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
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