

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship | Esther
June 19, 2024 | “Commemoration and Remembrance” | **Esther 9:1–10:3**

1) A Great _____
(9:1–10)

2) A Great _____
(9:11–32)

3) A Great _____
(10:1–3)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Watch the following “Bible Project” video that summarizes the book of Esther from start to finish: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/esther/>

What are some things that you learned about this book in the course of our series? How do we see God working incognito throughout this book?

Give a short description of the main characters in this book including Mordecai, Esther, Ahasuerus, and Haman. How are these characters presented in the final two chapters? Who would you identify as the main character of the book? What are the primary “takeaways” from this book applicationally?

GET PERSONAL

The book of Esther commemorates the deliverance of the Jews from Haman with the feast of Purim. In what ways do we commemorate and celebrate what God has done in our lives? What are the significant events of Christian history that are remembered annually? How are those a combination of celebrating and lamenting (see Esth 9:22, 31)?

Esther 9:22 says that Purim was the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies. And also it is a time when sorrow was turned into gladness and mourning turned into a holiday. When and where do you celebrate the rest that God gave you from your enemies? How do you rejoice and celebrate?

ADVANCED QUESTION #1

In Esther 10:1, Ahasuerus re-established the tax on the Persians (see Esth 2:18). Why would he do that? What’s the significance of that statement at the end of the book? Is the author just recording a meaningless fact? Why does the author record the statements about Mordecai at the end of chapter 10? What’s the significance of those statements at the end of this book? How should they impact the reader?

ADVANCED QUESTION #2

Scholars refer to the destruction of the Persians (including Haman’s sons) at the hands of the Jews in chapter 9 as a kind of Holy War. Why would they call it that? Where else do we see “Holy War” in the OT? How do we understand the call to violence in the OT? Was this condoned by the Lord? If so, why? And are we called to Holy War in our modern era? For help with this matter access the following sources:

1. “Genocide and ‘Holy War’ in the Old Testament” (Focus on the Family):
<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/family-qa/genocide-and-holy-war-in-the-old-testament/>
2. “A Biblical Perspective on War” (John MacArthur):
<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/80-241/a-biblical-perspective-on-war>
3. “Why Is the Bible So Violent?” (John Piper):
<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/why-is-the-bible-so-violent>
4. “What Made It Okay for God to Kill Women and Children In the Old Testament?” (John Piper): <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-made-it-okay-for-god-to-kill-women-and-children-in-the-old-testament>