

Esther – Root Work
Week 3 - Sept 6, 2025

Esther 3 “God’s Providence Amidst Evil”

Verses Quoted or Used & Quotes:

- ~ 1 Samuel 15:8-9
- ~ Genesis 3:15
- ~ Job 42:2
- ~ Proverbs 16:33
- ~ Romans 8:28
- ~ John 15:13
- ~ Job 42:2
- ~ Philippians 4:13
- ~ Psalm 46:1
- ~ Isaiah 41:10
- ~ Matthew 11:28-30
- ~ Psalm 55:22

Irving Jensen comments on this: The last phrase of chapter 3 is significant: “But the city Shushan was perplexed”. Not only the Jews, but non-Jews reacted to this outrageous example of violent despotism. Sometimes the masses are wrong, but not always. Here was a situation where a king and his high minister were an erring minority with extensive authority. But all people—nations and individuals alike—must reckon with the highest Authority—God. The king’s decree was issued and posted, but the King of kings would have the last word.

Challenge Questions: Discussion

1. Are we willing to stand firm in our convictions, even when it means going against the crowd?
2. Do we trust in God's providence, even when we can't see Him working?
3. Are we using our positions of influence, however small they may seem, for God's purposes?
4. What are we willing to risk for the sake of others and for what is right?

Key Themes:

1. God’s providence is at work even when we can’t see it.
2. Evil plans against God’s people have existed throughout history.
3. Standing firm in our faith may require courage in the face of opposition.
4. God can use even the evil intentions of others to accomplish His purposes.

Thought Provoking Questions:

1. How does the story of Esther demonstrate God's providence even when He seems silent? What are some ways we might see God working 'behind the scenes' in our own lives?

2. Mordecai refused to bow to Haman out of conviction. When have you faced a situation where you had to choose between following your beliefs and conforming to societal expectations?
3. Haman's hatred for the Jews stemmed from a long history of conflict. How do you see similar prejudices or hatred manifesting in our world today? How can we as Christians respond to such attitudes?
4. 'God can overturn man's evil efforts'. How does this concept apply to modern challenges facing believers today?
5. Haman's plot was described as cunning and manipulative. How can we develop discernment to recognize hidden agendas or evil influences in our own contexts?
6. We see the dangers of power and pride. In what ways might we be tempted by pride in our own lives, even if we don't hold positions of authority?
7. We see the importance of standing up for what is right, even at personal cost. What makes this difficult, and how can faith help overcome these challenges?
8. What is the importance of trusting in God's Word rather than human authority? How can we cultivate discernment in distinguishing between godly wisdom and human manipulation?
9. How does the concept of trusting in God's plan (as seen in Job 42:2 and Romans 8:28) apply when facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles or injustices? Reflect on Romans 8:28. How have you seen God work things together for good in your own life, even in difficult circumstances?
10. What is the importance of needing to be 'rooted in our identity in Christ'? How can this identity give us strength to face opposition or persecution?
11. Are you living a surrendered life to God? What practical steps can we take to move from trying to control everything ourselves to truly surrendering to God's will?

Key Takeaways:

- God's providence is always active, even in the darkest times. Just as He positioned Esther to become queen, He was working behind the scenes to protect His people from Haman's plot.
- Standing firm in our faith may bring challenges, but it's crucial to our witness. Mordecai's refusal to bow to Haman, rooted in his identity as a Jew, reminds us of the importance of holding fast to our convictions.
- We must be vigilant against hidden agendas and evil influences. Haman's manipulation of the king shows how easily power can be abused, emphasizing our need for discernment.

Practical Applications:

1. This week, practice standing firm in your faith in small ways. It could be speaking up for what's right at work or choosing to act with integrity in a challenging situation.
2. Spend time each day reading and meditating on God's promises in Scripture. Choose one or two verses to memorize that remind you of God's faithfulness.
3. Look for opportunities to be a witness for Christ in your daily life. How can you demonstrate God's love to others, even those who may be different from you?
4. Reflect on your current season of life. How might God be using you "for such a time as this"? What steps can you take to be obedient to His calling?
5. Practice discernment by evaluating the media and messages you consume. Are they aligning with God's Word or worldly values?