

**Theme:** Like Esther and company, we live as a people set apart, but scattered throughout the world. We must live with our hearts fixed on His promise, and we must rejoice in His saving works both in this life – and for the life to come.

**Background:** The “negative” assessment of Esther in the church.

**Introduction:** Anticipation vs. Reality

## **I. The Day Arrives – Adar 13, The Day of Battle**

- A. Deliverance is assured – reverse of Haman’s plans! (1-4)
  - Officials back Mordecai and the Jews
- B. Deliverance described (5-15)
  - 1. Promise holds true
    - The “Amalekites”? Defeated
    - Promise fulfilled (Exodus 17:14,15; Genesis 12:3)
  - 2. In Susa
    - Haman’s sons killed – all named.
    - The line of this Agagite is ended!
  - 3. No plunder taken! Not in whole kingdom. (vv.10, 15, 16)
    - Didn’t belong to them? Devoted to God??
    - In fulfillment of command to Saul? Holy War?

## **II. A Second Day in Susa? (vv.11-15)**

- A. “What is your wish?”
  - Another day of war & Haman’s sons are hung (1 Samuel 31:12)
  - The continuing moral ambiguity of Esther
- B. The dark side of God’s servants
- C. One with “clean hands and a pure heart”. (Psalms 24:4)

## **III. Let the Party Begin - Purim and the Day of Rest (vv.16-19)**

- A. On two days?
  - Adar 14 for those in the country
  - Adar 15 for those in the city. Traditionally Jerusalem, Hebron and Jericho.
- B. Different from other feasts – (vv.20, 26-27, 29)
  - 1. Not prescribed by Moses/Torah
  - 2. Not celebrated on the day of the battle
    - a. Story of deliverance
    - b. Looks forward to the joy of the resurrection of Christ
    - c. On the day of *rest from the battle!!*
  - 3. A type of the Sabbath (Revelation 1:17-18; 21:5)

#### IV. Living in the Diaspora

Book of Esther is written uniquely for the people of the Diaspora.

##### A. Jews living outside of the Holy Land.

- The last 1900 years of their existence.

1. Purim is celebrated throughout the ages  
- Focused on the Providence of God

2. Tested, but not forgotten, in the Holocaust

##### B. Christians in the Diaspora

1. Living in an age when God seems quiet.

2. His hand of Providence still evident!

- Preserving the universe and all life within it. (Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:7)

- His concurrence in every human action! (Acts 4:27,28)

- Moving all of history toward a planned end. (Genesis 45:5-8)

3. Faithful to His promise and covenant

##### C. Waiting for our day of rest?

1. This world remains dangerous place for God's people

- Our own hearts betray us - sinful, prideful, fearful

- The hatred of the world who hated Him first.

Therefore: we preach of a God who saves *sinful* people.

2. Waiting for that day of eternal rest!

#### V. The Last Word - chapter 10

##### A. Life goes on!

1. But Christ has attained the victory!

- We wait, and fight, and watch for His coming.

2. True climax is yet to come! Revelation 21, 22

- Celebrate *NOW* because it is certain!

##### B. Toss out Esther? Never. A book for the church today.

- the promise is given

- the assurance made

- the fight we must continue

- the deliverance that awaits