

**From Fasting to Feasting**  
 The Prophetic Meaning of the Feast of Purim  
 Esther 9:18-10:3

Intro: All the Old Testament festivals were pictures which communicated truth about Jesus and our age (Colossians 2:17; Heb. 10:1) and every book of the Old Testament (including Esther) speaks of this era (Luke 24:25-27; Acts 3:24-26; 10:43; 1 Pet 1:10-12; Rev. 19:10).

I. Brief overview of the seven biblical festivals tied to the temple (see separate handout)

II. The symbolism of Purim (9:1,18-19)

A. Purim's place in redemptive history

1. Everything symbolized by the battle with Gog and Magog (that we looked at last week) is memorialized in this feast.
2. It was given almost 1000 years after the first seven, but not at the end of Israel's history. (Israel continues to exist as a nation half again the amount of time.)
3. The first seven feasts are closely connected with the temple. Purim has no connection with the temple.
4. Most Jews are still in exile and there is much ungodliness among those who have returned (On the chronology we have been following, Esther, Ezra and Nehemiah are contemporaries; cf. Post-exilic prophets: Haggai; Zechariah and Malachi)
5. Israel's "fall" has already brought riches to the Gentiles during the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar, Amel-Marduk, Neriglissar, Labashi-Marduk, Nabonidas, Cyrus and Cambyses. (cf. Romans 11:11-12). Now under Darius even greater blessings come to the Gentiles (Esther 8:17ff; cf. Rom. 11:12,15,31-32)
6. "He will turn away ungodliness from Israel" (Rom. 11:26 with point II below)
7. "how much more [will] their fullness" bring "riches for the Gentiles" (Rom. 11:12; cf. Esther 8:17; 9:3; 10:2-3; Ezra 7)

B. The month (9:1,18)

1. Of the two calendars that Jews followed (sacred and civil) they were following the one which dealt with religious ceremonies (Note that Adar is called "twelfth month" in 9:1)
2. The twelfth month is near the end of the year – pointing to eschatology.
3. The month in which the latter rains come.

C. The fast day (Adar 13; cf. 9:31)

D. The feast days (Adar 14-15)

1. Reversal of curses (9:1-2)
2. Gentiles becoming believers (8:17)

E. The gift giving (9:19,22)

F. The purim (or dice - 9:26)

G. The Sabbath rest (9:16-18)

H. The "words of peace and truth" (9:30; cf. 10:3)

III. What May Be Needed Before Such A Missions Movement Can Occur In Our Day?

A. Perhaps grave danger and/or difficult providences (Esther 1-9; cf. Zech 14:12-21)

B. Stirring up the church to prayer and fasting (4:3,16-17)

C. A remnant looking different than the world (3:8)

D. Leaders with a passion for the welfare of God's people (4:1-17; 8:9-17; 9:20-10:3)

E. A church with faith to expect great things from God and to attempt great things for God (8:16-17; 9:18-32)

F. An activist church(9:1-17)

G. A church with integrity (8:11 with 9:10,15)

H. A church that will never compromise even when it hurts (3:1-6; 5:9; 8:9-9:17 with Exodus 17:8-16; Deut. 25:17-19; 1 Sam. 15; 1 Chron. 5:42-43)

I. Leaders who will challenge us to die for Christ (4:1-17; 9:18-10:3)

J. Followers who are willing to be expendable (4:10-17)

K. Believers with boldness (4:16; 5:1-2; 7:6; 9:13)