

**Subject: *The Glorious Victory of God's People***

**Scripture: *Esther 8:1-17***

We come to the final chapters of Esther, and as always, the Lord saves the best till last. God loves to write the final chapter in our life story, and for His people, it's all good. It has been said that all's well that ends well.

### **THE DESPERATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE (Est. 8:1-6)**

Horrible Haman is dead now, but all the Jews are still under the sentence of death because of the plan enacted by Haman. Wicked men live and die, but their influence lives on. Haman was the Jews enemy (8:1) and planned mischief (evil) against the Jews (8:3, 5).

Esther interceded for her people. She couldn't bear to see the destruction of her people or the destruction of her kindred (vs. 6). When we think about the eternal destruction of all who are lost, does it really bother us or burden us? Do we even realize they are under the sentence of condemnation and death? The problem today is that the times are desperate, but the saints are not.

### **THE SALVATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE (Est. 8:7-14; 9:1-16)**

How could the king's original decree be reversed? He could make a counter-decree that will nullify the first one. And that's exactly what he did. The king granted to the Jews the right to defend themselves and retaliate with force against their enemies.

This is a picture of what happens in our salvation. We are condemned by the law of sin and death. The soul that sins it shall surely die. But there is a higher law in Christ that overcomes the law of sin and death. ***Romans 8:1-2*** *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.* Think of it like this. A jumbo jet that weighs several tons sits at the gate while the passengers get on board. That same jet taxis to the runway and then takes off. At that point the law of gravity gives way to another law of aerodynamics.

When the day came that Haman had selected for the extermination of all the Jews, that same day the Jews defended themselves and defeated all those who attacked them. Even the leaders of the 127 Persian provinces helped them (9:3). The Jews killed 500 men in Shushan, the capital city (9:6), and they killed 75,000 more in the provinces. It was a glorious victory. The Bible says we are more than overcomers through Christ (Rom. 8:37).

### **THE CELEBRATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE (Est. 8:15-17; 9:17-28)**

God worked everything out for good, just like He said He would. ***Romans 8:28*** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.*

- Mordecai was elevated

He received even more power and authority in the kingdom (8:2, 15; 9:4; 10:1-3).

- The Jews were motivated

God had turned the tables on the enemy. Instead of darkness and doom, they had light. Instead of sadness, they had gladness and joy. Instead of humiliation, they had honor. And because of all this, they had a godly influence on many of the Persians who wanted to become Jews (8:17). This was God's plan all along in the Old Testament. He selected the Jews so they would be a blessing to other people and draw the nations to Himself.

- The feast of Purim was inaugurated

These days of celebration became the feast of Purim. Purim is the plural of pur (lot). This was to be a reminder of God's sovereignty and providence. ***Proverbs 16:33*** *The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.* Haman selected the day by the casting of lots to be in the 12<sup>th</sup> month, but the day of the Jews' extermination turned out to be the day of their salvation and liberation to the glory of God. God had overruled the wicked plan of Haman and the decree of the king for their good. We don't celebrate the feast of Purim, but we do celebrate the providence of God.

- There is no situation too big for God to handle
- There is no detail too small for God to notice
- There is no enemy too powerful for God to defeat

Pharaoh learned that God's people couldn't be drowned in the river. Nebuchadnezzar learned that they couldn't be burned in the furnace. Darius learned that they couldn't be eaten by lions in the lions den. Haman learned that they couldn't be hanged on the gallows.

Some 2,400 years after the book of Esther took place, an amazing replay of these events happened in Russia. On March 1, 1953, Josef Stalin revealed his plan to kill all Jews in the Soviet Union. The day after he announced his plan, Stalin died of a stroke. His body laid in state for a week and was buried on March 9, which was the Jewish holiday, the feast of Purim.

***Psalms 37:7-13*** <sup>7</sup> *Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.* <sup>8</sup> *Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.* <sup>9</sup> *For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.* <sup>10</sup> *For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.* <sup>11</sup> *But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.* <sup>12</sup> *The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.* <sup>13</sup> *The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.*

The book of Esther can be summed up in one New Testament verse, ***Romans 8:31*** *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

The story of Esther is the life story of every believer: desperation, salvation, and celebration.