

A Time to Stand

...for such a time as this. Esther 4:14



The Plot Overthrown
Esther 9
Lesson 9

Background Information

In the final scenes of Esther, we see God reverse what the enemies of His people intended to achieve. When the appointed day of the battle came, the tables were turned as the Jews assembled in various cities to face their attackers. The Jewish men were armed and ready to meet any enemy who would attack them. The Lord had given them a greater weapon than their swords, because "the fear of the Jews fell upon them" This was a fear that God had sent into the hearts of the Gentiles to keep them from fighting His people. The fear of God protects those who fear Him and believe His promises. Because the Jews believed Mordecai's decree, they had new courage and were not afraid of the enemy; and their courage put fear into the hearts of the enemy.

The Feast of Purim commanded by Mordecai and Esther was for remembering the goodness of God working through a number of circumstances to protect His people from extinction. Mordecai, unlike his predecessor Haman, used his office to serve the king and help the Jews. Sometimes when people are elevated to high office, they forget their roots and ignore the needs of the common people. Mordecai wasn't that kind of man, he was God's chosen man for God's purposes. What he did for his people has been recorded by the Lord and will be rewarded. God continued to use Mordecai to help the Jewish people. The Jews were aliens in a foreign land and subject to all kinds of harassment and abuse. God's workings during the time of Esther, set the stage for the return of Nehemiah, to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and finally remove the reproach from the city of God.

Treasures of the Heart

*On the day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them,
the opposite occurred...*

Esther 9:1

What are the facts? - Observation

The first step is **Observation**. Carefully **read the text** in several translations, paying close attention to the **facts**. **Mark your text**: look for repeated words, contrasts or comparisons. Look for answers to: Who? What? When? Where? Why or How? Studying a narrative requires following the key characters and paying special attention to what God says and does. Note a key verse in each section, to help you understand the main emphasis of the section?

Esther 9:1-16

1 Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, the time came for the king's command and his decree to be executed. On the day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, the opposite occurred, in that the Jews themselves overpowered those who hated them. **2** The Jews gathered together in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could withstand them, because fear of them fell upon all people. **3** And all the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and all those doing the king's work, helped the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. **4** For Mordecai was great in the king's palace, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai became increasingly prominent. **5** Thus the Jews defeated all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, with slaughter and destruction, and did what they pleased with those who hated them.

6 And in Shushan the citadel the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. **7** Also Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, **8** Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, **9** Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vajezatha — **10** the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews — they killed; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.

11 On that day the number of those who were killed in Shushan the citadel was brought to the king. **12** And the king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the citadel, and the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what is your petition? It shall be granted to you. Or what is your further request? It shall be done."

13 Then Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Shushan to do again tomorrow according to today's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows."

Esther 9:17-10:3

17 This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. And on the fourteenth of the month they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness. **18** But the Jews who were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day, as well as on the fourteenth; and on the fifteenth of the month they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. **19** Therefore the Jews of the villages who dwelt in the unwalled towns celebrated the fourteenth day of the month of Adar with gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and for sending presents to one another.

20 And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews, near and far, who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, **21** to establish among them that they should celebrate yearly the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar, **22** as the days on which the Jews had rest from their enemies, as the month which was turned from sorrow to joy for them, and from mourning to a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, of sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor. **23** So the Jews accepted the custom which they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them, **24** because Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to annihilate them, and had cast Pur (that is, the lot), to consume them and destroy them; **25** but when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letter that this wicked plot which Haman had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

26 So they called these days Purim, after the name Pur. Therefore, because of all the words of this letter, what they had seen concerning this matter, and what had happened to them, **27** the Jews established and imposed it upon themselves and their descendants and all who would join them, that without fail they should celebrate these two days every year, according to the written instructions and according to the prescribed time, **28** that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city, that these days of Purim should not fail to be observed among the Jews, and that the memory of them should not perish among their descendants.

29 Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim. **30** And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews, to the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with

Lesson

What lesson can I draw from my observations? A lesson is a general principle or basic truth drawn from the passage. **Note** the verse you took the lesson from. (aim for 10 words or less)

Esther 9:1-16 _____
verse _____

Esther 9:17-10:3 _____
verse _____

Application

Pray! – Simply state how you will apply each lesson. Is there a challenge, a command, a warning or an example? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What is God saying (to me) through this truth? What am I going to do practically in response to God's Word? (aim for 10 words or less)

Esther 9:1-16 _____

Esther 9:17-10:3 _____

Words or repeated phrases

Repeated words help us discover the **main point**.

Getting the point!

State the "Main Point" of each section. See if you can boil down the meaning of each section into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try)

Esther 9:1-16 _____

Esther 9:17-10:3 _____

Main idea

Simply **state** the main idea of the whole passage in one or two sentences.

Title

State the main point of the entire passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles

Find a New Testament example of this Old Testament truth.

Time to stand

Time to think: How will we know how to respond to life's ups and downs? God's Word is always the basis of our choices. Knowing who He is helps us face whatever circumstances we find ourselves in. **What did you learn about God, that will help you stand firm...in such a time as this?**

Radiating His Truth

We all have to decide what to do with the time that is given us.

J.R.R. Tolkien



