

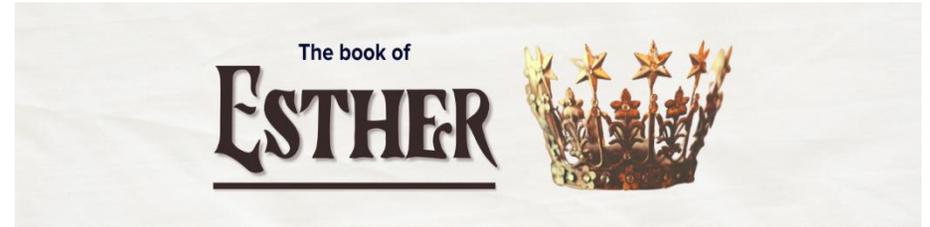


Pray

Does this passage bring to mind a situation you are facing that you should bring to the Lord in prayer? How does the silent providence of God in the book of Esther impact your praying?

Who do you know that is facing an intense crisis?
What should you be praying for them?
How often do you need to pray for them?

How does this passage inspire you to praise God?



In Remembrance of Rest | Esther 9:1-10:3

Study Guide 9 for sermon on 11/29/20



Introduction

Has someone ever spoiled a movie for you by telling you what happens before you see it? It's so frustrating. But this is exactly what the writer of Esther does. Don't believe me? Go read 9:1. The ending is given away in the opening verse! Why would the writer do that? I think the writer does this because the ending was never in doubt. The end of the story doesn't need suspense because the ending has been clear from the beginning. God keeps his promises, God wins, and so do His people. Every time.



Overview

Context: Esther 9 & 10 is essentially a victory lap. In the final scenes of Esther, we see God reverse what the enemies of his people intended to achieve and we see him grant rest and relief for his people. Moreover, we see his people rejoicing and seeking to remember their great deliverance.

Structure:

- I. Holy War Remembered (9:1-16)
- II. Rest from War Celebrated (9:17-10:3)



Engage

1. How many times in chapter 9 do you see the phrase: “they did not seize any plunder”? What does Mordecai’s edict say about the “plunder” in 8:11? In light of 1 Samuel 15:18-19, why didn’t the Jews take any spoils of war?
2. What line from 4:14 is reflected in the way Mordecai ruled in 10:3?
3. In 9:13, Esther asks for another day to engage in Holy War. Some people see this as a noble request. Some people see it as unnecessary brutality. What do you think?
4. Though the striking down of God’s enemies seems harsh, why is it ultimately about holiness? How do we reconcile a text like Esther with Christ’s call to love our enemies and pray for them?
5. Why is Purim celebrated? Is it because of strength in warfare, victory in warfare, or rest from warfare? What verse from chapter 9 supports your answer?
6. How often do you rejoice in the rest and relief Christ provides? How and why should you do so more?
7. A central component of the celebration of Purim is reading the story of God’s deliverance of His people. In what ways are you intentional about remembering what God has done for you in Jesus?
8. Unlike other festivals in the Old Testament (such as Passover and Pentecost), Purim was never “translated” into Christianity. Why do you think that is?
9. What are some specific ways in which we can apply the spirit and meaning of Purim in our lives today?
10. What are some of your big take-aways from our study of the book of Esther?