**RISE UP** in 2021

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Dr. Jerry Edmonson, *Lead Pastor*

***MADE FOR THIS MOMENT***

A Study of the book of Esther

***Victory***

Esther 8-10



How many of you enjoy a good victory?

Is there any **relationship** between victory and **living** for God?

Not games … but life. Overcoming temptation, building a stronger marriage. Living with love, hope, joy and peace. Learning to communicate in a way that points to trust, faith and confidence in Christ.

God gives His people **victory**.

Do you think God wants us to know about the victory that is available through living for Him?

*But thanks be to God,* ***who gives us the victory*** *through our Lord Jesus Christ.* 1 Corinthians 15:57

*For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And* ***this is the victory*** *that has overcome the world—****our faith****.* 1 John 5:4

Does it make a difference in the way you live if you are looking at the events of your life through the lens of **the potential victory that is yours in Christ?**

Are you a victorious person? Are you living in light of the victory that is available in Jesus Christ, and are you allowing that concept to impact the way you view life, and the way you live life?

**An Overview of Esther**

Would you agree with me that the key word for them would have been “victory”?

*For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through* ***endurance*** *and through the* ***encouragement*** *of the Scriptures* ***we might have hope****.* Romans 15:4

*On that day King Ahasuerus* ***gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman****, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her. And the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And* ***Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.***Esther 8:1–2

Esther went in a second time!

A **victory** emboldens your **faith**.

*Then Esther spoke again to the king. She fell at his feet and wept and pleaded with him to* ***avert the evil plan of Haman*** *the Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews. When* ***the king held out the golden scepter*** *to Esther, Esther rose and stood before the king.* Esther 8:3–5a

God **provides** a way to victory.

*And she said, “If it please the king, … let an order be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman … which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king*. Esther 8:5b

*But* ***you may write as you please with regard to the Jews****, in the* ***name of the king****, and* ***seal it with the king’s ring****, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king’s ring* ***cannot be revoked****.”* Esther 8:8

*… saying that the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to gather and* ***defend their lives****, to* ***destroy****, to* ***kill****, and to* ***annihilate******any armed force*** *of any people or province* ***that might attack them****, children and women included, and to plunder their goods,* Esther 8:11

*Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in* ***royal robes of blue and white****, with a great golden* ***crown*** *and a robe of* ***fine linen and purple****, and the city of Susa* ***shouted and rejoiced****. The Jews had* ***light*** *and* ***gladness*** *and* ***joy*** *and* ***honor****. And in every province and in every city, wherever the king’s command and his edict reached, there was* ***gladness*** *and* ***joy*** *among the Jews,* ***a feast and a holiday****. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.* Esther 8:15–17

In **Chapter 9,** they protect themselves and kill 75,000 of their enemies who attack them. We do not read of a single Jew dying. After the two day battle, Esther and Mordecai establish Purim to be celebrated every year by the Jewish people. Even today, Purim is celebrated in remembrance of God’s victorious provision.

**Purim** - celebrated annually on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Adar, which is the last month of the Hebrew calendar.

Exchanging gifts of food and drink.

Donating charity to the poor.

Eating a celebratory meal.

Public recitation of the Scroll of Esther.

Reciting additions to the daily prayers and the grace after meals.

**Chapter 10** is a celebration of Mordecai and it ends with simply this …

*For Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Ahasuerus, and he was great among the Jews and popular with the multitude of his brothers, for* ***he sought the welfare of his people and spoke peace to all his people.***Esther 10:3

Three times it says that the Jews did not lay hands on the plunder. They were not doing it for the money to get rich.

“As the original Jewish readers read this account they would have been struck by the way God was sovereignly protecting them, often when they did not even know it. **Many things in the Book of Esther happened that were beyond anyone’s control except that of God, who oversees history.** And the Book of Esther is filled with irony, with ways in which events turned out **unexpectedly** and **in favor of God’s people.** Queen Vashti, a Persian, was deposed so that Esther, a Jewess, could become queen and save her people. Haman, once exalted, was brought low, and **Mordecai** and **the Jews**, once hated, were **exalted and honored**. A decree that would have wiped out the Jews was overruled by one which led to the destruction of nearly 76,000 enemies of the Jews. No wonder Purim was celebrated yearly with such rejoicing: **to help the Jews remember that God is sovereignly in control** and that people should faithfully worship and serve their great God **who gives the victory!” (Bible Knowledge Commentary)**

**God Gives Us Victory!**

God gives us victory in His **protection**.

* There is no safer path than the will of God.
* There is no safer plan than the Word of God.
* There is no safer place than the arms of God.

When a person in NT times admits their sin, and places their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, they now have a new source of protection.

One of the great metaphors used in God’s Word to describe our relationship with God is “under the shadow of His wings.”

*Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in* ***the shadow of your wings*** *I will* ***take refuge****, till the storms of destruction pass by.* Psalm 57:1

*for you have been* ***my help****, and* ***in the shadow of your wings*** *I will* ***sing for joy****.*  Psalm 63:7

*Keep me as the apple of your eye;* ***hide*** *me in* ***the shadow of your wings****,* Psalm 17:8

*How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind* ***take refuge*** *in* ***the shadow of your wings****.* Psalm 36:7

In Jesus, we have a new **assurance** of protection …

***Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*** *Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? … No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God* ***in Christ*** *Jesus our Lord.* Romans 8:35,37-39

*Outside of Christ, I am only a sinner, but in Christ, I am saved. Outside of Christ, I am empty; in Christ, I am full. Outside of Christ, I am weak; in Christ, I am strong. Outside of Christ, I cannot; in Christ, I am more than able. Outside of Christ, I have been defeated; in Christ, I am already victorious. How meaningful are the words, "in Christ."* Watchman Nee

In Jesus, we have a new **perspective** on protection …

*Nothing paralyzes our lives like the attitude that things can never change. We need to remind ourselves that God can change things. Outlook determines outcome. If we see only the problems, we will be defeated; but if we see the possibilities in the problems, we can have victory.* Warren Wiersbe

*And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.* Matthew 10:28

Am I developing the kind of growing relationship with God and seeking my ultimate protection in Him, so that I am positioned to live in a victorious fashion?

Are you suggesting that a person who trusts God will never be harmed in some way? No. Our whole view of even what constitutes protection is different when you know God.

What is the worst thing that could happen to you today? Death?

That’s why it’s called the king of terrors.

God gives us victory in His **provision**.

God is meeting the needs of His children in ways they would have never expected.

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,* Ephesians 3:20

**God is looking for people who will trust Him, and believe in Him, and live for Him** ... upon which He can show Himself strong.

*… And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.* Esther 8:17b

The **obvious question for each of us would be ...** could someone look at you, and see the victory you are having over sin, and the victory you are having in relationships, and the victory you are having in your personal life and have to conclude ... **their God is the real thing**; He gives victory to those who trust in Him.

God gives us victory in His **promotion**!

Sometimes God put us in places, gives us a voice or a presence with influence that we never thought we could have.

*For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up, but it is God who executes judgment,* ***putting down one and lifting up another****.* Psalm 75:6–7

*When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.* Proverbs 29:2

Where do you need a victory in your life? Turn to Jesus, the one who turns graves into gardens!