY FALL, **the one will lift up his fellow**: but WOE TO HIM THAT IS ALONE **when he falleth**; for he hath not another to help him up.”*

NOTE      Like the Jews, we must gather ourselves together in order to have victory over our enemies on a daily basis. As we start the new year, PLEASE prioritize your schedule to put the TWO WEEKLY MEETINGS of the church on your schedule. And, do not allow the devil or the world to come between you and God’s church. If you give the devil a crack, he will take it.

- b. The Jews had liberty to take the worldly spoils, but they chose **NOT to lay their hands on them**.

- We must not COVET the world and things – we must set our affections on things above!

1 Samuel 15:9      *“**But Saul and the people SPARED AGAG, and THE BEST of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and ALL THAT WAS GOOD, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.**”*

Galatians 5:13      *“For, brethren, **ye have been called unto liberty; ONLY USE NOT LIBERTY for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.**”*

Colossians 3:1-2      *“If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are ABOVE, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your AFFECTION on things ABOVE, not on things on the earth.**”*

NOTE      The Jews must have remembered king Saul’s disobedience towards Almighty God! And, it would seem as though these Jews had learned from his error recorded forever in the Bible. On Wednesday, we were reminded of our AFFECTIONS and how we are affected by what we SET our affections on. Take time this week to inventory your affections for Christ’s sake.

- c. The acts of king Ahasuerus and the declaration of Mordecai’s greatness are a historical fact.

- Through this story, we are reminded to TRUST God no matter what things look like!

Proverbs 3:5-6      *“**Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**”*

NOTE      There are times in life when things appear as though there is no possible way of escape. When we go through times like these, may we remember how God TURNED the Jews’ sorrow into JOY and mourning into a GOOD DAY! All things are possible with God!

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

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

Esther 9:31      *“To confirm these days...as they had decreed...**the matters of THE FASTINGS and THEIR CRY.**”*

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 heart of the remembrance for the Jews was the “*matters of the fastings and their cry.*” Do you remember your prayer of salvation?? Surely, our remembrance of our Lord’s DEATH and shed blood on the CROSS ought to keep us humble and at His feet **until** He comes!