

# It's Time - Living For Jesus In Our Day

Sunday, January 26, 2020

## VIDEO: Esther Overview

### REVIEW (Chapters 1-8)

It's Time to STOP SWIMMING in cultural currents-CH 1

It's Time to CLOTHE OURSELVES with the beauty of Holiness-CH 2

It's Time to TAKE A STAND for what's right-CH 2

It's Time to UNDERSTAND THAT EVERYTHING Is written down-CH 2

It's Time to UNDERSTAND WHO OUR ENEMEY IS and how he operates-CH 3

It's Time to BELIEVE THAT WE WERE CREATED to fulfill the purposes of God.-CH 4

It's Time to WALK IN HUMILITY rather than pride – Ch 5

It's Time to HOLD ON TO THE HOPE that God has not forgotten about us – CH 6

It's Time to USE OUR VOICE – CH 7

It's Time to RISE UP in the in the AUTHORITY that God has given us and FIGHT – CH 8

### Esther 9:18-32 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>18</sup> The Jews in Susa, however, had assembled on the thirteenth and fourteenth, and then on the fifteenth they rested and made it a day of feasting and joy.

<sup>19</sup> That is why rural Jews—those living in villages—observe the fourteenth of the month of Adar as a day of joy and feasting, a day for giving presents to each other.

<sup>20</sup> Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, <sup>21</sup> to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar <sup>22</sup> 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.

<sup>23</sup> So the Jews agreed to continue the celebration they had begun, doing what Mordecai had written to them. <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> But when the plot came to the king's attention, <sup>[a]</sup> 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 impaled on poles.

<sup>26</sup> (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, <sup>27</sup> the Jews took it on 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. <sup>28</sup> 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 fail to be celebrated by the Jews—nor should the memory of these days die out among their descendants.

<sup>29</sup> So Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter concerning Purim. <sup>30</sup> And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews in the 127 provinces of Xerxes' kingdom—words of goodwill and assurance—<sup>31</sup> to establish these days of Purim at their designated times, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had decreed for them, and as they had established for themselves and their descendants in regard to their times of fasting and lamentation. <sup>32</sup> Esther's decree confirmed these regulations about Purim, and it was written down in the records.

### **Esther 10 New International Version (NIV)**

**10** King Xerxes imposed tribute throughout the empire, to its distant shores. <sup>2</sup> And all his acts of power and might, together with a full account of the greatness of Mordecai, whom the king had promoted, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Media and Persia? <sup>3</sup> 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.

**It's Time to CELEBRATE and CONTINUE TO WALK IN the victory God has given us**

#### **1. By remembering what God has done for us**

Over and over again we see the pattern of God's miraculous works soon forgotten by His people.

In our lives we often see the victory of God only to soon put His love and help out of our minds and turn again to our own desires

### **Hosea 2:13 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> ...she decked herself with rings and jewelry, and went after her lovers, but me she forgot," declares the LORD.

Remember that in the book of Esther God is conspicuously absent and that we said perhaps that was a way of God pointing out to His people that they had forgotten Him but that he had not forgotten them. Mordecai and Esther knew the importance of establishing a plan of remembrance. It is this remembrance that helps us continue to walk in the benefit of the victory that God has given us.

For instance, that's why after 9-11 we took hold of the thought "We Will Not Forget" God established many ways to help his people remember, because He knew that without it, we would forget.

**Deuteronomy 4:9 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

The fest of Passover is one great example.

How about the Sabbath – a reminder of all the Work that God had done and an invitation for communion with our creator.

Jesus initiated the Lord's supper to remind us of His victory over sin, death, hell and the grave.

It is important for us to celebrate the victories that God brings into our lives and continue to walk in them

**Psalms 9:1 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**2. By remembering to love and encourage others**

Another way we celebrate and continue to walk in those victories is by loving and encouraging other people. In this way we ensure that our victories are more than just ours alone.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3 New International Version (NIV)**

**13** If I speak in the tongues<sup>[a]</sup> of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,<sup>[b]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing.

**John 13:35 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

**3. By remembering to focus on our own personal inward growth**

The book of Esther ends not by refocusing on the victory over Haman’s plot, but on the character of Mordecai himself. The greatest victories in our lives are not those we win on the outside, but those we win on the inside. If we win the public battles but lose our personal ones what good is it?

**Matthew 16:24-27 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life<sup>[a]</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.