

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

Kindergarten

Sunday Morning

Study 48

Esther: Part 2

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The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective The goal of this lesson is to use the story of Esther to show that God's plans cannot be stopped or thwarted.

Key Verses

Esther 5, 7-8—Main Teaching Passage

Memory Verse - Psalm 36:5 (August Memory Verse)

"Your mercy, O LORD, *is* in the heavens;
Your faithfulness *reaches* to the clouds."

Hook

As we near the end of the year, tell the class that we will be reviewing what we learned from the Old Testament this year. Ask the class if they can think of a time where God saved someone from danger. Allow for answers. Then ask for a time when God performed a miracle. Finally, ask for a time when God broke one of His promises or let someone down. As we have gone through the Old Testament this year, we have seen how God is always faithful to His people. Today's story will prove to be no different.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Last week, we ended with Esther determining to go before the king and tell him about Haman's terrible plot to destroy the Jewish people. Esther 5 begins with her boldly coming before him, and King Ahasuerus putting forward his scepter, indicating that it was okay. While before him, she asks the king to come to a banquet she had prepared, along with Haman. At the banquet, the king offered to give her whatever she asked, and she requested that they both come again to a banquet the following night.

It was at this second banquet that Esther announced Haman's devious plot: he intended to destroy her entire race, the Jewish people. When the king heard this and discovered Haman's trickery, he became furious. He ordered his guards to kill Haman. However, a problem remained: the king's order still permitted for people to try to destroy the Jews on the day Haman decreed. The king called for Mordecai and told him that he could make a new law allowing the Jews to protect themselves and fight back against anyone who would try to harm them. The plan worked, and God's people, the Jews, were delivered from all who sought to destroy them.

At the end of the book of Esther, it tells us that the Jews celebrate the holiday of Purim, a holiday they still observe today, to commemorate this deliverance. It also says that Mordecai became second in command in all the Persian Empire.

LOOK

All year, we have seen that God made many promises to the children of Israel. He told Abraham that He would make his children into a great nation. He told David that his Descendant would be a King who would sit on the throne of Israel forever. All throughout the Old Testament, the Lord promised Israel a Messiah who would come and save the Israelites. However, Satan continuously did everything he could to stop these promises from happening. Here, we see yet another one of his plots: using Haman to wipe out all Jewish people.

However, if there has been one theme that we have seen throughout the year, it is that God is faithful to keep His promises. He gave Abraham a child even when it seemed impossible. He brought the children of Israel out of Egypt and gave them victory to enter the Promised Land. He kept Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego from death in the fiery furnace and delivered Daniel from the lions' den. He protected His people from destruction time and time again. This situation would be no different. God was once again working to make sure that His people were delivered and that Jesus, the Messiah, could come.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

Imagine how the people might have felt when they heard of Haman's decree. After all, as we saw a few weeks ago, Nebuchadnezzar had conquered Judah and removed the people from their land. They had been in captivity for over 70 years. Now a decree had gone out saying that the Jews would be killed. It may have been tempting to think that God had given up on Israel, that His promises were no longer good. But sure enough, God was faithful and He again delivered Israel from destruction.

God is as faithful today as He was back then. Not one of the promises in His Word has ever failed. Everything He promised about Jesus' first coming happened. This means that we can trust everything that He has said in His Word will be true. When He said that He has forgiven our sins, or when He promised to return, we can bank on these promises. When Jesus called Himself the Way, the Truth, and the Life, we can be assured that it is true. As we finish our study through the Old Testament these next few weeks, think about how God was faithful throughout the Bible to His people. He will show that same faithfulness to you and me.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the class how God took care of His people. Go through some of the stories you discussed this year and show how God has always been faithful to keep His promises.

Pray: Praise God for being faithful to His people. Ask Him for help to trust in His promises.

Parent Question: How did God protect His people in the book of Esther?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Esther 7 by David Guzik

HAMAN'S END

A. The second banquet.

1. ([Esther 7:1-4](#)) Esther finally makes her request: please spare my life!

So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther. And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, "What *is* your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what *is* your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!" Then Queen Esther answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss."

a. **Let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:** Esther, even when she finally made her request, showed great tact. She did not immediately identify herself as a Jew, targeted for massacre - even as Haman also hid the identity of the group he targeted when he made his request ([Esther 3:8](#)).

b. **Let my life be given me at my petition:** Esther also showed wisdom in how she framed her request. She appealed on a *personal* basis, knowing that she has never done anything but please the king.

2. ([Esther 7:5](#)) The king's reaction: who is this wicked man?

So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?"

a. **Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing:** Ahasuerus perhaps should have known that it was actually he himself who authorized such a plan. He was the one who gave authorization to Haman to carry out this plot ([Esther 3:10-11](#)), though he did it in ignorance.

3. ([Esther 7:6](#)) Esther identifies the guilty party.

And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy *is* this wicked Haman!" So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

a. **The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!** Esther exposed the truth about Haman - that he was not a faithful servant of the king, he was instead an **adversary and enemy**, more interested in his own fame and status than the benefit of the king.

b. **So Haman was terrified before the king and queen:** Haman never imagined that *Esther* was a Jew; now he stood before the king being rightly accused of plotting the murder of the king's wife.

i. Now the wisdom of Esther's strange request to invite Haman to these banquets can be seen; it maximized the impact upon both the king and upon Haman himself.

B. Haman's wretched end.

1. ([Esther 7:7-8](#)) Haman's doom is sealed.

Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine *and went* into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him

by the king. When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, "Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house?" As the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

a. **Then the king arose in his wrath:** The king was filled with **wrath**; probably because he now realized that Haman had played him for a dupe in getting this decree to kill the Jews in effect.

b. **Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house:** For all of Haman's pleading, he only got himself into deeper trouble - now he was accused of personally assaulting Esther!

i. A Jewish writing says that the angel Gabriel pushed Haman, so he fell on Esther's couch just as king Ahasuerus was coming back into the room.

c. **They covered Haman's face:** Haman's head was covered as a preparation for execution.

2. ([Esther 7:9-10](#)) The execution of Haman.

Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman." Then the king said, "Hang him on it!" So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided.

a. **Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high:** As in the case of the people executed in [Esther 2:23](#), Haman was probably not hanged with a rope around his neck; he was impaled on a huge stake in an ancient precursor of crucifixion.

b. **Which Haman made for Mordecai:** Haman found his end on the same instrument he had intended for the death of Mordecai; he was caught in his own trap against Mordecai.

i. God often works this way and we should pray as the Psalmist did: *Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood. He made a pit and dug it out, and has fallen into the ditch which he made. His trouble shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown.* ([Psalms 7:14-16](#))

ii. Perhaps the greatest example of this was when Satan thought that he won by getting the crowd to crucify Jesus, but the cross turned out to be the instrument of his defeat.

c. **So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided:** The death of a substitute satisfied the **wrath** of the king. In the case of Mordecai and Haman, it was the guilty dying in the place of the innocent; in the case of us and Jesus, it is a matter of the innocent dying in the place of guilty.