



Esther

BRIGHT STAR IN A DARK PLACE (CHAPTERS 9-10)

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INTRODUCTION





CHART OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER

I. God's Hand Prepares for the Future— Chapters 1-2			II. God's Hand Rules in the Present— Chapters 3-8					III. God's Hand Brings Judgment in its Time— Chapter 9:1-19			IV. God's Hand Executes Justice in the End— Chapters 9:20-10:3				
The Great Banquets	Dethronement of Vashti	The Choice of a New Queen	Haman's Plot – Plot #1	Mordecai's Plan	Esther's 1 st Banquet	Haman's Plot – Plot #2	Haman's Humiliation	Esther's 2 nd Banquet	Mordecai's Elevation	A Great Reversal	A Great Vengeance	A Great Celebration	Mordecai's Proclamation	Esther's Confirmation	Mordecai's Legacy





As we close our review of the book of Esther, we take away from it the idea that God is always active in ways and means beyond our sight and perception preparing our way. In the midst of our struggles, He is always present to accomplish what needs to be done to keep us within the parameters of way He is leading us. In the end, there is judgment and justice brought to bear upon all. The good receive for the good they have done, and the evil for the evil they brought.





III. GOD'S HAND BRINGS JUDGMENT IN ITS TIME



A. A Great Reversal: “The tables were turned,” **Esther 9:1**.

1. David had experienced this turn from apparent defeat to overwhelming victory, **2 Sam 22:1-3, 40-41**.



2 Samuel 22:1-3, 40-41 (NIV2011)



1 David sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. 2 He said: “The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; 3 my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior— from violent people you save me. . .40 You armed me with strength for battle; you humbled my adversaries before me. 41 You made my enemies turn their backs in flight, and I destroyed my foes.





2. God has promised to deliver the righteous and reserve judgment for those who have persecuted His people, **2 Pet 2:5-10a.**



2 Peter 2:5-9 (NIV2011) 5 If he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;





7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.





3. God has allowed our present persecution to prove that He is right to judge unbelievers for their hatred of Him and those He calls His own,
2 Thes 1:4-10.




2 Thessalonians 1:4-10 (NIV2011) 4
Among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.
5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.





6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. 8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.






9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might 10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.





B. A Great Vengeance: “No one could stand against them,” **Esther 9:2-16**



1. Summary of the Jewish defense, **Esther 9:2-11.**

The pure and simple truth is that when God is in charge, there is no earthly or heavenly power that can keep Him from delivering those He has promised to save.





Romans 8:31-35 (NIV2011) 31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.



 34 Who then is the one who condemns? 

No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?






2. Extension of edict in Susa so that justice might fall upon Haman's sons and remaining enemies,

Esther 9:12-15

3. Summary of enemy casualties in the remaining provinces, **Esther 9:16**



C. A Great Celebration: “They made it a
day of feasting and joy”,
Esther 9:17-19





IV. GOD'S HAND EXECUTES RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT IN THE END



A. Mordecai's Joyous Proclamation:
“Celebrate annually. . . as the time .
. . . when their sorrow was turned to
joy”, **Esther 9:20-26a.**

The Establishment of the Feast of Purim
(Lots)





1. The time of the annual celebration: 13th and 14th of Adar (The next Feast of Purim is March 16, 17, 2014),

Esther 9:20-21

2. The purpose of the celebration: Relief from enemies and their sorrow tuned to joy,

Esther 9:22a, 23-26a







David used God's deliverance as an opportunity to praise God, **Psa 30:11-12**.




Psalm 30:11-12 (NIV2011) 11 You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
12 that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. LORD my God, I will praise you forever.






3. The form of the celebration:
Feasting, presents of food to one
another, and gifts to the poor,
Esther 9:23



B. Esther's Confirming Decree: "Esther's decree. . . was written down in the records", **Esther 9:26b-32**.



C. Mordecai's Legacy: "He worked hard for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews", **Esther 10:1-3**.






Mordecai left a legacy of service and courageous devotion to his people.




What will be your legacy? What will be your gift to those who come after you? We should care about the effects of our lives upon others because the record will be opened and we shall all be judged:





1. Unbelievers will be judged according to their deeds at the Great White Throne Judgment, **Rev 20:11-15**.





Revelation 20:11-15 (NIV2011) 11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.



13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.






2. Believers according to how they built upon the foundation of Christ's church or contributed to its destruction, **1 Cor 3:10-17**.

1 Corinthians 3:10-17 (NIV2011) 10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.




12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. 14 If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. 15 If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.






16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.





3. Whatever legacy we may leave others, there is none better or more precious than that left by the Lord Jesus Christ, **1 John 5:11-12**.



1 John 5:11-12 (NIV2011) 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

