

The Book of ESTHER
Chapters 8 – 10
“The Rewards of Faithfulness!”

Chapter 8 – “God’s Favor!”

(v1-2) Esther & Mordecai find favor!

(v3-8) Esther intercedes for her people, the Jews.

(v9-14) A counter decree is written - There are two great decrees written for humanity: #1 - *For the wages of sin is death!*
#2 - *But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ!* (Romans 6:23)

(v14) We are the couriers of our day - **2 Corinthians 5:20-21**- *Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

(v15-17) The humble shall be exalted. (Blue and white were the royal colors of the Persian Empire.)

> **Insight: MORTIFY THE FLESH AND MORDECAI YOUR CHARACTER! - Mordecai was a man that fits the Peter principle of 2 Peter 1:5-11** - *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your **faith virtue**, to **virtue knowledge**, to **knowledge self-control**, to **self-control perseverance**, to **perseverance godliness**, to **godliness brotherly kindness**, and to **brotherly kindness love**. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

“PRACTICE THE PETER PRINCIPLE”

- **FAITH** - A belief in or confident attitude toward God, involving commitment to His will for one's life. Faith is part of the Christian life from beginning to end. As the instrument by which the gift of salvation is received (Eph 2:8-9), faith is thus distinct from the basis of salvation, which is grace, and from the outworking of salvation, which is good works. The apostle Paul declared that salvation is through faith, not through keeping the works of the law (Eph 2:8,9). Finally, in the New Testament, faith can refer to the teachings of the Bible, the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3). In modern times, faith has been weakened in meaning so that some people use it to mean self-confidence. But in the Bible, true faith is confidence in God or Christ, not in oneself.

- **VIRTUE** - Moral excellence or goodness (Phil 4:8). Virtue is considered a necessary ingredient in the exercise of faith (2 Peter 1:3,5). Sometimes the Greek word for virtue is used to express the idea of power or strength (Luke 6:19).

- **KNOWLEDGE** - The truth or facts of life that a person acquires either through experience or thought. The greatest truth that a person can possess with the mind or learn through experience is truth about God (Ps 46:10; John 8:31-32). This cannot be gained by unaided human reason (Job 11:7; Rom 11:33). It is acquired only as God shows Himself to man-in nature and conscience (Ps 19; Rom 1:19-20); in history or providence (Deut 6:20-25; Dan 2:21); and especially in the Bible (Ps 119; Rev 1:1-3).

- **SELF-CONTROL** - Control of one's actions or emotions by the will. The New Testament teaches that self-control is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). The Christian is to be governed by God, not by self.

- **PERSEVERANCE** - The steadfast effort to follow God's commands and to do His work. The New Testament makes it clear that faith alone can save. But it makes it equally clear that perseverance in doing good works is the greatest indication that an individual's faith is genuine (James 2:14-26). Indeed, perseverance springs from a faithful trust that God has been steadfast toward His people. Through persevering in God's work, the Christian proves his deep appreciation for God's saving grace (1 Cor 15:57-58). As a result of perseverance, the Christian can expect not only to enhance the strength of the church, but also to build up the strength of his own character (Rom 5:3-4). In short, he can expect to become closer to God. He learns that he can persevere primarily because God is intimately related to him (Rom 8:25-27) and especially because he has the assurance of a final reward in heaven (1 John 5:13).

- **GODLINESS** - the whole of practical piety (1 Tim 4:8; 2 Peter 1:6). "It supposes knowledge, veneration, affection, dependence, submission, gratitude, and obedience." In 1 Tim 3:16 it denotes the substance of revealed religion.

- **BROTHERLY KINDNESS** - The love of brothers (or sisters) for each other; the love of fellow Christians for one another, all being children of the same Father in a special sense.

- **LOVE** - The high esteem which God has for His human children and the high regard which they, in turn, should have for Him and other people. Because of the hundreds of references to love in the Bible, it is certainly the most remarkable book of love in the world. It records the greatest love story ever written-God's unconditional love for us that sent His Son to die on the cross (John 3:16; 1 John 4:10).

All believers need to achieve this principle, remember who you are according to **1 Peter 2:9-10**- *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

Chapter 9 – “The Tables Have Turned!”

(v1-9) Righteous retribution – Christ is our righteous retribution! - Rom 8:33-39 - *Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Also in Hebrews 4:14-16- Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

(v10-14) Let's play hangman (Remember the Word of the LORD to Abraham regarding his lineage in Genesis 12:3- *I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*)

(v15-19) Let's make this a holiday

(v20-32) The FEAST OF PURIM instituted - Fausset's Bible Dictionary explains the *Feast of Purim* today as - Purim is from a Persian word, "lots"; because Haman had cast lots to find an auspicious day for destroying the Jews ([Est 3:6-7](#); [9:24](#)). The feast of Purim was kept on the 14th and 15th days of Adar. An introductory fast was subsequently appointed on the 13th, commemorating that of Esther and of the Jews by her desire before she ventured into Abasuerus' presence ([Est 4:16](#)). When the stars appear at the beginning of the 14th candles are lighted in joy, and the people assemble in the synagogue. Then the megillah "roll" of Esther is read through histrionically. On Haman's name being mentioned the congregation exclaim, "let his name be blotted out!" His sons' names are read in one enunciation to mark they were all hanged at once. At the close of reading the megillah all cry out, "cursed be Haman, blessed be Mordecai; cursed be Zeresh (Haman's wife), blessed be Esther; cursed be all idolaters, blessed be all Israelites, and blessed be Harbonah who hanged Haman!" The repast at home is mainly milk and eggs. At morning service [Ex 17:8-16](#), the doom of Amalek the people of Agag ([1 Sam 15:8](#)), Haman's ancestor ([Est 3:1](#)), is read.

J.V. McGee writes- Today the *Feast of Purim* is commemorated by the orthodox Jews first in their synagogues. It is a celebration of gladness, and it is concluded by the reading of the Book of Esther. As they read it, they spit as the name of Haman is mentioned (52 spits). Then the following day they come together for a joyful service because it is a feast that celebrates the fact that God has delivered them (and they include subsequent deliverances such as that from the German atrocities). It is interesting to note that there are three prayers the Jews pray at the time of the *Feast of Purim*. In the first prayer they *thank Jehovah that they are counted worthy*; in the second prayer they *thank Him for preserving their ancestors*; in the third prayer they *thank Him that they have lived to enjoy another festival*.

- **The sovereignty of is God revealed in Proverbs 16:33-** *The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.*

Chapter 10 – “Mordecai’s Advancement!”

(v1-3) Great leadership: #1- Seeking the good of his people #2- Speaking peace to all his countrymen.

John MacArthur writes, “Mordecai joined the top echelon of Jewish international statesmen like Joseph, who ranked second in the Egyptian dynasty (Gen. 41:37–45), and Daniel, who succeeded in both the Babylonian (Dan. 2:46–49; 5:29) and Medo-Persian Empires (Dan. 6:28). Less than 10 years later (ca. 465 B.C.), Ahasuerus was assassinated. There are no further details concerning Esther and Mordecai. What Mordecai did for less than a decade on behalf of Israel, Jesus Christ will do for all eternity as the Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6,7; Zech. 9:9, 10).”