**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 27 October 2021**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

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**Theme:** **“A Woman for Such a Time as This”** **(Esther 4:14)**

"…Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

**Esther** **Chapter 9**

**(NIV)**

**Esther 9:1-15 (Part 1)**

1. The Jews prepare themselves for the attack of the enemy
2. They organized themselves to fight against whoever came against them and their families
3. God caused the people who hated the Jews to become afraid of them
4. Mordecai gained power throughout the kingdom
5. The pagan nation had a change of heart toward the Jews
6. Yet, there were some that didn’t like the Jews
7. Anyone who became pro-Jewish experienced the favor of God

**Part 2**

**Esther 9:16-19 (NIV)**

 The King was used by God to blot out all the enemies of the Jews including the Amalekites

**Esther 9:16-19**

 16 Meanwhile, the remainder of the Jews who were in the king’s provinces also assembled to protect themselves and get relief from their enemies. They killed seventy-five thousand of them but did not lay their hands on the plunder.

 17 This happened on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth they rested and made it a day of feasting and joy.

 18 The Jews in Susa, however, had assembled on the thirteenth and fourteenth, and then on the fifteenth they rested and made it a day of feasting and joy.

 19 That is why rural Jews—those living in villages—observe the fourteenth of the month of Adar as a day of joy and feasting, a day for giving presents to each other.

**NLT**

 17 This was done throughout the provinces on March 7, and on March 8 they rested, celebrating their victory with a day of feasting and gladness. 18 (The Jews at Susa killed their enemies on March 7 and again on March 8, then rested on March 9, making that their day of feasting and gladness.) 19 So to this day, rural Jews living in remote villages celebrate an annual festival and holiday on the appointed day in late winter, when they rejoice and send gifts of food to each other.

Q = Name some ways how they celebrated their victory? What can we learn from how they celebrated?

**Esther 9:20-23**

 20 Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far,

 21 to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar

 22 as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

 23 So the Jews agreed to continue the celebration they had begun, doing what Mordecai had written to them.

NLT

 20 Mordecai recorded these events and sent letters to the Jews near and far, throughout all the provinces of King Xerxes, 21 calling on them to celebrate an annual festival on these two days. 22 He told them to celebrate these days with feasting and gladness and by giving gifts of food to each other and presents to the poor. This would commemorate a time when the Jews gained relief from their enemies, when their sorrow was turned into gladness and their mourning into joy.

23 So the Jews accepted Mordecai’s proposal and adopted this annual custom.

* God turns morning into rejoicing by:
1. Allowing us to weep

 **Psalms 30:5**

 “…Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”

1. Placing us in circumstances that test our faith even though we don’t see God working

**1 Peter 1:8**

 “whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

1. Bringing back to our remembrance what the Lord has done in our lives

**Psalms 28:7**

 “The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.”

**Esther 9:24-27**

 24 For Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them and had cast the pur (that is, the lot) for their ruin and destruction.

 25 But when the plot came to the king’s attention, he issued written orders that the evil scheme Haman had devised against the Jews should come back onto his own head, and that he and his sons should be impaled on poles.

 26 (Therefore these days were called Purim, from the word pur.) Because of everything written in this letter and because of what they had seen and what had happened to them,

 27 the Jews took it on themselves to establish the custom that they and their descendants and all who join them should without fail observe these two days every year, in the way prescribed and at the time appointed.

NLT

 24 Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews, had plotted to crush and destroy them on the date determined by casting lots (the lots were called purim). 25 But when Esther came before the king, he issued a decree causing Haman’s evil plot to backfire, and Haman and his sons were impaled on a sharpened pole. 26 That is why this celebration is called Purim, because it is the ancient word for casting lots. So, because of Mordecai’s letter and because of what they had experienced, 27 the Jews throughout the realm agreed to inaugurate this tradition and to pass it on to their descendants and to all who became Jews. They declared they would never fail to celebrate these two prescribed days at the appointed time each year.

**Esther 9:28**

 28 These days should be remembered and observed in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city. And these days of Purim should never fail to be celebrated by the Jews—nor should the memory of these days die out among their descendants.

* Nothing happens by chance under the providential hand of God.
* When God is in control, nothing happens accidentally

**Romans 8:28**

 “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

* Joseph’s life was under the providential hand of God

**Genesis 50:20**

 "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

* God gives His children the freedom to plan our lives, but because we belong to God, He directs our path

**Proverbs 16:9**

 A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

* In the Book of Esther, Queen Esther was under God providential care. That means God arranged and organized the events of her life according to His divine will.

**Esther 9:29-32**

 29 So Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter concerning Purim. 30 And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews in the 127 provinces of Xerxes’ kingdom—words of goodwill and assurance—

 31 to establish these days of Purim at their designated times, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had decreed for them, and as they had established for themselves and their descendants in regard to their times of fasting and lamentation.

 32 Esther’s decree confirmed these regulations about Purim, and it was written down in the records.

NLT

 28 These days would be remembered and kept from generation to generation and celebrated by every family throughout the provinces and cities of the empire. This Festival of Purim would never cease to be celebrated among the Jews, nor would the memory of what happened ever die out among their descendants.

29 Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote another letter putting the queen’s full authority behind Mordecai’s letter to establish the Festival of Purim. 30 Letters wishing peace and security were sent to the Jews throughout the 127 provinces of the empire of Xerxes. 31 These letters established the Festival of Purim—an annual celebration of these days at the appointed time, decreed by both Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther. (The people decided to observe this festival, just as they had decided for themselves and their descendants to establish the times of fasting and mourning.) 32 So the command of Esther confirmed the practices of Purim, and it was all written down in the records.

* The principle of remembering God’s great deliverance is good; therefore, we should never forget God’s mighty work in our lives.
* Queen Esther and Mordecai wanted to make sure that their people never forget what God has done for them.
* Today, Purim is one of the more popular Jewish feasts, with costumes, games, fellowship and praise to God.

**Esther Chapter 10**

 1King Xerxes imposed tribute throughout the empire, to its distant shores.

 2 And all his acts of power and might, together with a full account of the greatness of Mordecai, whom the king had promoted, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Media and Persia?

 3 Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews.

* Mordecai was promoted to the highest position under King Xerxes.
* He used his greatness to promote the prosperity of Israel
* Therefore, Mordecai was a type of Christ, who upon his throne of glory, seeks not His own, but humbled himself and used his power for His people and God’s Kingdom.

**Philippians 2:5-8**

 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

* The Church of Jesus Christ should have the same mind of Mordecai.
* Believers should not be afraid to honor the Lord their God before kings and people of influence

**Matthew 10:32-33**

 32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

 33 "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

* Believers are called to plead for the weak, the poor and those who can’t speak for themselves

 **Psalms 82:3-4**

 3 Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy.

 4 Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked.

**Next Week—**The Gospel of Luke

1. **Luke was a companion of Who?**

Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3

Colossians 4:12-15

2 Timothy 4:9-11

Philemon 1:23-24

**The Gospel of Luke is known as “A Gospel of the Universal Grace of God.” Why?**

Luke 2:29-32

Luke 3:1-6

Luke 24:46-48