

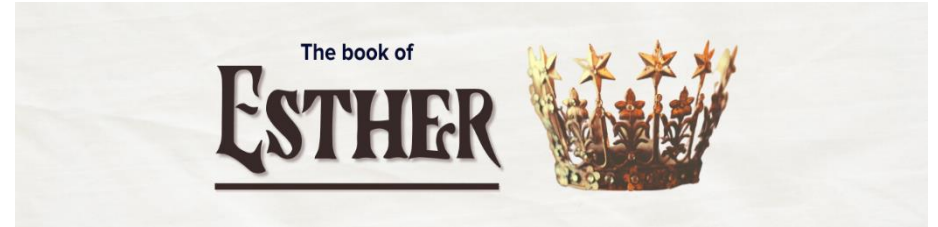


Pray

How does Esther 8 inspire you to pray? Is there action you need to take?

How can this passage impact the way you pray for yourself and others?

How does this passage move you to thank and praise God?



A Mighty Mediator | Esther 8

Study Guide 8 for sermon on 11/22/2020



Introduction

Yogi Berra is quoted as saying, “It ain’t over till it’s over.” Well, it ain’t over for the Jews as Esther approaches the king once again. Haman’s edict to exterminate the Jews has not yet been reversed in the story. So, Esther has to go and plead for her people’s lives once again. This time as Esther goes before the king she is desperate as she fears the time for the destruction of the Jews is coming soon. So, she throws herself down in front of the king, weeping and pleading with him to make Haman’s evil plot go away.



Overview

Context: We learned in Esther 6 that God’s reversals make his enemies laughable. Esther 7 and 8 continue this trend of reversals that reflect God’s direct involvement. This is evident as King Ahasuerus is a pawn used by God through Esther and Mordecai’s boldness.

Structure:

- I. Mordecai is promoted (vv. 1-2)
- II. The Jews are spared (vv. 3-8)
- III. The Jews rejoice and are feared (vv. 9-17)



Engage

1. Esther addresses the king again in verse 3. What is it that she is asking for and why is she so desperate?
2. Esther addresses the King boldly despite the consequences. How often have you failed to bear witness for your faith because of the fear of what others will think, only to discover when we finally open our mouths that the response is not at all what we feared?
3. How does Esther's appeal compare to Haman's in the previous chapter? → *see Esther 7:8*
4. King Ahasuerus responds to Esther and Mordecai with frustration yet gives into Esther's request. Why do you think he agrees and issues this new edict in verses 7-8?
5. The document and edict are sent throughout every province (vv. 10-14). How does this edict differ from the one Haman signed off on in Esther 3:10-13?
6. In verse 15, Mordecai comes out of the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white with a great gold crown and a purple robe of fine linen. His physical state outlined here in Esther 8 is quite different from how he is described in Esther 4:1. How is he described there? Why is he clothed in luxury now?
7. The Jews are shouting and rejoicing now because of the king's command. How does this compare to the state of things for the city of Susa back in Esther 3:15?
8. Should the Jews have been so quick to rejoice at the news of the second edict? The empire had not changed, even though Mordecai was now in a place of power.
9. Esther stands as a mediator for the Jews in this chapter and throughout the book. She put aside personal interests, safety, her own dignity, and even life itself, to rescue the Jews from judgment. Who else is a mediator in the New Testament and how does his mediation deliver us from judgment and wrath to come? This mediator left the glories of heaven and took on the form of a servant, not simply humbling himself, but giving himself to the point of death. How does his mediation bring gladness and joy to your life?
10. In the last verse of the chapter, the king's command reaches the Jews and they are delivered. The people celebrate and there is a holiday. The situation changes for those who were not Jews. Some profess to be Jews, why do you think they did? Do people today try and identify with God's people for physical benefits?