

# Esther 9-10 – 6 April 2023

## “The Call Of Victory”

### Introduction

\*In Chap 1-3, we saw God setting the stage for Esther & Mordecai to fulfill God’s plan for their life

\*Much movement of pieces in & out of their life

\*Then evil Haman launched his plan to kill all Jews in the world

\*In Chap 4-5, it was time to confront evil, as Esther went before the king and asked for a banquet

\*In Chap 6-8, we watched as God turned the tide and vindicated Israel bringing light to Haman’s evil plan

\*Book of Esther closes with a deep look at living in this time of redemption

\*Not just that Israel has been vindicated “on paper”, but there’s things to be done to experience this redemption

**\*Let’s look at the 3-fold call for enjoying the victory that God has provided for them**

# 1<sup>st</sup> call to victory is a call to act on God's plan (Chap 9:1-19)

Read Chap 9:1-2 – *Defeat of Israel's enemies*

1. With conflicting laws, the Jews gathered together for safety

Read Vs 3-4

1. Persian leaders with conflicting laws sided with the law that was imposed by the *current* 2<sup>nd</sup> in charge, Mordecai

Read Vs 5-10

1. The Jews prevailed against the ones that did chose to attack them – This is God's empowering
2. Haman's sons had 6 months since their father's death to decide not to follow his sin, but did anyway
3. Remember the law gave Jews the right to take spoil from their attackers, but they chose not to
  - a. Shows they were just looking for peace not self-advancement

## Read Vs 11-12

1. The king is seeking contentment for his queen and asks if this is the end of the matter

## Read Vs 13-15

1. At Esther's request they continue their defense for a 2<sup>nd</sup> day in Shushan killing another 300
2. Having a 2<sup>nd</sup> day and hanging Haman's 10 sons demonstrates the concept of 'peace thru strength'
  - a. When the enemy knows you're strong, they will not attack again later

## Read Vs 16-19

1. So only at Shushan did the slaughter go a 2<sup>nd</sup> day
2. The rest of the kingdom celebrated great deliverance in the 2<sup>nd</sup> day which was 14<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month Adar

## **2<sup>nd</sup> call to victory is a call to celebrate God's deliverance (Chap 9:20-329)**

Read Chap 9:20-22 – *Celebrating Purim*

1. So the establishing of the holiday Purim
2. Celebrating how God gave them rest turning bad into good
3. Represented by joy, feasting and gift giving

Read Vs 23

1. So they delight to conduct this holiday for the first time

Read Vs 24-25

1. When the account is here retold, what do we see?
  - a. We don't see the frailty or imperfect faith of Esther
  - b. We simply see God's powerful action as Esther responded to the call to believe

## Read Vs 26-28

1. From a historical accuracy perspective:
  - a. Some scoff not believing that Esther was a real Persian Queen & that is an accurate account
  - b. W/ Jews scattered throughout world; how could this festival of Purim have begun w/o a real tragedy averted & w/ a real powerful Jewish ruler in Persia?

## Read Vs 29-32

1. Two letters
  - a. First letter was Mordecai's degree of chapter 8 for the Jew to defend themselves
  - b. This second letter is the degree to celebrate what God has done in saving them

## **3<sup>rd</sup> call to victory is a call to remember God's work (Chap 10:1-3)**

Read Chap 10:1-2 – *Jews prosper while the world continues in its troubles*

1. Taxing the people most likely in response to Persia's disastrous campaign in Greece
2. Notice Mordecai and the Jews continue to prosper in a time when Persia isn't doing well
  - a. God knows how to bless his people regardless our conditions around us
  - b. The early church flourished at a time when Rome burned under Nero

Read Vs 3

1. When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice – From Proverb 29
2. Read II Pet 2:9 - God knows how to deliver the just out of the unjust

## Conclusion

Even in a life of victory, there is purpose & calling

### 1. **The call to act of God's plan**

- a. The Christian life shouldn't be focused on overcoming sin, but on enjoying a meaningful life of victory with God
- b. Even in eternity we won't just be meaninglessly harping on harps

### 2. **The call to celebrate God's deliverance**

- a. Only time a Christian is to dwell on the past is to remember the goodness & grace of God

### 3. **The call to remember God's work**

- a. When we think of how far we've come in life, do we say, "Look at how I've overcome"
- b. Or do we say, "Look at what God has done, to bring about such good things!"