

For Such a Time as This

A study in the book of Esther

Lesson Ten

“The Feast of Purim”

Prayerfully read through **Esther 9:20-10:3**.

- 1) In **Esther 9:20**, Mordecai sends letters out to all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. Who were these letters sent to?
- 2) What does **verse 21** tell us the **purpose** of these letters were?
- 3) What are the **details** of this request, described in **verse 22**?
- 4) What does **verse 23** tell us about the Jews response?
- 5) Looking at **verses 24 through 26a**, describe the **reasons** these verses give for naming the feast **Purim**.

- 6) **Verses 26b, 27 and 28**, describe the full response of the Jews to all that Mordecai had suggested in the letters he had sent out to them. Record what these verses say.

- 7) In **verses 29 through 32** we read about a **second letter** that is sent out by both Queen Esther and Mordecai. What does **verse 29** tell us about the **authority** and **purpose** of this second letter?

- 8) What does **verse 30** tell us about the attitude and heart behind this second letter? How does it describe the words of this letter?

- 9) What does **verse 31** say that this second letter actually **“confirmed?”**

- 10) What does **verse 32** tell us was done after the confirmation of these things?

11) As we look throughout Scripture, we find that the Lord is truly a God who loves celebration. The feast of Purim is not considered a “holy day” because the feast was not ordained by God. It was established by Mordecai and Esther, along with the general consent of the Jewish people throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. However, it’s **purpose** was the same as God’s purpose for establishing **Passover** in Exodus 12:14. What does **Exodus 12:14a** say that purpose was?

12) As Moses spoke to the people God had delivered out of Egypt, he gave them this warning in **Deuteronomy 4:9**. Write the warning out below.

13) Read **Psalm 78:4-7**. Record what each of the verses below encourage us to do.

Psalm 78:4 -

Psalm 78:6 -

Psalm 78:7 -

14) The Jewish people have many celebrations that are times set aside for them to **remember** the things God has done for them. These special celebrations are important so that we **don’t forget** the blessings the Lord has given us. We too, have our celebrations, whose **original purpose** is the same. Look up the following Scriptures on the next page and in the column to the right of each, name the holiday or celebration that is a **memorial of these blessings**.

Scripture

Holiday or Celebration

John 1:1 & 14 -

Mark 16:6 & John 11:25 -

Luke 22:19 & 1 Corinthians 11:26 -

1 Thessalonians 5:18 & Hebrews 13:15 -

Acts 2:38 & Romans 6:4 -

15) Are there other celebrations or traditions that you and your family keep as a reminder of God's blessings? If so, share with the group.

16) Do a little research, recording how this feast was to be celebrated in Esther's time, (see **Esther 9:22**, along with any other references you might find in your search). Then research and compared it to how it is celebrated today. Share your findings with the group.

Then -

Now-

Our original purpose for these holidays and celebrations is to do exactly what **Psalm 78:4-7** encourage us to do. But often, that original purpose gets choked out by other things. As **Deuteronomy 4:9** warns us, we need to **take heed** and be **diligent** to **not forget** what it is we're supposed to be celebrating.

17) What are the things you do to keep some of the holiday celebrations listed in question #14 as a true **memorial** of their original meaning? Share some of your ideas and traditions with the group.

18) Our chapter, and the whole Book of Esther, closes with these three verses in **chapter 10**. The first verse, along with the first part of verse 2, mentions the power and might of King Ahasuerus. The rest of verse 2, along with verse 3, speak of **Mordecai's greatness** and how the king advanced him in his royal position. What does **verse 3** tell us about Mordecai?

19) What do these verses tell us about those who are **honored** by God?

Psalm 91:14 -16 -

Proverbs 15:33 -

Proverbs 21:21 -

20) We have gleaned so much from the Book of Esther. There are so many practical themes for us to take note of. Take a few minutes to look back over Lessons 1 through 10 and the **themes** they speak of. For each lesson, record in a few words a **practical application** that you will take with you and apply to your life.

Lesson One -

Lesson Two -

Lesson Three -

Lesson Four -

Lesson Five -

Lesson Six -

Lesson Seven –

Lesson Eight -

Lesson Nine -

Lesson Ten –

We could have been born into **any time period**. Sometimes we may wish we had been born in a different time in history, but God has ordained *this time* and *this place* as part of His **divine plan** for our lives. We may never be in a position or given an opportunity to make the kind of impact that Esther was able to make, but we **all make an impact** on the people God has placed in our lives. We make an impact in how we live out our faith, in the things that we value, and how others see us respond to the situations and circumstances we find ourselves in, and because of that, we **make an impact on the world** in which we live.

21) As we come to an end of our study in Esther, write out a prayer below, asking the Lord to help you to fulfill the plan and purpose He has for placing you in **such a time as this**.