

For Such a Time as This

A study in the book of Esther

Lesson Nine

“The Battle Belongs to the Lord”

Prayerfully read through **Esther 9:1-19**.

Our chapter begins with these victorious words in verse one: “Now in the twelfth month, that is the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, the time came for the king's command and his decree to be executed. On the day that **the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, the opposite occurred, in that the Jews themselves overpowered those who hated them.**”

Psalm 44:3 says, “They did not conquer the land with their swords; it was not their own strong arm that gave them victory. It was Your right hand and strong arm and the blinding light from Your face that helped them, for You loved them.” (NLT)

1) Look up and write out these other Scriptures below.

Deuteronomy 20:1 -

Deuteronomy 20:4 -

2 Chronicles 20:15 -

Psalm 44:7 -

Proverbs 21:31 -

- 2) In **verse 2** we read that the Jews “gathered together” in their cities throughout all the provinces. Had they remained spread out and on their own, they may have been easy prey for their enemies. What benefits do we find in the following Scriptures about being “gathered together?” **List the benefits** beside each of these verses.

Psalm 89:7 -

Matthew 18:20 -

Hebrews 10:25 -

- 3) We also notice in **verse 2** that the new decree only allowed the Jews to act in **self-defense**. What does the verse say about those they were allowed to “lay hands on?”
- 4) Looking at the end of **verse 2**, what reason is given for why no one was able to withstand the Jews?
- 5) **Verse 3** gives us some more very important facts. What does it say about the officials, satraps (lieutenants) and governors, and the **reason** behind it? (look ahead to **verse 4** for insight).
- 6) Read **Joshua 2:8-13**. What does Rahab say to the two spies, and how do you think this might relate to the people in **Esther 9:2 & 3**?

- 7) We read in **Esther 9, verses 5 through 10**, that the Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and defeating them. Remember, the people they attacked were those who first attacked them, since they were only allowed to fight as a means of **self-defense**. All the cities are listed for us where the fighting occurred and enemies were defeated, including the ten sons of Haman. What else does the end of **verse 10** tell us about what the Jews did (or didn't do)?
- 8) This same statement is made **three times** in this chapter. Along with verse 10, we see it again in **verses 15 and 16**. Look up the story of Abraham's victory over Sodom in **Genesis 14:17-23**. After reading that passage, look up **1 Samuel 15:2-19**. After reading these two accounts, share your thoughts on why the Jews in **Esther, chapter 9** might have made that decision.
- 9) In **verse 11** of our chapter, we read that a report is given to King Ahasuerus recording the number of deaths that had occurred in Shushan. How does the king respond to this report? What does he say to Esther in **verse 12**?
- 10) What are the **two things** Esther requests of the king in **verse 13**?

11) Esther's request to add a second day for the Jews to fight against their enemies in the city's capitol has been a question of discussion by many commentators. Why a second day? And why was this second day only in Susa? Look up and record the following Scriptures.

Exodus 17:14 -

Deuteronomy 25:19 -

1 Samuel 28:18 –

a. Do you think these verses might have had anything to do with Esther's request? Why or why not? Share your thoughts.

Her second request was most likely to make a **public statement** about the fate of those who might continue to try to harm her people. We see in **verse 14** that the king immediately fulfilled Esther's requests, and we read in **verse 15** that 300 additional men were killed in Susa on that second day. Esther's request was that this second day be according to the first day's edict, which again tells us that they only attacked **those who were attacking them** in a matter of **self-defense**, so obviously there were still some enemies of the Jews in Susa who were bent on trying to destroy them. It is **possible** that many were **descendants of Amalek**, who had an on-going hatred of the Jews.

12) All of this makes us stop and ponder the battle that we face from an enemy who would like nothing better than to annihilate us, destroy our faith, and our witness in Christ. Along with Satan, who we know as the great enemy of our souls, what **other enemies** are we called to do battle with on a daily basis? Look up **1 John 2:16** and write it out below:

13) From **Galatians 5:19-21**, list the **names** of these enemies.

14) What does **Ephesians 2:1-3** tell us about **our history** with these enemies?

15) Read **Ephesians 2:4-10**. Although we have a long history with these enemies, and continue to have an ongoing daily battle, summarize what these verses tell us that Christ has done for us.

16) What do these additional Scriptures tell us about the **victory** Christ has given us over these enemies?

Romans 7:5-6 -

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 -

2 Corinthians 5:21 -

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 -

17) Reading **Esther 9:16-19**, explain why the Jews in Susa celebrated on a **different day** than the Jews outside the citadel.

18) **Verse 19** tell us that the Jews not only celebrated, but they **rested** following their great victory. It was a time to stop and ponder with a heart of gladness over the salvation they experienced in a war that could have led to their utter destruction. We, too, have been called to **rest**. Our reasons are similar to these victorious Jews in the book of Esther. Look up the definition of the word **REST** and record your findings below.

The author of Hebrews tells us in **Hebrews 4:9-10** that, **“There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His.”**

19) What **reasons** do these Scriptures give us to enter into God’s rest?

John 19:30 -

Titus 3:5-7 -

Hebrews 1:3 -

Hebrews 12:2 -

20) Are you experiencing this rest? How do the above verses speak to you, in light of the **“rest”** the Jews experienced after their victory in the battle that was against them? What comparisons do you see between their “rest” and ours?

21) What spoke most to your heart from Lesson 9 in our study in Esther?

“It is not my ability, but my response to God’s ability that counts.”
Corrie Ten Boom (1892-1983)