

Return from Exile

Esther Saves the Jews

Esther 6-10

Lesson 15

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
December 12, 2010*

“A Strange Story”

- ▶ The seeming absence of God in revelation
- ▶ Heroic narrative – Queen Esther & Mordecai
- ▶ A Bible favorite – good wins over evil – happily ever after
- ▶ How to interpret this book?

The Witness of Scripture

- ▶ A true believer: faith (righteousness) and hope
- ▶ Abraham: believed God and looked for a city
- ▶ Law of Moses: holiness and hope
- ▶ The Prophets: wrath and deliverance

Believers in exile

- ▶ Ezra – temple; statutes/judgments; prayer (9)
- ▶ Nehemiah – wall; obedience; prayer (9)
- ▶ Daniel – prophecy; prayer (9)
- ▶ Haggai – a coming glory – priorities
- ▶ Zechariah – a coming glory – true justice (7:8)
- ▶ Mordecai and Esther . . .

A Glorious Story

- ▶ The end of Old Testament history
Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
- ▶ Essential part of God's plan
- ▶ Providence in Esther = Sovereign Grace

Lesson #1 – Esther becomes Queen

- ▶ Queen Vashti is deposed in pride and anger
- ▶ The royal harem
- ▶ Esther becomes queen
- ▶ Mordecai saves the king and is forgotten
- ▶ Haman, the Agagite, elevated to #2
- ▶ Mordecai offends Haman

Lesson #1 – Esther becomes Queen

- ▶ Haman's fury for Mordecai and the Jews
- ▶ The decree to annihilate the Jews
- ▶ Mordecai's plan
- ▶ Esther wins the favor of the king
- ▶ Haman prepares the gallows for Mordecai

The Underlying Reality

- ▶ The spiritual conflict of all ages
 - In the Garden of Eden
 - Pharaoh – the death of baby boys
 - Athaliah – destruction of the Davidic line
 - Concludes in Revelation 20
- ▶ The guiding providence of God in history
 - Preservation of the Jews

Esther 6

- ▶ Insomnia
- ▶ Reading the book of memorable deeds
- ▶ A royal oversight
- ▶ A convenient visitor
- ▶ Deceptive pride
- ▶ Mordecai is honored
- ▶ Haman is humiliated

Esther 7

- ▶ The second banquet with Esther
- ▶ “Let my life be granted me.”
- ▶ “A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!”
- ▶ The angry king
- ▶ Haman hangs on Mordecai’s gallows

Esther 8

- ▶ Esther brings Mordecai to the king
- ▶ The king authorizes a counter decree – Adar 13
- ▶ Defend, destroy, kill, annihilate, plunder
- ▶ Joy in Susa and among the Jews
- ▶ Feast, holiday, conversion, fear

Esther 9

- ▶ The massacre of the enemies of the Jews
 - 800 in Susa
 - 10 sons of Haman
 - 75,000 throughout Persia
 - A “bonus” day
- ▶ The Feast of Purim
 - Adar 14-15
 - Celebration of victory
 - Joy, food, gifts
 - A permanent holiday
 - Esther commands celebration of Purim

Esther 10

- ▶ The greatness of Mordecai
- ▶ Secular ruler
- ▶ Welfare and peace for the Jews

Lessons from Esther

- ▶ Providence of God
- ▶ Advice to the Jews in Persia
 - Recognize Divine wrath against sin
 - Seek the Divine solution from Divine wrath
 - The danger of a false solution
- ▶ A celebration of luck
 - No Divine mandate
 - A celebration of self
- ▶ The greatness of Mordecai
 - A sad conclusion to a display of God's providence
 - The vain hope of the nation is revealed

Lessons from Esther

- ▶ A life of faith and hope
- ▶ A life of blessing
- ▶ “Vengeance is Mine.” Deuteronomy 32:35