

Background Information on Esther

- I. Author - unknown
 - A. Mordecai kept some written records of the events – 9:20
 - B. The author had access to the chronicles of the Medes and Persians (2:23; 10:2)
- II. Date
 - A. Written around 464 BC (could have been as late as 400 BC)
 - 1. 10:2-3 speaks of the king's reign in the past tense
 - 2. The palace at Shushan was destroyed in 435 BC
 - 3. This king reigned from 486 – 464 BC
- III. Keys
 - A. Key word – Providence
 - B. Key verse – 4:14
- IV. Facts
 - A. God's name is not mentioned once in the book – (Some suggest that it does not mention God, prayer or teach any outright truth so as to not offend the people of the land)
 - B. Mordecai was Esther's cousin
 - C. The Feast of Purim (Celebrated in the month Adar {Feb-Mar} day 14 and 15)
 - D. Hadassah was her Hebrew name
 - E. The events happen between Ezra 6 and 7

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Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 1:1-6

Examine –

1. Who is King at this time?
 2. How many provinces does he have in his kingdom?
 3. Where was his throne?
 4. In what year, of his reign, was this happening?
 5. What was he doing?

 6. Who was before him?
 7. How long did the “feast” last?
 8. What did he show everybody?
 9. After the first feast, for whom was the second feast?
 10. How long did it last?
 11. Where was it held?
 12. Based on the description of the room what was your impression?
- Note: The beds in this passage were more like couches that they reclined on to eat!

Apply: The world does things top quality when they throw a party. We should do things well also. I Corinthians 10:31 says we should do all to give the right opinion of God - If people went to your “garden” what would they find?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 1:7-12

If we stopped with the description of the “feast” yesterday, we may want to be there. But as we read verse 7 today, things change!

Examine-

1. What did they give them?
2. Of what were the “glasses” made?
3. Were all the “glasses” the same?
4. What was in abundance?
5. From where did it come?
6. Were there any rules placed on the drinking?
7. How were the officers to respond to the people?
8. Who was the queen?
9. For whom was her feast?
10. Who owned the house?
11. What does chamberlain mean?
12. How many did he have?
13. What were they to do?
14. Why did he want to show her off?
15. What was her response to his request?
16. What was his reaction to her response?

Apply-

The feast was a drunken party, and now the king wanted to parade her around to brag on her. Was she right in refusing?

Is there ever a time when you can disobey authority?

Do you get mad when people don't do what you want?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 1:13-17

Examine-

1. Who did the king address next?
2. What did they know?
3. Based upon the next statement, what do you think the phrase “knew the time” meant?
4. Who else was before the king?
5. In verse 15, the king was concerned about what?
6. Who answered the King?
7. Had the queen only wronged the king?
8. Who had she wronged?
9. Once other women hear this, what would they do to their husbands?
10. Does this mean that those in power are watched by others?

Apply-

It is true that when one makes a decision it doesn't just affect them. Can you name one other Bible story that a decision had a negative effect on others? (Give scripture reference)

How have your decisions affected others?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 1:18-22

Examine-

1. What group of people are they most worried about?
2. What two things will arise?
3. What was going forth from the King?
4. According to what law would it be written?
5. What could not happen to a law once it was written?

6. What was going to be her punishment? (2 things)

7. Where would this document be published?
8. What comment does he make about the kingdom?
9. What would the wives give their husbands?

Girls: This is the thing most men want more than anything else. When God gives you a husband, make sure that you honor him for God's sake.

10. What was the Kings reaction to this suggestion?
11. Where did the King send the letters?
12. In what language was it written?
13. What should men do in their house?

Apply-

We can honor those that God has put in authority in our lives no matter if they are wrong or not. How is your honor today?

Write one example of how you have honored a male authority or how you are going to today:

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 2:1-4

Examine-

1. What is now subsided in the king?
2. Who does he remember?
3. What two things does he remember about the situation?
4. What would they seek for the king?
5. Who would he appoint to the task?
6. What would they be doing and where?

7. Where would they come?
8. To whom would they be given?
9. What was his job?
10. What would be given them?
This was a process that the woman went through of beautification!

11. Who would be queen?
12. What did the king think about this?

Apply-

Sometimes we do things in anger that make no sense when we calm down. Other passages of Scripture talk about this, such as the 3 Hebrew children and the king heating a furnace so no man could stand it.

How is your temper?

What crazy thing or hurtful thing do you do when you “fly off the handle”?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 2:5-11

Examine-

1. Who was at the palace?
2. What was his nationality?
3. From what tribe was he?
4. How did he get to this place?
5. Who did he bring for the “contest”?
6. Why does she have two names? (*Look at background info)
7. Who was she to him?
8. What did she not have?
9. How does the Bible describe her?
10. What did Mordecai do for her?
Fact – the keeper of the woman has two spellings to his name both were acceptable spellings and both mean Eunuch.
11. How did he respond to Esther?
12. What did he give her to help attend to her needs?
13. Where did he let her live?
14. What had Esther not told them?
Why?
15. What did Mordecai do daily?

Apply-

Do you think that Esther was a coward for not showing her nationality?

Do you think it was wrong for her to eat and act like those she was around?

Daniel chose to stand and was honored; Esther chose to be quiet (initially) and was honored.
Who was right?

Why did you think that?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Reread - Ester 1:1-2:11.

Examine-

Try to name at least 7 principles from the account.

Apply: What of these principles do you struggle most with and why?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 2:12-15

I don't know if Mordecai had a good reason to disobey the King's commandment, but he had risked death to do so. Based on his carefulness with Esther and not revealing who she was, I assume that he had a very good reason. He does not seem to be a man who can take undue chances. Haman, however, did not like it. This act would start a chain of events that Haman would not like the outcome! We do not know if he already had a hatred of the Jews (This would explain Mordecai's actions or if it developed because of this act.)

Examine-

1. How long were the women in purification?
2. What spice was used for each of the 6 months?
3. Were other things used?
4. Where did she go when this was completed?
5. What was given to her?
6. What was the house called that she lived in for 12 months?
7. When did she go?
8. In the morning where did she go?
9. Who was responsible for her?
10. She would now be called a _____. (This was a woman lawfully married to a man in a relation inferior to that of a regular wife. No moral stigma was attached to being a concubine.)
11. When would she come before the King again?
12. Who was Esther to Mordecai?
13. What did she require?
14. With whom did Esther obtain favor?

Apply-

It would have been easy to be selfish if you could ask for anything, but Esther required nothing. Do you desire to have lots of things or are you content with what God has provided you?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 2:16-19

Examine-

1. What month was she taken into his house?
2. How does it describe the house?
3. What is the name of this month?
4. In what year was the king reigning?
5. List some words that the Bible uses to describe the king's thoughts about her?

6. What did he set on her head?
7. What did she become?
8. What did he do to celebrate the event?
9. What do you think it means when it says a "release" was sent?
10. Where was Mordecai sitting?
11. What does this represent?

Note: The reason that virgins were gathered a second time is a mystery. It may be referring to bringing together the women who had not been called in to the king by the time Esther was chosen, or it could have been another gathering to add to the king's harem! That is not as important as what has happened to Mordecai by this time!

Apply-

Esther and Mordecai were both Jews (We will learn that not everyone knew this), yet they are high in the Kingdom. This is not the first time this has happened. Can you give some Bible examples of Jews ruling in other Kingdoms and their impact on the Kingdoms?

I think this shows that no matter the circumstances we can live for God and have an impact on those around us. How are you impacting your "world"?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 2:20-23

Examine-

1. What had Esther not yet done?
2. Why?
3. What commendation does God give to Esther at the end of verse 20?
4. Define Chamberlain –
5. What were their names?
6. What did they do?
7. What did they try to do and why?
8. Who found out about it?
9. Who did he tell?
10. What did she do about it?
11. What is an inquisition?
12. Was the accusation true?
13. What happened to the guys?
14. Where were these events recorded? (Hint: This event will play a major role later in the book!)

Apply-

Though the destruction of the Jews was not yet revealed, God was working to deliver them. When events seem to be unrelated, do you trust that God knows what He is doing?

Sometimes it is hard to leave things alone and leave it to God! He is working when we don't even know there is a problem.

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 3: 1-6

Examine-

1. Who did the king promote?
2. What was his position?
3. What did all the servants at the gate do to Haman?
4. Who had commanded this?
5. Who did not obey this commandment?
6. What did the servants want to know?
7. Did Mordecai listen to them?
8. Who did the servants tell?
9. Why did they tell him?
10. What is now revealed about Mordecai?
11. Of what was Haman full?
12. Did Haman want to just get at Mordecai?
13. What did Haman really want to do?

Apply-

When someone does you wrong, how do you respond?

What if they really should treat you a certain way and they don't?

Instead of plotting, Haman could have appealed to the King, and if Mordecai was wrong the King had the power to correct it. Instead, Haman tried to handle it himself.

God has the power to defend you against wrong. Go to Him for help instead of trying to solve your problem yourself!

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 3:7-11

Examine-

1. If we compare 2:16 and 3:7, how long had Esther been queen?
2. What did Haman and the servants cast?
3. What was this?

It appears that they cast lots for each day and month until they settled on the day of destruction for the Jews and then he went to the King!

4. Where were all the Jews?
5. What did he say about their laws?
6. What did they not keep?
7. What was not to the King's profit?
8. What was to be written?
9. How much of a reward was he offering and who would get the reward?

There is no proof offered for what Haman says. There is also no mention of the people's nationality. The King seems to blindly trust Haman. He also does not mention Mordecai. Maybe Haman knew the King's opinion of Mordecai.

10. What did the King give to Haman?
11. What could he do with this?
12. What does the Bible call Haman?
13. What was given to Haman?
14. What authority did the King give about the people?

Apply-

Have you ever caught yourself leaving out facts that may change a story?

I have done this before, but it is deception. When you relay facts about anything, make sure that you speak the whole truth. Haman had a reason not to give the real facts – he may have been called into question. What is your reason?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 3:12-15

Examine-

1. Who was called?
2. When were they called?
3. What was written?
4. To whom was the letter written?

5. In what language was it written?
6. In whose name was it written?
7. How was it sealed?
8. How were the letters sent?
9. What was to happen to the Jews?
10. Who, of the Jews, was to be killed?
11. When was this to happen?

They did not have planes, cell phones, texting and such but the letters had to be delivered to the whole kingdom. This would take some time. It also would allow time for Mordecai to make an appeal.

12. What else could they do to the Jews? (Not that it would matter if they were dead)

13. Why was everyone to know about it? (vs. 14)
14. How did the posts go out?
15. Where was the notice given first?
16. What did the King and Haman do?
17. What was the reaction of the city?

Apply-

Although this is a tragic story, we can draw some helpful information about how we should treat messages. The scribes wrote in every language and in every province. The posts were hastened because of the important message. Everyone could and would be affected by the message. Do we have a message from a King?

Is it important?

Does it affect everyone's life?

How have you treated this message?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Reread – Esther 2:12-3:15

Examine-

A lot has happened over this week of study. We had a newly appointed queen, Mordecai has been promoted, 5 years have passed, and the Jews have a ruthless enemy.

We have dealt with:

- Being satisfied with what God has given us.
- We can live for God in a heathen environment.
- We can trust God even when we can't see what He is doing.
- We need to allow "The King" to handle our injustices.
- We need to always give all the facts.
- The King's message is very important.

Apply-

Choose at least one of these application points and tell a situation from this week that you applied or should have applied and the results of the situation.

Remember: If we are not using God's Word daily – why not?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 4:1-5

Examine-

1. What did Mordecai do when he found out?
2. Tell what sackcloth and ashes are & give some other times in the Bible when people did this.
3. How does the Bible describe his cry?
4. Where did he go?
5. Why was this unusual?
6. List 5 descriptions of all the Jews when they heard the news:
7. Who told Esther?
8. What did they tell her? (Be careful here, it is not what you think)
9. What was her response?
10. What did she try to do for Mordecai?
11. What was his response?
12. For whom did she call?
13. What was this guy's job?
14. What did she command Mordecai to do?

Apply-

How do you respond when others are grieving?

Sometimes it is difficult to know what to say, and therefore it can be best not to say anything. The best thing you can do is to be with them. Presence, more than words, is powerful when someone is grieving. You may not need this now but eventually you will need to comfort someone!

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 4:6-12

Examine-

1. What did Hatach do?
2. Did Mordecai talk with him?
3. What did he give Hatach?
4. What did he want him to do with it?
5. What did he charge her to do?
(Esther's identity is now known and Mordecai has exposed her to possible trouble.)
6. Did Hatach do what Mordecai wanted?
7. Apparently Hatach is serving as a go between for Esther and Mordecai: What do all the people know? (If Hatach did not know Esther was a Jew before, can you imagine what was going through his mind?)
8. What is the exception to this law?
9. How long had it been since she was with the King?
10. Who told Mordecai Esther's words? (Don't miss this)

More people are finding out what is going on and the plot thickens. This book is good!

Apply-

Esther is obviously concerned for her own life, and this is a firm law. This chamberlain and the others around them must have been very trustworthy people. Esther's life now was in their hands if they choose to talk. Can you be trusted with valuable information?

Do people know you as a "motor mouth"?

List some verses you can memorize that will help you hold your tongue!

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 4:13-17

Examine-

[My heart would have been pounding about now. What about yours?]

1. Did Mordecai think that Esther could escape in the palace?
2. According to the beginning of verse 14 what could she do?
3. If she chose to do this what would happen to the Jews?
4. What would happen to her and her father's house?
5. What might be the reason for Esther being queen?
6. What did Esther want Mordecai to do?
7. What were they to do together?
8. How long was this going to last?
9. Who was going to fast with Esther?
10. What would she do after that?
11. What was the possible outcome of her decision?
12. What was Mordecai's response to her request?

Apply-

Have you ever thought about the fact that God may have placed you in a certain place to accomplish a certain task? God does that all the time. We have a choice to make – Will we accomplish what He has for us, or will we cower in fear?

We know the end of the story, but Esther did not. This was a bold move to save other people. She could have been quiet about it all, but she chooses to do something for God and her people. What bold thing might God ask of you and how will you respond when He does?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 5:1-5

Examine-

1. How many days have passed?
2. What does Esther put on?
3. Where did she go and stand?
4. Where was the king?
5. What was the King's response when he saw her?
6. What did he hold to her?
7. Do you remember what this meant? (4:11)
8. What did Esther do?
9. What does the king promise to give Esther?
 - That is real favor!!!
10. What does she ask of the King?
11. How does he respond to her?
12. What did Haman and the King do?

Apply-

Courage is not the absence of fear but taking action in spite of it. I am quite sure she was nervous as she entered that outer court, but she did so in spite of her fear. Write a short story of something you did right even though you were scared to do it? If you have never had an experience like that, look for an opportunity and ask God to give you the courage to respond correctly.

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 5:6-10

Examine-

1. What kind of banquet was this?
2. What does the King say again to Esther?
3. What is her request?
4. On tomorrow what would she do?
5. What was Haman's response to this request?
6. Who did he see on his way out of the Palace?
7. What did Mordecai not do?
8. What was Haman's attitude towards Mordecai?
9. Though he was mad what did he do?
10. What did he do when he got home?

Apply-

It is obvious that Haman has no idea that Esther is a Jew or is related to Mordecai. It is amazing how quickly our emotions can move: one minute joyful and glad and the next filled with indignation. When we place our concentration on other things rather than on God we will be up and down. How are your emotions?

Do you let them get out of control?

Ask God to help you concentrate on HIM!

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Esther 5:11-14

Examine-

1. Review – who did Haman invite to his house?
2. What did Haman tell these people? (3 things)
3. Above all this what “privilege” did he have?
4. Who else besides the king was there?
5. What would happen tomorrow?
6. What spoiled all this for him?
7. What was his wife’s name?
8. What did they suggest he make?
9. How high was it to be?
10. Who was he going to hang on the gallows?
11. In relation to the banquet, when was he going to do this?
12. If this happened, how would he enter the banquet?
13. How did Haman feel about this?
14. What did he start immediately?

Apply-

Does anybody sense a little pride here – can you imagine sitting in his house as he is pontificating about himself. Do your friends ever think this about you?

We don’t see our pride because of our pride. Will you ask God to show you the pride in your life and then destroy it?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 4-5

Examine-

In these chapters we have seen:

- Jews mourning
- Haman rejoicing (in his evil)
- Esther acting courageous.

Which would best describe you?

Find a Bible story where someone acted courageously and the result of that:

Can you give me a verse that says it is ok to mourn?

Look up the word “pride” in a concordance and give me 5 negatives of it:

Apply-

List one area you struggle to be courageous and ask God to help you with it. Then ask a friend or someone to hold you accountable in that area!

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 6:1-6

Examine-

1. What could the king not do?
2. What did he command to bring to him?
3. What did they do with them?
4. Who did he read about?
5. What did he do for the king? (Esther 2:21-23)

6. What did the king want to know?
7. What had been done for him?
8. What did the King want to know?
9. Who was there?
10. Why was he there?

11. Did the king want to talk with him?
12. What did the king ask Haman?
13. Who did Haman think the King was talking about?

Apply-

Sometimes you may do something that you think no one knows about or you don't get proper credit, but you should do right anyway. It could have been years since Mordecai told of the plot to hurt the King; but eventually, right at the appropriate time, God revealed what was needed. Are you willing to do right even if you get no recognition for it?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 6:7-11

Remember the context of yesterday – Haman is in the court of the King to ask him if they can hang Mordecai. The king is intending to honor Mordecai. Watch what happens!

Examine-

1. What three items were they to bring and use on the man who was to be honored?
2. Who was to help with this honoring?
3. On what was he to ride?
4. Where was he to ride?
5. What were they to say to everyone?
6. What was the king's commandment to Haman?
7. How was he to carry this out? (2 things)

8. To whom was he to do this?
9. What did Haman do?

Can you imagine that exchange between Haman and Mordecai? It would have been very hard not to gloat at that point and for Haman – what he was thinking would have been priceless!

Apply-

Have you ever been in a situation where you thought you were going to be honored but were not?

That is a terrible feeling in a lot of ways but imagine if it was your enemy being honored in your place and you were forced to do the honoring.

God sure knows how to solve pride doesn't He?

Are you a proud person?

Ask God to show if you are?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 6:12-14

Examine-

1. Where did Mordecai go when all was done?
2. Where did Haman go?
3. How did he go?
4. What were his actions and attitude as described in verse 12?
5. Who did Haman tell about these things?
6. What was there prediction for Haman?
7. What ultimately would happen to Haman?
8. What happened as they were talking about this?
9. Where was he going?
10. Look at Psalms 75:6-7: Who is in charge of promotion?

11. Read Luke 1:52: What two things will God do?

Apply-

He doesn't know it yet but it is about to get much worse for him. It is never good to promote yourself; Let God do the promoting! How might you have been trying to promote yourself?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read– Esther 7:1-4

Examine-

1. What two people were at the Banquet?
2. Who is putting on the banquet?
3. What does the king ask Esther for the third time?
4. How much was he offering her?
5. Esther said that if she found what in his site?
6. What does she want for herself?
7. What does she want for her people?

[Remember: The king does not know her nationality and neither does Haman!]

8. What three words does she use to describe what is going to happen to them?
9. Were the Jews sold or taken into captivity?
10. If they had what would Esther have done?
11. Define countervail –

If they were slaves, the king had a right to do as he wanted, but the damage would be hard to explain.

Apply-

When making an appeal to authority, it is best to have a “favorable” relationship with them. This was the case with Daniel (Daniel 1:9) when he made his appeal. How is your relationship with your authorities?

Can you make an appeal and they would listen because they know they can trust you?

Our relationship with authorities often reflects our relationship with God!

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 7:5-10

Examine-

1. What did the King want to know?
2. What words does Esther use to describe him?
3. Who is it? (We already know)
4. What was Haman's attitude now?
5. What was the King's disposition?
6. Where did he go?
7. What did Haman do?
8. What did he know was coming?
9. When the King came in where was Haman?
10. What did the King assume Haman was trying to do?
11. What did they do to Haman?
12. Who told the king about the gallows?
13. What did he say that reminded the King of who Mordecai was?
14. What did the king say to do?
15. What did they do?
16. How does the Bible describe his wrath after the hanging?

Apply-

This is the ultimate of 'you reap what you sow'! This is a Bible principle that is seen throughout Scripture. Look up three passages of scripture that talk about this and list them here?

Name one personal example, good or bad, of how this played out in your life!

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 8:1-6

Examine-

1. What did the King give to Esther?
2. About whom did Esther tell the king?
3. What did the king give to Mordecai?
4. Who had he given it to before?
5. Who did Esther set over Haman's house?
6. How does Esther ask the king for her people this time?

7. What does the king hold out to Esther?
8. What did this mean?
9. How does she propose to solve the problem?
10. What can she not bear to see? (2 things)

Apply-

The boldness of Esther here is very refreshing; she is defending something she believes in.

Think about speaking up for something you believe in.

First, do you have anything you believe in strongly enough to speak up for it?

What is it?

Second, do you speak for it?

We have a cause in Christ and we should be bold to speak to others for Him!

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read - Reread Esther 6:1-8:6

Examine-

If you were a newspaper reporter what would be your headline for this week's story.

This week, we saw:

- God honors those who wait for Him!
- You reap what you sow!
- Be bold in what you believe and speak for it!

Which of those ministered to you the most and why?

Can you think of a Bible story that would illustrate each of the above points – write the reference for each account and a brief sentence about it.

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 8:7-10

Examine-

Note: Esther 8:9 is the longest verse in the Bible

1. What had the King given to Esther?
2. What did they do to Haman?
3. Why did they do it?
4. This new letter would have what authority behind it?
5. Why not just cancel the first writing?
6. What month is it now?
7. Who is called again?
8. To whom is the letter written?
9. What countries are mentioned?
10. How many provinces are there in the kingdom?
11. What language was used?
12. What four ways were the letters sent?

Apply-

It was again important that the message be clear, with authority, convenient (all languages), and to the proper people. This is true of the Gospel as well: We know that it has God's authority, it is given to the church to distribute to others, and the Gospel is clear and simple. The question then is: is it available in every language? The answer is no – not by a long shot!!! For more information on this go to firstbible.net. Write something you learn:

Ask God what part He may have you play in the role of getting the “message of the King” to all peoples!

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 8:11-17

Examine-

1. What did the King give the Jews permission to do?
2. What could they “take”?
3. What month and day could they do this? (3:13)
4. What should the Jews be ready to do?
5. Under what circumstances did the post “went out”?
6. Where was the decree also given?
7. Who went out from the King’s presence?
8. How was he dressed?
9. What was the reaction of the city of Shushan?

Note: The reaction is so different than the reaction to the first decree (3:15). Not all these people were Jews, yet they knew the difference of good leadership and bad.

[**Proverbs 29:2** When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.]

10. What four words describe the Jews reaction?
11. What was the reaction of the Jews in other cities?
12. What did many people in the land become?
13. Why did they do this?

Apply-

Only God could orchestrate that – the other people were the rulers, and the Jews were the captives, but God has turned it around. Is it appropriate for us to rejoice when good things happen?

Do you?

When is the last time you really rejoiced in something God was doing for you?

Is there something you can praise Him for now?

Ask God to help you see His blessing and rejoice when He meets your needs!

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 9:1-6

Examine-

1. What was drawing near?
2. For what had the enemies of the Jews hoped?
3. What actually was happening?
4. What did the Jews do together?
5. Could anybody hurt them?
6. Why?
7. Who helped the Jews?
8. Why did they do this?
9. What word describes Mordecai in the Kings house?
10. What spread about Mordecai?
11. What was happening to him?
12. What words are used to describe what the Jews did to their enemies?

13. How many did they kill in Shushan?

Apply-

God can take any circumstance and turn it around. When we look with human eyes, circumstances can seem impossible. Who would have thought that God would have turned around a decree such as this, but He did?

What impossible situation do you have that you want God to turn around?

Will you trust Him for the outcome?

It may not be what you would choose but He does know best!

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 9:7-14

Examine

1. Who were the 10 names are mentioned here?
2. What do they again call Haman?
3. What did they do to his sons?
4. What did they not do that the king had given them permission to do?
5. Go back to verse 6, how many were killed at Shushan?
6. To whom did they give this number?
7. To whom did the King give the report?
8. What else did the King want to know from her?
9. What did she want done to Haman's sons?
10. What else did she want done?
11. What was the King's response to this?

Note: Some have asked, "Why hang the dead sons?" The word hanged actually means to impale. *This was not an unusual practice in the ancient Near East. It was a visual warning that others better not commit the same crime as the punished ones.* -The Bible Knowledge Commentary

Apply-

The Jews were not interested in the money because in verse 10 the Bible says that "they laid not their hand." It also says that in verse 15 and 16. What would have been your reason for killing your enemy?

Haman not only reaped what he sowed but so did his family. Achan's family did as well! What decisions are you making now that will affect those that you love?

Every choice has a consequence!

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 9:15-22

Examine-

1. How many did they slay the next day?
2. What did they do with the spoil?
3. How many did the Jews in other places kill?
4. What did they do with the spoil?
5. The Jews in the rest of the provinces did what on the 13th day?
6. What did they do on the 14th day?
7. What else did they do on this day?
8. What was different about the Jews at Shushan?
9. Did they have a day of feasting and gladness?
10. What did they send one to another as part of their celebrations?
11. Who wrote a report of all these things?
12. Where did he send it?
13. What days should they set aside every year?
14. This day was turned from _____ to _____ and from _____ to _____.
15. What should be the four characteristics of this day?

Apply-

Instead of taking the spoil of the enemy they were giving to each other and the poor.

Sometimes we so concentrate on what we think we need that we miss an opportunity to meet someone else's need.

Who could you give to today? (It does not have to be money but anything)

Have you thanked God for His unspeakable Gift?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 9:23-28

Examine-

1. Did the Jews obey Mordecai?
2. What had Haman done?
3. What had he cast?
4. What was he planning to do?
5. What did the king do concerning Haman?
6. What did they call these days?
7. Why?
8. What did the Jews ordain?
9. Was this just for Jews or for anyone?
10. How thorough was the keeping of this decree? (One word used 4 times)
11. What should not fail from among them?
12. From whom should the memorial not perish?

Apply-

It is good to remember the good things that God did for us. I think it is good for us to celebrate Thanksgiving (Thank God for His goodness to us) and Christmas (Thank God for sending His son) and Easter (Thank God for dying and His resurrection). Have you lost the meaning of those days?

When is the last time you “celebrated” your spiritual birthday?

We have so much for which to be thankful!

Main thought to meditate on today: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Read – Esther 9:29-10:3

Examine-

1. Who wrote a letter?
2. What did this letter confirm?
3. What authority did they have to write it?
4. To whom did the letters go?
5. They were written “with words of” what?
6. How, in part, did the deliverance come? (Last part of verse 31)
7. What confirmed these things?

8. Where was it written?
This “book” was probably the royal archives of the kingdom!

9. What did the King lay on the kingdom?
10. What is written in the chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia?

11. How high was Mordecai in the Kingdom?
12. What was he among the Jews?
13. For what two things was he known?

Apply-

What do you want to be known for when you die?

I sure hope that I can have the impact that Mordecai and Esther had on those around them.
Will you ask God to help you to leave a lasting legacy?

Main thought to meditate on today: _____
