

Esther - Overruled!

Esther 8 ❖ Romans 5:1-5

“By saying that the saints glory in tribulations, Paul is not to be understood, as though they dreaded not, nor avoided adversities, or were not distressed with their bitterness when they happened, but they are not without great consolation, because they regard that whatever they bear is dispensed to them for good by the hand of a most indulgent Father.”

(“Calvin’s Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans,” John Calvin)

An Adoption

My older son and daughter-in-law are in the process of _____ her 9-month-old nephew. We are going to _____ that little boy just as if he had been _____ into our family.

Esther was an _____, and her cousin Mordecai had _____ her and raised her as if she were his own _____. (Esther 2:7).

The day the King had Haman _____, because he was planning to murder the Queen and all the _____ in Persia, Esther finally told him that Mordecai was her _____ father.

“The King gave Esther the _____ of Haman, the _____ of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the _____ of the King, for Esther had told him how he was _____ to her” (Esther 8:1).

“The King took off his signet _____, which he had _____ from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman’s _____” (v. 2).

God can _____ any bad situation, and often does!

Overruled

“Esther again _____ with the King, _____ at his feet and _____. She _____ him to overrule Haman’s _____ plan to destroy the Jews in all the King’s provinces” (vv. 3-5).

“How can I bear to see disaster fall on _____ people?” she told the King. “How can I bear to see the destruction of _____ family?” (v. 6)

“King Xerxes commanded Mordecai to write another _____ in the King’s name in behalf of the _____ as seems best to _____, and

_____ it with the King’s signet ring” (v. 8).

Mordecai wasted no _____. “The royal secretaries were summoned to write out his _____ to the Jews and to all the officials in each of the 127 provinces stretching from _____ to Cush and to have them delivered by _____ couriers, who rode _____ horses especially bred for the King” (vv. 9-10).

“The King’s edict granted the _____ in every city the right to _____ and to _____ themselves; to _____, kill and annihilate any armed force of any nationality or province that might _____ them and their women and children; and to plunder the property of their _____” (v. 11).

“Wherever the edict was _____, there was _____ and gladness among the _____, with feasting and celebrating. Many people of other nationalities became _____, for fear of the Jews seized them” (v. 17).

Another Edict

God’s decree: “The wages of sin is _____” has been overruled by another edict: “but the _____ of God is eternal _____ through _____ Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Takeaway

“We _____ in our sufferings, because we _____ that suffering produces _____; perseverance, _____; and character, _____” (Romans 5:3-4).

Esther and her _____ father, Mordecai, learned, as John Calvin put it, “to _____ in tribulations, because they regarded that whatever they bore was dispensed to them for _____ by the hand of a most indulgent Father.”

Father’s Day Prayer

Father in Heaven, thank You for our fathers on earth. We are grateful for their love, care, wisdom, and patience and for the sacrifices they have made on our behalf. Help us to forgive them for their shortcomings and to acknowledge that You are the only perfect Father. If they are still with us in this life, please strengthen the relationships our fathers have with You and with their families. Bless their work and their leisure, and fill their lives with the presence of Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

