

Behind The Scenes

God at work in the story of Esther



Hometown Community Church



Recap

- ❑ Esther becomes Queen
- ❑ Mordecai and Haman have conflict
- ❑ Haman writes the destruction edict
- ❑ Mordecai asks Esther for help
- ❑ Esther names Haman as the villain
- ❑ Haman is executed

Main Point

God finishes our story, but His
story lives on

God Reverses Fortunes

Esther 8:1-10

That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her

Esther 8:1 NIV

The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman's estate.

Esther 8:2 NIV

Esther again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews.

Esther 8:3 NIV

Then the king extended the gold scepter to Esther and she arose and stood before him.

Esther 8:4 NIV

“If it pleases the king,” she said,
“and if he regards me with favor
and thinks it the right thing to do,
and if he is pleased with me, let an
order be written overruling the
dispatches that Haman son of
Hammedatha, the Agagite, devised
and wrote to destroy the Jews in all
the king’s provinces.

Esther 8:5 NIV

For how can I bear to see disaster
fall on my people? How can I bear to
see the destruction of my family?”

Esther 8:6 NIV

King Xerxes replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, “Because Haman attacked the Jews, I have given his estate to Esther, and they have impaled him on the pole he set up.

Esther 8:7 NIV

Now write another decree in the king's name in behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king's signet ring—for no document written in the king's name and sealed with his ring can be revoked.”

Esther 8:8 NIV

At once the royal secretaries were summoned—on the twenty-third day of the third month, the month of Sivan. They wrote out all Mordecai's orders to the Jews, and to the satraps, governors and nobles of the 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush. These orders were written in the script of each province and the language of each people and also to the Jews in their own script and language.

Esther 8:9 NIV

Mordecai wrote in the name of King Xerxes, sealed the dispatches with the king's signet ring, and sent them by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses especially bred for the king.

Esther 8:10 NIV

What Happened

- ❑ Mordecai is elevated
- ❑ Esther begs for the lives of the Jews
- ❑ A new edict is written

God Makes the Weak Strong

Esther 9:1-4

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.

Esther 9:1 NIV

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.

Esther 9:2 NIV

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.

Esther 9:3 NIV

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

Esther 9:4 NIV

What Happened

- ❑ Day arrives for the edicts to be carried out
- ❑ People are now afraid of the Jews
- ❑ Nobles help Mordecai

God Gives Something to Celebrate

Esther 9:20-32

Mordecai recorded these events,
and he sent letters to all the Jews
throughout the provinces of King
Xerxes, near and far to have them
celebrate annually the fourteenth
and fifteenth days of the month of
Adar

Esther 9:20-21 NIV

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.

Esther 9:22 NIV

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

Esther 9:23 NIV

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.

Esther 9:24 NIV

But when the plot came to the king's attention, [a] 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.

Esther 9:25 NIV

(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,

Esther 9:26 NIV

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.

Esther 9:27 NIV

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.

Esther 9:28 NIV

So Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter concerning Purim.

Esther 9:29 NIV

And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews in the 127 provinces of Xerxes' kingdom—words of goodwill and assurance—

Esther 9:30 NIV

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

Esther 9:31 NIV

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

Esther 9:32 NIV

What Happened

- ❑ Authorization to celebrate
- ❑ Purim is to be celebrated in the future
- ❑ Esther's authority is shown

Jesus' Reversal of Fortune

“Looking at his disciples, he said: ‘Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.’”

Luke 6:20-21 NIV

Jesus' Reversal of Fortune

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Luke 6:20-21 NIV

Jesus Makes the Weak Strong

“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”

1 Peter 5:10 NIV

Jesus Gave Something to Celebrate

- ❑ Easter
 - ❑ Jesus' death and resurrection
 - ❑ Our saving grace

Application

- ❑ Your story isn't over
- ❑ Look for God in you story
 - ❑ Setting, characters, conflicts

Remember the Theme of Esther

- ☐ God's silence is NOT God's absence