



# ESTHER: *God's silent sovereignty*

Esther 9:20-10:3

## Introduction

## The story

### A great feast (Esther 9:20-29)

- ❖ Esther 9:19—*the Jews of the villages, who live in the rural towns, hold the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a day for gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and as a day on which they send gifts of food to one another.*
- ❖ Esther 9:21-22—*keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year, 22 as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor.*
- ❖ Proverbs 16:33—*The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.*

### A great savior (10:1-3)

- ❖ Esther 10:1—*King Ahasuerus imposed tax on the land and on the coastlands of the sea.*

## Lessons from our story

### ▶ Silent Sovereignty

- ❖ Daniel 4:35—*he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"*

### ▶ A savior greater than Mordecai

#### 1. Jesus saves us from a far more terrifying fate.

- ❖ Matthew 10:28—*And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*
- ❖ Zechariah 14:12-13—*And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. 13 And on that day a great panic from the Lord shall fall on them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of the one will be raised against the hand of the other.*

#### 2. Jesus reconciles us to a far greater king

- ❖ Psalm 47:2—*For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth*
- ❖ Psalm 47:8-9—*8 God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. 9 The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!*

#### 3. Jesus sits at the right hand of a far more glorious throne



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### ❖ **Isaiah 6:1-5**

#### 4. **Jesus secures for us a far more glorious future.**

- ❖ Esther 10:1—*King Ahasuerus imposed tax on the land and on the coastlands of the sea.*
- ❖ Ephesians 1:14—*who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*
- ❖ Matthew 25:23—*Well done, good and faithful servant.*

#### 5. **Jesus is far more majestic in his royal splendor**

- ❖ Matthew 17:1-2—*And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.*

### ❖ **Revelation 19:12-16**

#### ▶ **A feast greater than Purim**

- ❖ Isaiah 25:6—*On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.*
- ❖ Revelation 19:9—*“Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb”*

#### ▶ **How ought we live in light of this?**

1. If we see that God truly is powerfully working all things for the good of his people and for the praise of his glorious grace even when we don't hear from him, what real cause is there for things like worry, fear, and anxiety in the face of difficult circumstances?
2. If the Jews kept the feast of Purim faithfully and remembered the deeds of Mordecai their hero on that day, how ought we come to the feast that we have been commanded to keep? How ought we come to the Lord's Supper? Shouldn't we come to this spiritual feast with an even greater reverence and remembrance of our hero, our savior, the Lord Jesus?
3. If the Jews rejoiced and celebrated the day of their salvation, how ought we live in the light of our far greater salvation? The Lord Jesus tells us that we ought to...

- ❖ Luke 10:10—*rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*

And the Apostle Paul reiterates this teaching by saying...

- ❖ Philippians 4:4—*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.*
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18—*Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*



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4. If the Jews made sure to teach their children about the greatness of their deliverance and the greatness of their savior Mordecai, shouldn't we, who have been given a far greater salvation by a far greater savior, be even more dedicated to teaching our children? Is this not the teaching of the Apostle Paul in...
  - ❖ Ephesians 6:4—*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*