

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

ESTHER 9

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Esther nine and the short addendum labeled chapter ten are a fitting and glorious conclusion to this wonderful story of God's love, watch care, providence, and blessing to His people Israel. The enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower and destroy God's chosen race, but instead the opposite happened. Mordecai had been placed in the seat of government as the Prime Minister and had the signet ring of the King to administer the government and this brought great fear upon all the leadership in all the kingdom of the Persians everywhere. Mordecai became a feared hero and his fame and influence continued to grow in all the provinces. The Jewish people instead of being destroyed, were able to destroy all their enemies. There was still however a contingency that hated the Jews who were associated with the government, in the very seat of power in Shushan, the Palace of King Ahasuerus and Queen Esther. Esther wisely asks the King to allow the Jews to deal with those people as well and rid the palace of corruption. The King granted the queen's request.

"Then Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, obliging them to

celebrate the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same month, annually, because on those days the Jews rid themselves of their enemies, and it was a month which was turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and sending portions of food to one another and gifts to the poor. Thus, the Jews undertook what they had started to do..." (Esther 9:20-23a). Therefore, they called these days ***Purim*** after the name of ***Pur***.

...The Jews established and made a custom for themselves and for their descendants and for all those who allied themselves with them, so that they would not fail to celebrate these two days...So, these days were to be remembered and celebrated throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and these days of Purim were not to fail from among the Jews, or their memory fade from their descendants.

Prayer and Action Steps

Remember, the word "God" or "His Name" is never mentioned in the Book of Esther. However, there is no doubt God was in control. God is caring for you even though you might not ever be aware.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____

