

Esther 9-10

The great reversal!



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

The text – Esther 9:23-10:3

1. Read Esther 9:23-10:3. This is the climactic scene in the story of the great reversal. Describe what happens for Esther, Mordecai and the Jews in 9:23-32.
2. Notice that Esther is called “Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail” in 9:29. This is the only time in the book that she is named in this way. Why is this significant?
3. Esther 10:1-3 is mainly about Mordecai. Why do you think the book closes with the focus on Mordecai rather than Esther?
4. Both Esther 9:30 and 10:3 describe the letters that are written and then the rule of Mordecai in terms of “goodwill”, “assurance”, and “welfare”. These words can also be translated “truth” and “peace”. The Hebrew word for “peace” is “shalom”. What does this mean?

The Scriptures – Esther 9:23-10:3 as a portion of the Scriptures

5. Compare Esther 10:1-3, the account of the rule of Mordecai, with Genesis 41:39-45, the account of the rule of Joseph. What similarities do you see between these two stories?
6. Many of Israel’s prophets promised there would be peace throughout the creation. What is peace? Read and discuss Isaiah 66:12-14.
7. Esther is a story about a great reversal – from violence to peace; from evil to goodness and truth. The ultimate great reversal was accomplished by Jesus Christ at the time of his death and resurrection. Read about this great reversal in Ephesians 2:1-7.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Esther 9:23-10:3 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. How has the story of Esther and Mordecai challenged you? What has it taught you about God and the way he deals with his people?
9. How can we pray for you as you seek to serve Christ? What challenges are you facing at present? How can we support you?

