

HE SHALL OVERCOME

“Faithful to Fulfill: A Study of God as Revealed in Post-Exilic Scripture”
Esther 8-10 / Part 23 / Pastor Matthew Jones

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Promise of Messiah:

The formation of the Jewish people (Genesis-Esther)

Promotion of Mordecai:

The favor of the Jewish people (Esther 8:1-2, 15)

Petition of Mrs.:

The first-lady of the Jewish people (Esther 8:3-6)

Proclamation of the Master:

The feat of the Jewish people (Esther 8:7-10)

Protection of Members:

The fire-insurance of the Jewish people (Esther 8:11-17)

Plundering of Murderers:

The fight of the Jewish people (Esther 9:1-16)

Purim as Memorial:

The feast of the Jewish people (Esther 9:17-32)

Prosperity Made:

The flourishing of the Jewish people (Esther 10:1-3)

Practical Meaning:

The foreshadowing of the Jewish people (Esther 1-10)

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. What is the worst personal attack you have suffered and how did God carry you through it? How did He further help you with forgiving and/or letting go of the trauma to walk in His grace (or maybe not)? Share together.
2. The book of Esther records a heinous attack against the Jewish people that could have resulted in their annihilation under the Persian Empire, resulting in their being no distinct group of Jewish peoples today. Reflecting on your own socio-ethno-cultural history of your ancestors, did they suffer in ways that you are aware of that could have resulted in their annihilation and your non-existence? Discuss the sobering reality of ethnic hatred and genocide in a fallen world and ways we can prayerfully engage this world for justice, while preaching the ultimate answer—the gospel.
3. As we have studied the book of Esther, we have labored to resist the tendency to ignore the dystopian narrative and white-wash it into a pristine hero story in which Esther and Mordecai are perfect examples of righteousness. That said, discuss how things are much messier. Added, discuss how in the final chapters of the book the cowardly and godless exiles who never pray or seek God directly, are given courageous boldness and used by God in profound ways. Talk about how God moves in the background of history and our personal lives to accomplish His will.
4. Through our study of Esther we have been exploring how the author shows us God is at work even though God is not explicitly named. How does the hidden hand of God help us to learn about God’s meticulous providence over all created things in accomplishing His will? How does this both comfort us and caution us in our daily lives?
5. Knowing God is in control in our minds and practically trusting Him in our lives don’t always go together. Discuss how we can grow in trust of Him.
6. How can we pray for your holiness and witness? Share, discuss, and pray