

**ESTHER**  
*"It's Time to Celebrate"*  
**Esther 9:17-10:3**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The book of Esther is a classic example of the Anti-Semitism that has been a part of Jewish history from its very beginning.
2. In Chapters 9-10 we see the celebration of the victorious Jews, and we learn that God is a celebratory God.
3. **Have you ever noticed how we have a hard time celebrating our victories?**
  - a) We tend to dwell on the negative.
  - b) **THERE ARE 4 THINGS THAT MAKE US LAMENT** (feel sad)
    - 1) **People of the past.**
      - a. People we have wronged or people who have wronged us.
    - 2) **Events of the past.**
      - a. We remember the negative stuff, and we become negative.
    - 3) **Circumstances of the past.**
      - a. Negative circumstances can choke your joy
    - 4) **Decisions of the past**
      - a. Hurried, costly, foolish decisions.
4. **VERY IMPORTANT:** The enemy of our souls loves to remind us of our failures.
5. **Philippians 3:13-14**
  - a) *"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own."*
  - b) *"But one thing I do:"*
    - 1) *"forgetting what lies behind..."*
    - 2) *"and straining forward to what lies ahead,"*
    - 3) *"I press on..."*
6. **ILLUSTRATION:** The Boll-Weevil
7. The problem comes when we don't build our monument and plan for celebration.
  - a) **Question is:** Are you still living in the hurt and the pain of all sadness that comes over you when you remember the brokenness?
8. Remember what Paul said!!!!!! *"But this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on..."*

9. Reviewing a detail we can't forget.

a) ***Esther 3:6-7***

1) When Haman was trying to decide when to execute his plan of extermination, he cast Lots. A Lot was called "**Pur**".

a. "**Pur**" is an old Persian word for "lot".

b) ***Esther 3:13-14***

I. **DECLARING A DAY OF CELEBRATION**

1. **Esther 9:16-17**

a) **When Pharoah let the Israelites go**, they instituted Passover.

b) **When Antiochus Epiphanes a Greek king desecrated the Temple**. Which foreshadowed the coming Antichrist.

1) Judas Maccabaeus led the Jews in a series of victories over Antiochus Epiphanes and driving them out.

2) Today the Jews celebrate this Maccabean victory by celebrating ***Hanukkah***.

c) **When Hitler exterminated 6 million Jews, but lost the war.**

1) **Israel became a nation in 1948**, and they celebrate their ***independence*** each year.

d) **When Haman's Decree of Death was exposed**, a brand-new feast was inaugurated by the Jews called, "***the Feast of Purim***."

2. Anti-Semitism is based on the hatred of one group of people for the Jews.

a) Haman hated the Jews.

1) Haman was an Anti-Semite

b) Haman hated Mordecai because he wouldn't bow down to him and show respect.

1) Haman transferred his hatred of Mordecai to all the Jews.

2) His hatred was so bad that he wanted all the Jews dead.

c) But instead, Haman and his 10 sons, and all those who raised arms against the Jews were destroyed instead.

3. **LISTEN UP:** Don't you think that Israel had every right to just sit back and mope about all the fear and anxiety the just went through.

a) **Maybe establish a day of moping and complaining!**

## II. CELEBRATING VICTORIES

1. I believe that when we get to heaven, we are going to have a grand and glorious celebration.

a) A time when it all makes sense.

2. Vs 16-19 NLT

3. Think of the spontaneous celebration that became the first Celebration in the New World.

a) The 53 pilgrims at the first Thanksgiving were the only colonists to survive the long journey on [the Mayflower](#) and the first winter in the New World.

1) Disease and starvation struck down half of the original 102 colonists.

b) We celebrate Thanksgiving to this day.

c) **At the first Thanksgiving in 1621, the Pilgrims likely ate wildfowl, venison, seafood, and various vegetables, but not the modern dishes we associate with Thanksgiving today.**

4. NOTICE THE ANNOUNCEMENT

a) Vs 20-21, 22

1) Mordecai wrote about the celebration and sent letters to the Jews throughout all the provinces to **establish this custom of feasting**.

5. This was the month that it all got turned around.

a) Now instead of being victims, they were victors.

6. Vs 23-26

7. Vs 27-28

a) The name of the feast came from the time when they cast lots. Or "Pur", to determine the day when the Jews would be destroyed.

b) *The lots that were cast for Israel's destruction ended up deciding the very time @ which the new national celebration was set because they had been victorious.*

8. Purim commemorates the deliverance of God's people @ the hands of Esther and Mordecai.

### III. THE TIME OF THE FEAST

1. The Feast of Purim is the last feast of the year on the Jewish calendar.
2. **Vs 17-18**
3. It is one month to the day before the Feast of Passover.
4. This commemorates the fact that the Jews in ancient Persia, in Susa, the palace did not rest from fighting their enemies until the following day.
5. *Sometimes today the feast is preceded by a fast day to commemorate the 3 days of fasting by the Jews petitioning the king.*

### IV. THE CELEBRATION OF PURIM

1. The Jews have a handwritten scroll of the book of Esther which they read in the evening service and then again, the next day during the morning synagogue service.
2. The book of Esther is known as the megalah, "**the scroll**" in Hebrew.
  - a) It is the best known of the five books of the Hebrew Bible known as The Scrolls.
3. These Scrolls are short, and each of the Scrolls is read on a different holiday.
  - a) The **Song of Solomon** is read @ **The Feast of Passover**.
  - b) The book of **Ruth** is read on the **Feast of Weeks**.
  - c) **Lamentations** is read in mourning for the destruction of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Temples in 586BC and 70AD.
  - d) The book of **Ecclesiastes** is read on the **Feast of Tabernacles**.
  - e) **Esther** is read on the **Feast of Purim**
4. During Purim, the divine command to blot out the name Amalek is taken literally. **Deut. 25:17-19**
  - a) **WOW!!!** When Haman's name is read from the scroll of Esther, it is met with a thunderous roar of stomping feet and the clapping of hands from Jewish children and adults alike.
  - b) During the celebration some Jews write Haman's name on the bottoms of their shoes.
    - 1) As they stomp their feet during the reading of the scroll, Haman's name is literally rubbed off the bottom of their shoes.

5. Before the reading of the scroll, it is customary to pass a plate in the synagogue in remembrance of the ancient time when each of the Israelite males brought a half shekel for the maintenance of the temple.

- a) Each worshipper would place the gift of silver coins on the plate.
- b) The donor then "owns" all the money and picks up the coins on the plate, but then immediately donate it all back to the plate, fulfilling the ancient command.
- c) The collection is usually given to help the poor because part of the celebration is giving gifts to the poor.

6. **Vs 22**

- a) They take portions of food and delicacies to friends.

7. **It is also customary to give gifts to at least two poor persons during Purim so they can enjoy the festival.**

8. Purim is one of the happiest holidays in the Jewish calendar because it was a time when God "overturned" the enemies of the Jews and gave victory to His people.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. ***Esther 9:29-10:3***

2. We need God honoring memorials in our lives.

3. We need an answer to the **Boo Weevils** of life.

- a) All the hurts of
  - 1) People
  - 2) Events
  - 3) Circumstances
  - 4) Decisions
- b) And creatively construct our own private memorials.