

The Gospel in Esther

No matter what it looks like or how great a power that stands against Him, nothing will prevent God from defeating His enemies and fulfilling His redemptive plan.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Esther

September 13, 2020

(Esther 7:1-10) ¹So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet, ²and as they were drinking wine on the second day, the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted." ³Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request. ⁴For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king." ⁵King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?" ⁶Esther said, "An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. ⁷The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden. But Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life. ⁸Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, "Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?" As soon as the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. ⁹Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, "A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits stands by Haman's house. He had it set up for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king." The king said, "Impale him on it!" ¹⁰So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided.

(Esther 9:1-10, 20-22) ¹On 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. ²The 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. ³And 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. ⁴Mordecai was prominent in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and he became more and more powerful. ⁵The Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and they did what they pleased to those who hated them. ⁶In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. ⁷They also killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, ⁸Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, ⁹Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Vaizatha, ¹⁰the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. But they did not lay their hands on the plunder...²⁰Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, ²¹to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar ²²as 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.

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- When you look at the world today, do you tend to ask and expect God to do big things, little things, or not much of anything at all? Why?
- When have you seen God show His glory in a situation where all hope seemed lost?

Before your group transitions into Esther, watch this week's Bible Project Video to help understand the context of this book of the Bible. [The Bible Project: Esther](#)

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

- When you look at society today which, like Persia during Esther's time, is focused entirely on appearances and lives as though what we have is more important than who we are, is it easier or more difficult to see God at work? Explain.

- The Book of Esther makes no mention of the name of God. Why should the seeming absence of God's name in this story actually encourage us when it seems as if God isn't with us?
- Esther was unaware that she was part of God's divine plan. How is God's providence, in and of itself, a reason for hope?

Have a volunteer read Esther 7:1-10

- What does verse 4 indicate to you about the risk Esther took in bringing this matter to the king? What does this passage teach you about God?
- Reread verse 10. How does this one verse paint a picture of the gospel story?

Have a volunteer read Esther 9:1-10, 20-22

- Put yourself in the story. When Esther called on all the Jewish people to pray, would you have prayed for God to allow you to protect yourselves or to miraculously prevent the attack altogether? Why?
- After doing what needed to be done in battle, what did the Jews do? Why? Why is it important to regularly remember what God has done? What are some practical ways we can do this?

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- This week ask God to open your eyes to see how you, like Esther, are part of His great plan to redeem humanity, even when you do not realize it. How could making this truth your filter change your week?

PRAYER: Thank God that He is continually working all things together toward His redemptive purpose in your life and in the world. Ask Him to help you trust Him and to act in faith, even when He seems silent.

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Esther 5-7
 DAY 2 – Esther 8-10
 DAY 3 – Nehemiah 1-2
 DAY 4 – Nehemiah 3-4
 DAY 5 – Nehemiah 5-6

KEY VERSE: Nehemiah 6:9

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.
 Explain what the text means.
 Apply the verse to your life.
 Respond to God.

Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.

OUR VISION

To be a church
 for the unchurched,
 here and around the world.

ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW
 GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a
 way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.