**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 29 September 2021**

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

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

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

**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 (Part 1)**

**(NIV)**

**Esther 9:1-2**

 1 On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned, and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them.

 2 The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those determined to destroy them. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them.

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

**Esther 9:3-5**

 3 And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and the king’s administrators helped the Jews, because fear of Mordecai had seized them.

 4 Mordecai was prominent in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and he became more and more powerful.

 5 The Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and they did what they pleased to those who hated them.

* Mordecai gained power throughout the kingdom
* The pagan nation had a change of heart toward the Jews
* Yet, there were some that didn’t like the Jews
* **Verse 5** “So the Jews went ahead on the appointed day and struck down their enemies with the sword. They killed and annihilated their enemies and did as they pleased with those who hated them”
* Anyone who became pro-Jewish would put in favor of the King and the Almighty God

**Esther 9:6-10**

 6 In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men.

 7 They also killed Parshandatha, *[par-shan-da-tha]* Dalphon, *[dal-phone]* Aspatha, *[as-pa-tha]*

 8 Poratha, *[por-a-tha]* Adalia, *[ad-a-lia]* Aridatha, *[a-rid-a-tha]*

 9 Parmashta, *[par-mash-ta]* Arisai, Aridai *[a-ris-i]* and Vaizatha, *[va-jez-a-tha]*

 10 the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. But they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

* The Jews killed 500 men in Shushan including the ten sons of Haman.
* The original edict written by Haman demanded plunder from the Jews

 **Esther 3:8-10 NLT**

 8 Then Haman approached King Xerxes and said, “There is a certain race of people scattered through all the provinces of your empire who keep themselves separate from everyone else. Their laws are different from those of any other people, and they refuse to obey the laws of the king. So, it is not in the king’s interest to let them live.

 9 If it please the king, issue a decree that they be destroyed, and I will give 10,000 large sacks of silver to the government administrators to be deposited in the royal treasury.”

 10 The king agreed, confirming his decision by removing his signet ring from his finger and giving it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

 11 The king said, “The money and the people are both yours to do with as you see fit.”

Q=What is the difference between **Esther 3:8-10** and Esther 9:10

 the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. But they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

Q =What did this say about the Jewish people’s mind and heart?

**Esther 9:11-12**

 11 The number of those killed in the citadel of Susa was reported to the king that same day.

 12 The king said to Queen Esther, “The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman in the citadel of Susa. What have they done in the rest of the king’s provinces? Now what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? It will also be granted.”

* The King was used by God to blot out all the enemies of the Jews including the Amalekites
* This was in accord with God’s original plan recorded in **Exodus 17:14-15**

 14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven."

 15 And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner.

* God is our protector and provider

**Esther 9:13-15**

 13 “If it pleases the king,” Esther answered, “give the Jews in Susa permission to carry out this day’s edict tomorrow also and let Haman’s ten sons be impaled on poles.”

 14 So the king commanded that this be done. An edict was issued in Susa, and they impaled the ten sons of Haman.

 15 The Jews in Susa came together on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and they put to death in Susa three hundred men, but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

**Esther 9:1-15** is an illustration of God’s promise to Abraham in **Genesis 12:1-3**

 1 The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you.

 2 I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.

 3 **I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt.** All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

There are 5 Characteristics of God’s divine Promises

1. God’s Promises are Unfailing—**1 Kings 8:56**

 “Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses.”

1. God’s promises are assured by God’s Divine Ability—**Romans 4:21**

 “Being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”

1. God’s promises are grounded in Jesus Christ—**2 Corinthians 1:20**

 “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.”

1. God’s promises are of Infinite Value—**2 Peter 1:4**

 “Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

1. God’s promises Culminate in Everlasting Life—**1 John 2:25**

“And this is what he promised us—eternal life.”