



ESTHER

GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN AN EVIL DAY

Lessons from Esther

Summary



The Great Paradox

God is omnipotently present
even where God is most
conspicuously absent.

Esther 9:20 -10:3 – Theme/Story Line

Theme: God's people are to remember His goodness.

1. First Scene: The celebration of Purim is explained. – 9:20-28
2. Second Scene: The celebration of Purim is authorized. – 9:29-32
3. Third Scene: Summary of Mordecai's Success – 10:1-3

Why Esther?

- The book does not contain the divine Hebrew name for God, *Yahweh*, nor even the generic *elohim*.
- There is no mention of Jerusalem or the temple.
- No one prays in the book.
- No one receives a divine vision.
- No one is concerned about the Mosaic Law.
- No one performs a miracle.
- There is no prophet, priest or king.

Why Esther?

- God in His providence has placed Esther in the canon of inspired Scripture. (There is no doubt of that fact.)
- Paul states: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of Scriptures we might have hope (Rom 15:4).

Why Esther? – So that we may have hope.

Lessons from Esther

To display His glorious grace, God loves and protects His people by choosing them, redeeming them, protecting them, and preserving them for His eternal Kingdom (and Satan fights every step).

Lessons from Esther

God governs all creatures, actions, and circumstances through the normal and ordinary course of human life without intervention of the supernatural. This is Divine Providence.

Believing the Providence of God is difficult when:

1. Godless leaders rule.
2. There is a famine of the Word of God in life.
3. There is an absence of the tangible power and presence of God.
4. Even “good” people make sinful choices.
5. Good deeds go unrewarded while evil men rise to power.
6. Actions are taken that render us powerless to do right.
7. The mundaneness of life seems to grind us to “small” people.

Faith

The very definition of faith (Heb 11:1) calls us to a certainty in the unseen reality behind the events that we see, even when those events are so incompatible with what we would expect, given our knowledge of God.

Our certainty and hope always rest in the unseen reality that God is moving all events in our lives in the direction of His final victory for the sake of His glory.

Lessons from Esther

God uses all types of people to accomplish His providential will.

(Vashti, Xerxes, Xerxes “wise men,” Mordecai, Esther, Esther’s eunuch, Haman, Haman’s wife, Jewish diaspora, etc.)

Lessons from Esther

Our response to God's work within our life should be one of remembrance and gratitude.



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