

“Forget Not!”
Esther 9:26-28

Introduction:

1. In Psalm 103:2 - David The King Once Wrote:
 - “Bless The Lord, O My Soul, And Forget Not All His Benefits!”
 - In This Verse, David Tells Himself – His Own Soul To:
 - “Forget Not!”
 - David Knew:
 - As We All Know:
 - That We Forget Things:
 - All Too Easily & All Too Quickly!
 - But Unfortunately, This Happens Even When It Comes To:
 - All Of The Great “Benefits” That God Himself:
 - Has Provided To Us!
 - We Are Forgetful People!
2. And This:
 - Is One Of The Reasons Why – Back In The Book Of Esther:
 - Both Mordecai & Esther, Along With All Of The Jews:
 - Throughout The Persian Empire:
 - Established For Themselves & Their Posterity:
 - A New Holiday:
 - And A New Festival!
 - To Remember:
 - The Great Deliverance They Received From Their Impending Destruction At The Hands Of Haman & His Allies!
3. And That Is Also Why:
 - So Much Of Esther Chapter 9:
 - Tells Us About This New “Memorial Day”:
 - For The Jewish People!
 - It Was So They Too Would:
 - “Forget Not!”
 - And So - As We Return To Esther 9:
 - We Learn A Bit More About This Great New Celebration!
 - 9:26-28 - “Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them, / The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year; / And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed!”
 - With This Establishment Of This New Holiday – The Jews Were Telling Themselves:
 - And Every Other Jew:
 - To “Forget Not” The Great Blessing Of Purim!

* They Were Not To Forget:

1. *The Meaning Of Purim!*

- Which Is What They Ended Up Calling:
 - Those Days Of Celebration - 9:26 - “Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur!”
 - Now - The Name Of This New Holiday Was Very Special & Significant To The Jews!
 - It Was Called “Purim” After The Name “Pur” - Which We Have Already Seen - Was A Word Used In Persia For:
 - The Lot!
 - And It Describes The Lots That Were Cast:
 - By Haman - To Pick The Day Of Destruction:
 - For The Jews - 3:7 - “In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar!”

- But The Jews Knew Some Things:
 - About The “Pur” – The “Lot” That Haman & Their Enemies Did Not!
 - They Knew That The Lot Revealed:
- The Control Of The Lord:
 - Instead Of Chance!
 - They Would Have Known About & Understood Proverbs 16:33 - “The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD!”
 - Though Haman Sought To Gamble With The Lives Of God’s People:
 - Ultimately God Was In Complete Control!
 - George Lawson - Even “Chance Is Under His Management, And Those Things Which To Us Appear Most Accidental Are Managed By His Providence To Accomplish His Designs Of Mercy To Them That Love Him!”
 - Isn’t This The Great Message Of The Book Of Esther?
 - And This Became The True Meaning Of Purim!
 - The Lot Also Revealed:
- The Choice Of The Lord!
 - One Of The Primary Uses Of “Pur” – The Lots:
 - Among The Persians - Was Sorcery!
 - The Lots Were Often Cast Before Pagan Priests Or Idols In Order To Ascertain The Will Of Those Spirits!
 - It Is Likely That This Is What Haman Was Doing As Well!
 - But Again - The Jews Would Have Known & Understood Another Truth:
 - That No Matter What Spirit Or Power Stood Against Them - God Remained On Their Side!
 - Even The False Prophet Balaam Was Directed By God:
 - To Say - Numbers 23:23 - “Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel!”
 - God’s People Did Not Need To Fear Any Enchantment / Any Divination / Even Any Casting Of The Lot Against Them!
 - Because They Were God’s Chosen People!
 - And This Became The True Meaning Of Purim For Them!
 - But - As One Jewish Rabbi Asked - “Why Call A Holiday After Your Enemy?”
 - Why Call It After The Device He Used To Determine The Day Of Your Destruction?
 - Why Call It “Purim” After “Pur”?
 - Well - There Is An Interesting Thing:
 - About The Word “Pur” - And That Is:
 - It Meant One Thing:
 - To The Persians!
 - But It Had An Altogether Different Meaning:
 - To The Jews!
 - Now - This Can Happen With Words Even Today!
 - In English - The Word - “Mere” Means:
 - Something Small & Insignificant!
 - But In Russian - The Word - “Mir” Means:
 - The World! Also Peace!
 - Similar Sounding Word:
 - Different Languages / Meanings!
 - The Word “Pur” Used In Persia Meant “Lot”:
 - But In Hebrew - The Word “Pur” Means:
 - To Cancel Or Annul!
 - And It Is Possible That The Jews Called Their New Holiday “Purim” With This Double-Meaning In View!
 - And So - It Further Reveals:
- The Counsel Of The Lord!
 - Even As We Are Told In Psalm 33:10 - “The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought – “Pur” – he maketh the devices of the people of none effect!”
 - And Isn’t This Exactly What Took Place In Persia?
 - Haman’s Wicked Device Of The Lot – Pur – Was Cancelled / Annulled / Brought To

Nothing!

- This Is Why It Continues In Psalm 33:11 - “The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations!”
- This Is The True Meaning Of Purim!
 - And The Jews Were Not To Forget It!
 - And They Could Say To Haman The Same Words Of Joseph In:
 - Genesis 50:20 - “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive!”
- Christians Too Are “Purim People!”
 - People Who Have Been Delivered:
 - Colossians 1:13 - “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son!”
 - And We Must Not Forget:
 - The Meaning Of Our Own Deliverance!
 - It Too Reveals:
 - God’s Control, Choice, Counsel!
 - And That Is Why We Can / Must Celebrate:
 - And Give God The Praise & Glory He Is Due!
 - Do Not Forget The Great Meaning Of Your Deliverance!

* They Were Also Not To Forget:

2. *The Motives For Purim!*

- That Is - What Originally Caused Them To Celebrate:
 - On Those Two Days!
 - What Was The “Reason For The Season” Of Purim!
 - Find Their Motives In:
- 9:26b - “Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them!”
 - We Find 3 Main Reasons / Motives:
 - For The Celebration Of Purim!
- First Motive:
 - The Explanation Of Their Deliverance!
 - Which They Received From - “All The Words Of This Letter!”
 - Mordecai Took The Time To Record Everything That Had Taken Place:
 - So That Every Single Jew - No Matter Where They Lived In The Empire - Would Know What Happened!
 - And They Never Wanted To Forget:
 - His Explanation - So They Established The Holiday Of Purim!
- Second Motive:
 - The Experience Of Their Deliverance!
 - Even The Things That They Personally - “Had Seen Concerning This Matter!”
 - The Ones That Were There!
 - The Ones Who Had Prepared For That Day!
 - The Ones Who Fought For Their Lives & Their Families & Their Communities & Their God!
 - And They Never Wanted Their People To Forget:
 - Their Own Experience! But Also:
- Third Motive:
 - The Effects Of Their Deliverance!
 - Those Things “Which Had Come To Them!”
 - Especially The Effects / Results Of Their Deliverance!
 - And How Their Hearts Were Turned From “Sorrow To Joy” & From “Mourning Into A Good Day!”
 - And They Never Wanted God’s People To Forget:
 - These Effects:
 - And That Same Great Joy!
- And We Are Told That These Are Some Of The Reasons:
 - Why The Holiday Of Purim Was Established:

- By The Jews!
 - So They Would Never Forget Their Feelings & Their Ultimate Freedom!
- Even As Christians - Sometimes We Forget:
 - All Too Quickly & All Too Easily:
 - What Jesus Christ Has Done For Us!
 - So What Can We Do?
 - We Need To Keep Going Back:
 - To The Explanation:
 - Of Our Own Deliverance!
 - The Record & Word Of God - That Tells Us Of "Jesus And His Love!"
 - We Need To Keep Going Back:
 - To The Experience:
 - Of Our Own Deliverance!
 - And Review Our Own Testimony Of God's Grace To Us!
 - We Need To Keep Going Back:
 - To The Results:
 - Of Our Own Deliverance!
 - Even As David Did:
 - In Psalm 103:2-5 - "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: / Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; / Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; / Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's!"
 - We Have So Many Great Reasons & Motivations To "Bless" & Praise The Lord!
 - "Count Your Blessings!"
 - We Too Are "Purim People!"
 - So We Must "Forget Not All His Benefits!"

* They Were Also Not To Forget:

3. ***The Mission Of Purim!***

- The Celebration Of Their Deliverance:
 - Was Not Meant To Be Kept To Themselves!
 - So - 9:27 - "The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year!"
 - Those Days Became:
 - A Time Of Commitment!
 - The Jews "Ordained" Purim To Become A National Holiday!
 - And They Were United In Their Commitment!
 - **IE:** Often Happens When There Is A National Tragedy - Like 9/11 - With Every Passing Year - Forget - Unfortunately, That Unity & Harmony Can Easily & Quickly Be Forgotten - The Jews Did Not Want This To Happen To Them!
 - And So - It Became:
 - A Time Of Communication!
 - They "Took Upon Them, And Upon Their Seed, And Upon All Such As Joined Themselves Unto Them!"
 - The Deliverance Of Those Days:
 - As Well As The Celebrations:
 - Belonged To All Jews!
 - Jewish Citizens!
 - Jewish Children!
 - Jewish Converts!
 - Because They All "Enjoyed The Benefits Of This Day's Deliverance!" (Wesley)
 - In 8:17 We Learned That "Many Of The People Of The Land Became Jews!"
 - I Wonder How Many Became Jews After Their Great Victory Over Haman & Their Enemies!
 - They Would Have Seen & Heard That "God Was With" Them!
 - And So The Jews Welcomed Them:
 - With Open Arms!
 - And As They All Celebrated Together - It Became:

- A Time To Continue!
 - “So as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year!”
 - Every Jew Was To Continue This Memorial:
 - Of Their Deliverance:
 - Faithfully!
 - “According To Their Writing!”
 - And Regularly!
 - “And According To Their Appointed Time Every Year!”
 - And So They Did! And Continue To Do!
- Their Mission:
 - Was To Not Let The Memory Of Their Deliverance:
 - Fail! To Ensure That The People Of God:
 - Would Never Forget!
- This Remains Our Own Mission:
 - As The People Of God!
 - We Are To Communicate To Everyone:
 - The Message Of Deliverance Through Jesus Christ!
 - Jesus Himself Gave Us This Mission:
 - Acts 1:8 - “And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth!”
 - But We Also Have A Special Interest In Communicating The Gospel To Our Own Families!
 - And When A Person Becomes Joined:
 - To The People Of God - Through Faith In Christ:
 - They Are Joined To The History Of The People Of God As Well!
 - So - Do Not Forget:
 - The Great & Continuing Mission That We Have!

* They Were Also Not To Forget:

4. *The Memorial Of Purim!*

- 9:28 - “And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed!”
 - And So - Purim Was Designed:
 - For The Jews To Contemplate & Celebrate:
 - That Great Time Of Deliverance!
 - And We See The Extent Of This Memorial:
 - When To Remember?
 - “Throughout Every Generation!”
 - Or - From Generation To Generation!
 - No Matter How Long Ago The Event Celebrated Passes Into History - It Needs To Remain Fresh For Every Generation!
 - Who Is To Remember?
 - “Every Family!”
 - Noone Is Exempt From This!
 - After All - They Were All Included In This Deliverance!
 - Where To Remember?
 - “Every Province & Every City!”
 - No Matter Where In The World A Jew Might Live!
 - It Was & Still Is Important:
 - For The Jews That:
 - “These Days Of Purim Should Not Fail!”
 - And That They Do Not Forget!

Conclusion:

1. And So - Even Today - The Jews:
 - “Forget Not” To Celebrate Purim!

- It Is One Of Their Most Joyful & Sometimes Even Crazy Holidays!
 - But Even Though This Holiday Is Not Something That Started At The Beginning Of Their History:
 - Like Their Religious Holidays & Festivals:
 - The Holiday Of Purim Is Also:
 - "A Shadow Of Things To Come!"
 - As Great As Purim Is:
 - To Jews Today!
 - And As Great As Purim Was:
 - To The Jews In Esther's Time!
2. Jesus Christ Brings:
- And Even Greater Deliverance:
 - And A Greater Joy & Celebration:
 - For Those Who Come To Him In Faith!
 - And We Must Never Forget This!
 - We Too Are Purim People!
 - The History Of Esther Is Our Own History!
 - So - Do Not Let The Memory Of God's Great Deliverance Fail Or Perish From Your Heart!
 - Say To Yourself Every Day - Psalm 103:2 - "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!"

* "I Love To Tell The Story!"

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