

WOMEN'S STUDY IN ESTHER

Lesson 11 Chapter 9:1-18

As you read through Esther and begin this study, ask God to open your heart. As the Psalmist prayed: "Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law".
Psalm 119:18

Assignment: In the next week read through Esther, especially chapter 8. Attempt to answer the following discussion questions.

Questions:

- 1) Summarize chapter by chapter (up to chapter 8) what has happened in Esther so far.

- 2) Looking at 9:1a explain in light of the context of Esther what day had arrived? (Cf Esther 3:7-15, 4:7-9)

- 3) In verse 1 we see the day "the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain mastery over them". In the summary in the end of verse 1, what happened instead? And how were the enemies of the Jews described?

- 4) What did the Jews do on that day (2a)?

Lexical note: The term translated "dread" in 8:17, 9:2 & 3 speaks fear aroused by terror.

- 5) What was the response to their actions and why (2b)? How does 9:2b relate to 8:17?

- 6) Who else assisted the Jews and why (3)? Explain

Grammatical note: The Hebrew term translated "Indeed" (NASB) in 9:4 is better translated "because" or "For" like in the NKJ. It introduces a reason.

- 7) How does verse 4 explain verse 3? (i.e "for...") Remember what happened to Mordechai in chapter 8?

- 8) In the summary of 9:5, what did the Jews do to their enemies, those who hated them?

- 9) In detail, what happened in Susa (9:6)?

- 10) Who else did the Jews destroy (9:7-10a)?

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- 11) What did the Jews not do? (9:10, cf. 9:15, 15 also). Where they granted the opportunity to do so (see 8:11)? Why do you think they did not do this? Do you remember Haman's evil plan the king decreed (see 3:13)?

- 12) What was reported to the king (11)? What did the king say to queen Esther (12a)?

- 13) What did the king ask Esther and how did she respond (12b-13)?

- 14) What two things did the king do in response (14)? What is the significance of these things? On a side note, were not Haman's sons already dead (6-10)?

- 15) What did the Jews in Susa do and not do on the second day (the one added to the edict) (15)?

- 16) From 9:16-17, what was done (and not done) by the rest of the Jews in the king's provinces on the first day of the edict (thirteenth day of Adar)? When did they rest and what did they make that day?

- 17) What did the Jews in Susa do on contrast to the rest of the Jews and why (18)?

- 18) What do the following say and how do they relate the what has happened in Esther? (Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:28)

- 19) Explain how God in His sovereignty and by His predetermined plan has turned Satan's evil plan for our ultimate good (Genesis 3:14-15, 12:3b, John 13:2, 26-27, Luke 22:47-54, Acts 2:21-24, 5:29-31, 10:42-43, Col. 1:19-22)

- 20) What should be one of our responses to what God has turned to good? (Luke 2:10, 1Thes. 1:5-6). Do you rejoice over what Jesus has done for you?