

Deliverance, Remembrance, and Celebration

Esther 9

The great paradox of Esther is that God is omnipotently present even where God is most conspicuously absent.

I. Deliverance (vs. 1-19)

A. The Jews united and strengthened (vs. 1-4)

The outcome has already been determined –

“tables turned”; “Jews got the upper hand”

“no one could stand against them”

1) fear of the Jews

2) fear of Mordecai

B. The Jews destroy their enemies (vs. 5-19)

1. The Jews in Susa (vs. 5-15)

500 men killed; 10 sons of Haman killed

“did not lay hands on their plunder”

1. Material gain was not to be the reason for their actions

2. Emphasizing their actions in contrast to King Saul’s actions with Amalekites

Esther’s requests (vs. 11-13)

1. a 2nd day in Susa

2. Impaling of Haman’s sons

2. The Jews in the provinces (vs. 16-19)

75,000 killed

“thousand” could refer to a family or clan

1. Where am I waiting on God to turn things around? Psalm 42:9-11

2. What areas of my life do I need to wage war against? 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

II. Celebration and Remembrance (vs. 20-32)

A. Celebration (vs. 20-26)

“to celebrate annually”

1. “the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies”

2. “sorrow turned into joy, mourning into a day of celebration”

At the core of celebration is joy

Psalm 16:11

3. a celebration of great reversals..

“Haman’s evil scheme came back onto his own head”

Feast of Purim (pur) **Proverbs 16:33**

B. Remembrance (vs. 27-32)

“these days should be remembered and observed in every generation”

We have the tendency to remember things we should forget, and to forget things we should remember.

Deuteronomy 8:10-18

How do we remember the work of God in our lives?

1. Sharing stories of God with children/grandchildren.

2. Celebrating things that matter to God

3. Participation in church ordinances
communion – remembrance
baptism – celebration