

Esther Review, Lessons 1-5

Jan. 6 & 8, 2026

Hymn: "All the Way My Savior Leads Me" – Fanny Crosby (1875)

AUTHOR, DEDICATION

"To my heavenly Father, who has opened my eyes to see his providence, and my heart to embrace it"

PREFACE– Oct. 14/16 "Who is in Charge?"

- God providentially watches over his people; nothing and no one will ultimately prevail against them. Those who attempt to destroy God's people find themselves fighting against God.
- Even in the professing church, people are often more concerned with what they have or do or appear to be than with who they are in Christ.
- He is working out his divine plan for his G_____ and our E_____ G_____. No "plan B".
- This book invites you to take God at his Word in the mysterious fulfilment of all his promises.
- God reveals his providence that we may understand it and embrace it for our lives.

To embrace means to C_____ and H_____ D_____.

=> Marie's Teaching – Does God Ordain Evil?

LESSON 1: Embracing God's Providence – Oct. 21/23 (Gen. 1:1; Psalms 104:24-30; 139:16: Prov. 21:1)

TRUTH: God infallibly and sovereignly works to accomplish His plan.

Hymn: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" – Walter Chalmers Smith (1867)

Who God Is (p. 28)

- He created the world to reveal his GLORY (the *outshining* of his character)
- He is the *Creator* and S_____ of all
- The apex of God's creation is H_____

God has an Eternal Plan and Purpose for his Creation (p. 30)

- God has P_____ in what He made, how He made it, and why He made it
- The Bible is the record of God's outworking of his plan

What is God's Providence (p. 32)

- God's providence is his I_____ accomplishment of his P_____ plan
- God knows what needs to happen and when for his predetermined purposes
- God sustains and governs in accord with his perfect character and will
- God's providence is both gracious and mysterious
- Faith in God's providence replaces fear with confident T_____
- Faith in God's providence provides a way to discern His will in specific situations
- Faith in God's providence produces J_____ as I see life unfold under God's direction
 - ABC's of suffering: A_____ B_____ C_____!
- Faith in God's providence strengthens me for criticism and interruptions.
 - *Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last.*
 - For me to live is C_____
- Faith in God's providence produces H_____ in the face of disaster and death.
 - Life is a V_____ (Psalm 39 - Lance Quinn's timely sermon Dec. 7)

=> Marie's Teaching – Providence: The Mystery of God's Hand in History

LESSON 2: Overview of Esther in God's Redemptive Plan – Oct. 28/30 (Overview, Book of Esther)**TRUTH: God providentially weaves His plans for the world, the Jews, and individuals into His perfect plan of redemption**

Hymn: "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" – William Cowper (1774)

▪ God's Overarching Plan (p. 51)

1. For the World: To display His glory (the outshining of His character)
2. For the Jews (Israel): To reveal Him and His plan to the nations of the world
3. For Christians: To be A _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ and to be like Him

▪ Brief Overview of the History of the Hebrew People (the Jews)**▪ Purpose of Book of Esther**

1. Encouragement
2. Explanation of the feast of Purim
3. Reminder of God's S _____

▪ Themes of Esther

- ⇒ God's Providence
- ⇒ The lure of the world to assimilate God's people
- ⇒ Life in a pagan world
- ⇒ God's deliverance of His people
- ⇒ God's use of unlikely people
- ⇒ God's power that turns persecution onto the persecutors

=> Mary's Teaching -The Good Hand of God/God's Mysterious Ways

LESSON 3: Setting the Stage for Esther - Nov. 4/6 (Esther 1)**TRUTH: God knows the future and providentially orders current events to accomplish His purposes**

Hymn: "O Father, You are Sovereign" - Margaret Clarkson (1982)

TRUTH: Arrogance and opulence ("over the top living") go hand in hand**TRUTH: God providentially uses the sinful, foolish ways of people for his own purposes****TRUTH: Some choices have irreversible consequences in God's irrevocable plan****TRUTH: Some choices have unforeseen blessings in God's irrevocable plan**

"God works quietly behind the scenes with W _____, P _____, and P _____.

➤ "WHY?" Most of us ask that question at some point in our lives." (p. 87)

"God's providence is G _____, but it is not always E _____."

=> Marie's teaching - Xerxes Greatness and Vashti's Bold Defiance

Lesson 4: The New Queen: Esther – Nov. 11/13 (Esther 2)**TRUTH: God providentially prepares His people and circumstances to accomplish His purposes.**

Hymn: "What God Ordains is Right" – Samuel Rodigast, 1675

TRUTH: God providentially uses world powers to accomplish His purposes**TRUTH: God's redeemed people live in two worlds, but are defined by one of them**

God's people are to be defined by their U _____ with Christ (Col. 3:1-17)

This means likeness to his C _____, and P _____ by his Spirit (Rom. 8:28-30). In order to glorify God, they must determine to be identified as God's people defined by God's T _____.

TRUTH: Preparing for God's service may take years

Your present circumstances are God's means for your S _____.

=> Mary's teaching - Esther: God's Mysterious Ways

LESSON 5: Haman's Rise to Power - Nov. 18/20 (Esther 3)

Hymn: "Though Troubles Assail Us" – John Newton (1779)

TRUTH: God displays His sovereign power through E_____ A_____ against His people

TRUTH: God accomplishes His purposes through the evil schemes of powerful people

Q: What evil schemes against you and your growth as a Christian are you experiencing today?

How might God use them to make you more like the Lord Jesus Christ?

TRUTH: God will not allow his people to be eradicated by his enemies

=> Cindy's Teaching - Calamity: My Purpose Will Stand

POA

▪ Where is God in all this?

"Storms of Life" diagram (p. 136). "God works out E_____ in C_____ with the P_____ of His will." (Eph. 1:11)

▪ The only way we can know God's Providence *for certain* is by looking B_____.

▪ "WHY?"

The Church is filled with S_____; most of them are R_____ but we are all still sinners.

▪ The Church will prevail (Matt. 16:13-18) because Christ alone the Head; He is its A_____, B_____, O_____, and L_____.

▪ "Ekklesia" means "C_____ O_____" or "assembly;" *called out of the world* by the G_____ to display His G_____ (the outshining of His character); to be His ambassador (emissary, messenger, envoy, agent, representative, delegate).

Q: What is that to look like?

○ The Greatest Commandment (Matt. 22:38-39); the Golden Rule (Matt. 7:12)

○ How do we most beautifully reflect this? O____ A_____!

○ "Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the L_____ of Christ" (Gal. 6:2)

Small Groups: Review "One Another's"

Next week: Lesson 6: The Moment for Esther