

# FIRST LADY

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“In Remembrance of Her “ | A Bible Study of Esther 8-10

## I. Nothing New Under The Sun

- Chapter 1 - Xerxes and Vashti end up in “*Divorce Court*”
- Chapter 2 - Esther wins “*Who Wants To Marry A Millionaire*”
- Chapter 3 - Haman plots to be the “*Survivor*”
- Chapter 4 - Mordecai reaches for a lifeline in Persia’s “*Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*”
- Chapter 5 - Esther embarks upon “*Mission Impossible*”
- Chapter 6 - Mordecai becomes the guest of honor at “*This Is Your Life*”
- Chapter 7 - Haman, you are “*The Weakest Link*”

## II. The Pattern of Descent & Redemption

- A. The Descent to the Basement
- B. The Rise to the Penthouse

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

## III. Chapter 8 - The Triumph of Mordecai & The Jews

- A. Mordecai is exalted
- B. The Jews are protected and privileged

“Mordecai left the king’s presence wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa held a joyous celebration. For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honor. In every province and in every city, wherever the edict of the king went, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear [as in ‘awed respect’] of the Jews had seized them.” (Esther 8:15-17)

## IV. Chapter 9 - The Judgment on Haman’s Line & The Establishment of Purim

- A. Opposition continues, but is finally vanquished. 75,510 enemies perish.
- B. The Feast of Purim is declared as a perpetual remembrance of:
  - 1. The Promise of Redemption
  - 2. The Price of Redemption

“Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor. So the Jews agreed to continue the celebration they had begun, doing what Mordecai had written to them. For Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them and had cast

the *pur* (that is, the lot) for their ruin and destruction. But when the plot came to the king's attention, he issued written orders that the evil scheme Haman had devised against the Jews should come back onto his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. (Therefore these days were called Purim, from the word *pur*.) Because of everything written in this letter and because of what they had seen and what had happened to them, the Jews took it upon themselves to establish the custom that they and their descendants and all who join them should without fail observe these two days every year, in the way prescribed and at the time appointed. These days should be remembered and observed in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city. And these days of Purim should never cease to be celebrated by the Jews, nor should the memory of them die out among their descendants. " (Esther 9:20-28)

## V. Chapter 10 - The Power & The Glory

- A. The Annals of Human Greatness
- B. Remembering the Ultimate Record

King Xerxes imposed tribute throughout the empire, to its distant shores. And all his acts of power and might, together with a full account of the greatness of Mordecai to which the king had raised him, are they not written in the book of the annals of the

kings of Media and Persia? Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews." (Esther 10:1-3)

## VI. Thoughts To Take With You

- A. When you have descended far down the basement staircase of life, remember that you are beloved by One who has power to bring about a redemptive reversal of staggering proportions. Is that hard for you to remember?
- B. A continual theme of the Bible -- from the Passover to the Cross to the Last Battle of Revelation - is that Redemption is costly. Sin is so powerful that its defeat sometimes comes only at great cost. How have you seen that to be true in life?
- C. True greatness comes from true servanthood. Can you rededicate yourself to that course for your life? As an aid to memory, consider memorizing the passage below...

*"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:1-11)*