

“Remember The Works Of The Lord!”
Esther 9:20-25

Introduction:

1. The Last Time We Were In The Book Of Esther Together:
 - We Read Of A Great Celebration:
 - Among The Jewish People!
 - If They Had Fireworks Available To Them:
 - Our Own Independence Day Celebrations A Couple Of Weeks Ago:
 - Would Have Been Similar To Theirs!
 - But The Jews:
 - Were Celebrating Nothing Less Than:
 - Their Complete Deliverance From Impending Destruction!
 - It Was An Event Worth Celebrating!
2. Well - As We Head Back To:
 - Esther Chapter 9 - We Find That Mordecai:
 - Believed This Celebration:
 - Needed To Continue!
 - And So - Beginning In:
 - 9:20-25 - We Read What He Did Next:
 - “And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far, / To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly, / As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor. / And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them; / Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them; / But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows!”
 - As I Was Reading These Verses:
 - I Couldn’t Help But Think About:
 - Some Of The “Thanksgiving Proclamations” That Have Been Written:
 - In Our Own Nation’s History!
 - In 1863 - Right In The Midst Of The Civil War:
 - President Abraham Lincoln Said - *“It has seemed to me fit and proper that [God's gifts] should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow citizens...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.”*
 - However - It’s Interesting - That The Big Difference Between:
 - President Lincoln’s Proclamation:
 - And Mordecai’s Proclamation:
 - Is That In Mordecai’s Proclamation - There Is No Mention Of Thanksgiving Or Even Of God Himself!
 - Now - That’s Not To Say That Thanksgiving To God *Didn’t* Happen! It Is Just Not Mentioned Here In The Text!
 - But Once Again - The Holy Spirit Is Showing To Us:
 - The Hidden Hand Of God’s Providence:
 - In All Of This!
 - 3. And I Believe That Mordecai Himself:
 - Illustrates For Us How:
 - All Of God’s People:
 - Can & Should “Remember The Works Of The Lord!” (Psalm 77:11)
 - And So - Beginning In 9:20:
 - We Read About Mordecai’s New Message To His People:
 - 9:20 - “And Mordecai *wrote* these things, and sent *letters* unto all the Jews that were in all the

- provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far!”
- Now - Why Did Mordecai Do This?
 - Using All The Authority & Power Granted To Him By The King Of Persia:
 - To Establish A New Holiday For The Jews?
 - Because - First Of All - As A Jew - He Understood The Importance Of:

1. *A Continuous Record!*

- After The Great Deliverance Of The Jews:
 - And After All The Spontaneous Celebrations That Took Place:
 - Mordecai Wanted There To Be A Permanent & A Continuous Record:
 - Of These Events!
 - And No Doubt:
- The Intent Of This Record:
 - Was A Biblical & A Spiritual One!
 - Mordecai Was Just Following The Example & The Instructions Given By God For His People!
 - Psalm 78:5-7 - “For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: / That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: / That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments!”
 - Mordecai Did Not Want His People:
 - To Ever Forget Their Deliverance:
 - During This Time Of Their History!
 - And Who Else Could Deliver Them In Such A Way:
 - But God Himself?
 - **IE:** How Easy It Is For Us To Forget Events Like This! Need “Memorial” Days!
 - And This Record In Esther:
 - Has Caused All Of The True People Of God:
 - To “Set Their Hope In God” Ever Since!
 - And This Is Why We Also See:
- The Extent Of This Record:
 - It Was Sent To “All The Jews” – “Both Nigh & Far!”
 - Wherever They Lived All Throughout The Empire Of Persia!
 - Why? Because They Needed To Know That There Was “More To The Story!”
 - Most Of Them Knew Of The 2 Opposing Decrees - But They Didn’t Yet Know All Of The Details!
 - And So - It Was Important For Them To Know:
 - All That Took Place - No Matter Where They Lived!
 - Do You Realize That:
 - We Too Have Been Given:
 - A Continuous Record Of The “Wonderful Works” Of God?
 - Of Course - The Record We Have Is The Complete Word Of God Itself!
 - It Is An Inspired History:
 - Of So Many Accounts Just Like What We Find In The Book Of Esther!
 - And How God Is The One Who Is Able To Deliver His People From Destruction!
 - No Matter What Form It Takes!
 - What A Record! What A Book!
 - Because Just Like Mordecai’s Record:
 - It Has Been Given To Us For:

2. *A Continuous Remembrance!*

- It Is One Thing To Have A Record:
 - But What Good Is That Record:
 - If It Is Not Read & Not Remembered!
 - **IE:** History Books / Classes - Remember?
 - Mordecai Sent His Letters Out So That His People Would Read & Then Remember:
 - Their Great Deliverance!
 - See This In:

- 9:21 - "To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly!"
 - Mordecai Proposed That The Jews:
 - Make A New Holiday To Help Them Remember:
 - The Events Of Those Times!
 - And He Gives Them::
- The Confirmation To Remember:
 - The Jews Were To Now "Keep" & Observe:
 - The Same Days Of Celebration:
 - In The Same Ways They Had Done:
 - And For The Same Reasons!
 - But Now - It Was To Become:
 - A National Celebration!
 - "Yearly!"
 - He's Basically Telling Them To:
 - "Keep It Up!"
 - And Again - This Is Consistent With God's Instructions To His People!
 - Psalm 105:4-5 - "Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore. / Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth!"
 - But A Significant Part Of His Letter Gave Them:
- The Content To Remember:
 - 9:24-25 - "Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them; / But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows!"
 - This Is A Summary Of What Took Place:
 - And Why They Should Continue Their Celebrations Every Year!
 - They Needed To Remember!
 - Remember Their Danger:
 - 9:24 - "Haman!"
 - And His Motive:
 - As "The Enemy Of All The Jews!"
 - And His Method:
 - "Cast Pur, That Is The Lot!" - Playing Games With The Lives Of God's People!
 - They Needed To Remember:
 - The Great Danger They Were In!
 - But Also:
 - Remember Their Deliverance!
 - 9:25 - "But When Esther Came Before The King!"
 - "Esther" Is Italicized - She Is Not Specifically Mentioned In The Hebrew Text - Could Also Be Translated "It" Or "The Matter"!
 - The Point It Seems For Mordecai:
 - Was Not The Actors:
 - Like He & Esther!
 - But It Was The Action:
 - Of Their Deliverance!
 - Because The Jews Would Know Who:
 - The True Hero Was - And Who Providentially Brought All Of This To Pass!
 - And It Seems Like Mordecai & Esther Were Content To Be Invisible / To Simply Be Used By The Lord / So That God's Hand Could Be Clearly Seen! "I Being In The Way, The Lord Led Me!" (Genesis 24:27) (Abraham's Servant)
 - And So The Lord Himself Caused:
 - Haman's Decree To "Return Upon His Own Head!" (**IE:** Like A Boomerang)
 - And They Needed To Remember:
 - Their Great Deliverance!
- In A Similar Way:

- **God Has Given Us The Continuous Record Of His Word:**

- **So That There Can Be A Continual Remembrance:**

- **Of His Works!**

- And Especially His Works Of Deliverance!

- Even As Mordecai Was Able To Summarize:

- The Entirety Of The Book Of Esther:

- In Two Verses (9:24-25):

- So The Gospel Of God's Deliverance From Sin Can Be Summarized In Just A Few Words, Even Though It Can Be Expanded & Expounded Into Book After Book!

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-5 - "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; / By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. / For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; / And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: / And that he was seen!"

- We Need To Continually Remember:

- God's Deliverance Through The Lord Jesus Christ!

- It Is What The Record Of The Bible Is All About!

- And When We Do - It Will Lead To:

3. ***A Continuous Rejoicing!***

- Just Like The Celebrations Enjoyed By The Jews In:

- 9:22 - "As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor!"

- As The Jews Remembered The Record:

- Of Their Deliverance - They Were To:

- Rejoice In All That Was Done!

- It Was To Be A Contrast:

- To The Sorrow That They Felt:

- When They First Heard That They Were To Be:

- Destroyed At The Hands Of Haman & His Allies!

- Remember Their Sorrow?

- 4:3 - "And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes!"

- It Is No Wonder That When They Were Delivered:

- The Broke Out Spontaneously:

- And Could Not Contain Their Joy!

- **IE: Volcano! So Now:**

- It Was To Be A Celebration:

- Like No Other!

- "Mordecai Wished The Jews To Be Ever Mindful Of Their Sorrows, [So] That Their Joy Might Be Full!" (George Lawson)

- And So - Their Great Deliverance Turned Their:

- Sadness Into Gladness!

- Sighing Into Singing!

- Musing Into Music!

- Tears Into Triumph! (John Trapp)

- And It Caused Them To:

- Share Their Celebration With Others!

- By "Sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor!"

- And Isn't This What The Good News / Record:

- Of God's Deliverance Does To Poor Sinners Like Us?

- There Is A Day When This Can Happen:

- In Our Lives As Well!

- When We Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ:

- And Are Gloriously Saved From Our Sin:

- And From Our Well-Deserved Destruction!
- Then - There Can Be:
 - A Continual Rejoicing & Celebration:
 - Romans 5:1-2 - “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: / By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God!”
- And Now We Have Something To Celebrate:
 - And To Share! Even As The Jews Of Old!
 - And Then We See - Their Rejoicing Led To:

4. *A Continuous Response!*

- 9:23 - “And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them!”
 - The Jews Could Have Ignored:
 - Mordecai’s Proposal! After All - Didn’t They Have Enough Holidays & Festivals Already?
 - But It Would Have Been Their Loss!
 - Instead - They Responded:
 - With Agreement!
 - They “Undertook To Do As They Had Begun!”
 - The Jews As A Whole Agreed With Mordecai:
 - And With Each Other - To Do As He Wrote!
 - And So - As A United People:
 - They Established This New National Holiday!
 - And Then - They Continued To Respond:
 - With Application!
 - They Didn’t Just “Nod Their Heads” In Agreement:
 - They Actually Complied With Mordecai’s Proposal!
 - And So - Year After Year - They Celebrated Their Deliverance From Haman, Their Enemy!
 - And This Continues Even Today!
 - The Feast Of Purim:
 - Is A Jewish Celebration Like No Other!
 - Yet Even Today - Many Jews Recognize It As A Miracle! “The Miracle Of Purim Was Disguised In Natural Events!”
 - We Need To Have The Same Kind Of Response:
 - To The Good Word:
 - That God Himself Has Given To Us!
 - And Agree To His Word In Faith:
 - And Then Apply Ourselves To Obey & Live According To His Word!
 - Why? 1 Samuel 12:23-24 - “I will teach you the good and the right way: / Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you!”

Conclusion:

1. Today - Let Us “Consider” All The “Great Things” That:
 - The Lord Hath Done For Us!
 - Yes - There Is A Record Of These Things:
 - In Our Own Lives & Testimonies!
 - **IE:** Love To Hear What God Has Done / Is Doing In Your Lives!
 - But There Is An Even Greater:
 - And A Continuous Record Of His Works:
 - Given To Us In The Word Of God!
 - In Fact - The Book Of Esther Itself Is An Inspired Record To All Of God’s People Of His Great Works!
 - Even When He Seems Hidden From Our View!
 - 2. So - Do Not Forget That:
 - God Himself Has Provided You:
 - A Continuous Record:
 - Of His Works - So That There Will Be:
 - A Continuous Remembrance:

- Of His Works - In Your Heart & Life!
 - Do Not Forget His Great Work To Deliver You From Your Own Enemies / Sin!
- Remember What He Came To Do For You!
 - Psalm 103:5-9 - "Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high, / Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth! / He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill; / That he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people!"
- And With This In Your Mind & Heart:
 - Let There Be A Continual Rejoicing!
 - Psalm 67:3 - "Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee!"
 - Has This Day Of Rejoicing Come Into Your Life?
 - It Can! Today!
 - Let There Be A Continual Response:
 - To The Lord's Word & Work:
 - In Your Life!
- 3. This Should Not Happen Every Year:
 - But Every Day In The Life Of Every Christian!
 - So - Respond & Say In Your Hearts Today:
 - Psalm 77:11-12 - "I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. / I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings!" (Asaph)

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