

“Feasting & Gladness!”
Esther 9:17-19

Introduction:

1. Please Turn With Me In Your Bibles Once Again:
 - To The Book Of Esther:
 - And Esther Chapter 9:
 - Where Last Week We Saw - That After Months Of Preparation & Anticipation:
 - The Day Finally Came!
 - The 13th Day Of The 12th Month Of Adar!
 - It Was The Day That Was Supposed To Be:
 - The Day Of Destruction:
 - Of The Jews!
 - Yet - By The Grace & Providence Of God:
 - It Turned Out To Be:
 - The Day Of Deliverance:
 - For The People Of God!
2. Now - You Would Think That Such A Day:
 - Would Be Described For Us:
 - In Great Detail!
 - **IE**: Like All The Books & Documentaries & Movies That Have Been Published & Produced About World War 2! And Some Of Those Even Deal Just A Single Day Or A Single Event Of That War!
 - Yet - When It Came To The Jews:
 - The Day Of Their Deliverance - When They Defended Themselves From Their Enemies:
 - And In The Process, Slew Over 75,000:
 - That Day Is Described For Us In Just The First 16 Verses Of Esther 9!
 - And Not With A Whole Lot Of Detail!
3. Now - Even Though The Day:
 - Is Described So Briefly:
 - We Must Not Make The Mistake In Thinking:
 - That It Was An Easy Day!
 - No - It Was A Bloody Day!
 - It Was A Day:
 - That Was Hard & Intense & Very Dangerous!
 - It Was A Day:
 - That Was Very Serious!
 - It Was Not Just A Game!
 - It Was A Matter Of Life & Death!
4. However - When It Was All Said & Done:
 - The Jews Were Victorious!
 - They Won!
 - Their Conflict Was Over!
 - Their Enemies Were Defeated!
 - Their Families Were Safe!
 - In The Words Of 9:17:
 - “And on the fourteenth day of the same rested they!”
 - The Vast Majority Of The Jews:
 - Had Been Delivered:
 - And Were Now At Peace!
5. The Peace They Enjoyed:
 - Brought Them Rest!
 - No More Threats!
 - No More Battles!
 - Their Peace Also:
 - Brought Them Relief!
 - Imagine How Difficult It Must Have Been:
 - For Them To Wait - Day After Day:

- And Month After Month!
- Not Knowing What Would Become Of Them:
 - And Their Families!
- But Now - With The Conflict Over:
 - Not Only Were Their Hands At Peace:
 - Their Hearts Would Have Been At Peace As Well!
 - And So - What Would They Do Now?
- Their Peace Also:
- Brought Them Rejoicing!
 - And This Is What We Find In:
 - 9:17b-19 - “And on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. / But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. / Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another!”

6. In These Verses We Discover:

- The Jews Response To:
 - Their Deliverance & To Their Peace!
 - And In Their Response - We See That:

1. ***There Was A Great Celebration:***

- They Made Their Day Of Peace & Rest:
 - A “Day Of Feasting And Gladness!”
 - That Day Was No Longer Just Another Ordinary Day!
 - They “Made” It Into A New Holiday - Which Continues On Even Through Today!
- They Celebrated:
 - Their Protection:
 - And Their Preservation:
 - And Their Peace!
- And They Came Together:
 - In A Spontaneous Way:
 - All Throughout The Empire Of Persia:
 - And Had A Great Festival!
- With - “Feasting & Gladness!”
 - This Celebration Can Even Show To Us:
 - The Extent Of Their Deliverance!
 - The Jews Had Plenty!
 - Their Homes & Their Supplies Had All Been Preserved!
- They Had No Need For:
 - The Spoils Of Their Enemies!
 - What A Celebration This Must Have Been!
 - But - It Is Interesting To Note That While Most Of The Jews Were In “Celebration Mode” - There Were Still Others:
 - In Danger! Specifically The Jews Who Were Living In The Capital City Of Shushan!
 - The Home Of Queen Esther & Mordecai!
- And So - Even While There Was A Great Celebration Going On:

2. ***There Was (Also) A Great Continuation:***

- In The Conflict - Which We Read About In:
 - 9:18a - “But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof!”
 - Now - We Learned Last Week:
 - Both How & Why The Conflict In Shushan Lasted For Another Whole Day!
- In Shushan:
 - The Fighting Was The Fiercest & Longest:
 - Because Of The Bitter & Lawless Nature Of The Enemies!

- Those Who Escaped The Jews On The 13th Day Had Regrouped & Were Planning To Attack The Jews On The 14th Day:
 - Which Was Illegal For Them To Do!
- Now - Somehow Esther Knew About This:
 - And Asked The King For His Royal Permission:
 - For The Jews - 9:13 - "To do to morrow also according unto this day's decree!"
 - And So They Did!
- And So - For **Two Full Days**:
 - The Jews In Shushan Experienced The Continuation:
 - Of That Conflict!
 - I'm Sure They Could Have Echoed The Words Of Paul - "Our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears!" (2 Corinthians 7:5)
 - Those Two Days In Shushan:
 - Were Difficult & Dangerous & Uncertain Days!
 - The Jews Were Like Fugitives:
 - In Their Own Homes & Communities!
- But - Finally - After Those **Two** Days:
 - 9:18b - "And on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness!"
 - For The Jews In Shushan:
 - This Was The First Day In A Long Time When They Experienced Real Peace!
 - Peace & Rest Without!
 - Peace & Relief Within!
 - So - They Too Broke Out:
 - In Spontaneous Celebration!
 - They Too - "Made It A Day Of Feasting & Gladness!"
- Now - All Of The Jews:
 - All Throughout The Empire:
 - Were At Rest & At Peace! And We Read In 9:19:

3. ***There Was A Great Communion:***

- 9:19a - "Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting!"
- In This Verse - The Writer Of The Book Of Esther:
 - Explains To Us Why The Jews:
 - Who Lived In The Villages / Country:
 - Celebrated On The 14th Day, Whereas The Jews Who Lived In The Cities:
 - Celebrated On The 15th Day!
 - So - Even Back Then - There Was A Certain Discrimination:
 - Between Those Who:
 - Lived In The Cities!
 - And Those Who:
 - Lived In The Country!
 - The City Jews & The Country Jews!
 - And In Some Ways - They Probably Considered Themselves Different & Even Better Than The Other!
 - But Not Now!
 - Even Though They Were Celebrating On Different Days:
 - There Was A Good Reason For It!
 - And Instead Of Dividing The Jews:
 - It United The Jews:
 - And Brought Them All Together!
 - Both The City Jews & The Country Jews!
 - Even If The Day Was Different:
 - For A Time - They Celebrated:
 - The Same Rest!
 - The Same Relief!
 - And With The Same Rejoicing!

- They Enjoyed “A Day Of Gladness & Feasting!”
 - As A Single Community Of God’s People:
 - No Matter Where They Lived!
- It Seems That Once Again:
 - We See The Hidden Hand Of God In All This!
 - He Seems To Be Preparing His People:
 - Even More To Return To Their Home:
 - Not As Individual Families!
 - Not As Individual Communities!
 - But As A Nation Once Again!
 - And To Further Demonstrate This Unity:

4. *There Was A Great Consideration:*

- 9:19b - “And a good day, and of sending portions one to another!”
 - Those Days Of Celebration:
 - Became Like Their Other Special Days!
 - Like The Day Of The Passover!
 - Like The Feast Of Tabernacles!
 - And They Considered Each Other!
 - And They Sent Gifts To One Another!
 - Perhaps Gifts Of Food & Of Other Things:
 - To Help Them Celebrate Together:
 - Their Victory!
 - **IE:** Like One Of Our Own Church Dinners! Though - Not Planned Days Or Weeks Ahead! Spontaneous! And:
 - They Gave Their Gifts:
 - Out Of Grace & Generosity!
 - John Trapp - “To The Rich They Sent In Courtesy, To The Poor In Charity, And Both These To Testify Their Thankfulness To God For Their Lives, Liberties, And Estates, So Lately And Graciously Restored Unto Them!”

Conclusion:

1. What A Great Response The Jews Had:
 - To Their Deliverance From The Hands Of Their Enemies!
 - And To The Great Peace:
 - That God Had Once Again Provided To Them!
 - The Rest & Relief They Were Given:
 - Prompted:
 - A Great Celebration!
 - A Great Continuation!
 - A Great Communion!
 - And A Great Consideration!
2. But - Once Again - Can We Not As Christians:
 - See That What The Lord Did For His People Back Then:
 - He Has Done For Us As Well?
 - John 3:16 Tells Us The Great Deliverance:
 - That God Offers To Us - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life!”
 - The Bible Teaches Us That Because Of Our Sin:
 - We Will All Experience:
 - A Day Of Destruction!
 - We Will A “Perish!”
 - This Is The Just Punishment For Our Sin!
 - But God’s Love Found A Way:
 - To “Redeem Our Souls” And To Provide:
 - A Day Of Deliverance!
 - Through Faith In & Forgiveness From The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Have You Experienced:

- This Day Of Deliverance In Your Life?
 - Have You Turned From:
 - Your Own Sin & Have Turned To:
 - & Are Trusting In The Lord Jesus Christ As Your Savior & Lord?
 - Mark 1:15 - “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel!” (Jesus)
- 3. When A Person – Any Person:
 - Is Delivered From Their Sin:
 - By Trusting In The Savior:
 - That Is A “Good Day!”
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 - “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!”
 - God Himself Gives You True Peace!
 - A Present Peace:
 - And Relief In Your Heart!
 - A Future Peace:
 - And Rest From Your Labors!
 - If This Has Happened To **You**:
 - And This Is **Your** Testimony:
 - Then How Can **You** Respond?
 - How **Should** You Respond?
 - Again - Look At The Response Of The Jews & How They Responded To Their Deliverance!
 - 4. If You Have Been Delivered By Jesus Christ:
 - There Can Now Be A Great Celebration:
 - In Your Life As Well!
 - You Can Join With The Jews Of Old:
 - In “Feasting & Gladness!”
 - But The Greatest Way To Celebrate:
 - Is In Praise & Thanksgiving:
 - To The Lord - From Our Hearts!
 - Even As David Did - Psalm 40:1-3 - “I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. / He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. / And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD!”
 - Let There Be Praise Given To The Lord:
 - For Your Great Deliverance!
 - 5. If You Have Been Delivered By Jesus Christ:
 - There Can Now Be A Great Continuation:
 - In Your Life As Well!
 - You Can Join With The Jews Of Old:
 - By Continuing To “Fight The Good Fight Of Faith!”
 - God Now Empowers & Enables You To Live For Him!
 - And So - You Can Continue To Live:
 - Through The Trials & Temptations Of This Life:
 - With Patience!
 - Waiting – But Still Working!
 - Hebrews 12:1-2 - “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, / Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God!”
 - Let There Be Patience In Your Heart:
 - As You Wait For Your Final Deliverance, When You Will Be At Rest & At Home With The Lord Himself!
 - 6. If You Have Been Delivered By Jesus Christ:
 - There Can Now Be A Great Communion:
 - With Other Believers As Well!
 - On Those Days Of Celebration In The Book Of Esther:

- There Were No Longer City Jews & Country Jews!
- They Were United In Their Deliverance & They Were United In Their Celebrations!
- And Now - Every Believer Is United Together:
 - As One - Galatians 3:27-29 - "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. / There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. / And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise!"
- So Now - Let There Be Participation:
 - With Each Other:
 - As We Worship Together!
 - As We Serve Together!
 - As We Grow Together!
- 7. If You Have Been Delivered By Jesus Christ:
 - There Needs To Be A Great Consideration:
 - In Your Life As Well!
 - Even As The Jews Of Old:
 - 9:19 - Were - "Sending Portions One To Another!"
 - What Do You Have:
 - That Can Be Given To Others?
 - Not Just Material Things!
 - But Spiritual Things!
 - Those Things That Will Last!
 - Remember The Words Of Jesus:
 - Matthew 10:8 - "Freely ye have received, freely give!"
 - Give To Those Who Are Saved!
 - Give To Those Who Are Lost!
 - Give As You Have Been Given!
 - Give What You Have Been Given!
 - Give Graciously!
 - Give Generously!
 - Let There Be Presents:
 - Given - In Honor Of The Greatest Gift Of All:
 - Deliverance Through The Lord Jesus Christ!
- 8. Robert Hawker - "Oh! How Great & Unexpected & Wonderful Is the Deliverance To A Poor Sinner, Just Ready To Perish!"
 - So - How Will You Respond:
 - To Your Deliverance?
 - Let It Be - Like The Jews Of Old - With:
 - This Kind Of Celebration!
 - Let Us - "Give Thanks Unto The Father, Who Has Delivered Us From The Power Of Darkness & Hath Translated Us Into The Kingdom Of His Dear Son!" (Colossians 1:12-13)

* The Celebration We Can Have Today Is Just A Taste Of The Eternal Celebration All Believers Will Have Some Day In Heaven!

- "Sing The Wondrous Love Of Jesus"

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