

## Esther - A Day of Joy

Esther 9 & 10 ❖ John 20:1

“Let us take heed to note that the sacred writer’s whole point is this: that the Divine Hand was, all the time, overruling Xerxes’ brutality, Vashti’s womanliness and Esther’s beauty and her elevation into Vashti’s vacant seat, all this and more than all this, to work together for the remnant of Israel that still lay dispersed in the vast empire of Persia.”

(“Bible Characters,” Alexander Whyte, 1896)

### The Triumph of God’s People

How different might history have been if there had been someone like \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ Germany?!

“On the day the King’s \_\_\_\_\_ was to be carried out, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews had hoped to \_\_\_\_\_ them, but the tables were \_\_\_\_\_, and the Jews got the upper \_\_\_\_\_ over those who hated them” (Esther 9:1).

Are we paying attention to how God continues to “turn the \_\_\_\_\_” so that His people get the upper hand?!

“The Jews struck down all their \_\_\_\_\_ with the sword, killing and destroying them. In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed \_\_\_\_\_ men. They also killed the ten \_\_\_\_\_ of Haman, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews. But they did not lay their hands on the \_\_\_\_\_” (vv. 5-10).

Queen Esther asked the King to \_\_\_\_\_ the ten sons of Haman on the gallows. That day the Jews in Susa killed an additional \_\_\_\_\_ of their enemies, “but they did not lay their hands on the \_\_\_\_\_” (vv. 13-15).

“Meanwhile, the remainder of the Jews who were in the King’s \_\_\_\_\_ also assembled to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves from their enemies. They killed \_\_\_\_\_ of them, but did not lay their hands on the \_\_\_\_\_” (v. 16).

### Purim

Purim and Christmas have several \_\_\_\_\_ denominators: feasting, giving \_\_\_\_\_ to each other, worship, and giving gifts to the \_\_\_\_\_.

“Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews throughout the \_\_\_\_\_ of King Xerxes to have them celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as the time when the Jews got \_\_\_\_\_ from their enemies and their \_\_\_\_\_ was turned into joy and their \_\_\_\_\_ into a day of celebration” (vv. 20-22a).

“He wrote them to observe the days as days of \_\_\_\_\_ and joy and giving \_\_\_\_\_ of food to one another and \_\_\_\_\_ to the poor” (v. 22b).

“Haman, the enemy of all the \_\_\_\_\_, had plotted to destroy them and had cast the \_\_\_\_\_ (that is, the lot) for their ruin and \_\_\_\_\_, but his evil scheme came back on his own \_\_\_\_\_” (vv. 24-25).

Haman rolled the \_\_\_\_\_, but God determined how it \_\_\_\_\_.

“The Jews took it upon themselves to establish the \_\_\_\_\_ that they and their \_\_\_\_\_ and all who join them should without fail observe these two days every \_\_\_\_\_” (v. 27).

Josephus, the first century Jewish \_\_\_\_\_, recorded that Jews all over the \_\_\_\_\_ celebrated Purim in his day.

Purim \_\_\_\_\_ to be a popular festival for Jews today. The book of Esther is read in the \_\_\_\_\_, and the children in the congregation boo and shake \_\_\_\_\_ when Haman’s name is read. The next day they celebrate with \_\_\_\_\_, songs, \_\_\_\_\_ and gifts.

### Our Day of Joy

“Early on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the \_\_\_\_\_ and saw that the stone had been \_\_\_\_\_ from the entrance” (John 20:1).

As Christians, our day of deliverance is historical. We, too, have been delivered from our enemy, the \_\_\_\_\_, and from sin and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Takeaway

The \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s people today are numerous and cocky, but God has promised to \_\_\_\_\_ them and protect us.

“Because He lives, I can face \_\_\_\_\_,  
Because He lives, all \_\_\_\_\_ is gone;  
Because I know He holds the \_\_\_\_\_,  
And life is \_\_\_\_\_ the living,  
Just because He \_\_\_\_\_.”

