

Summary and Reflection

Esther 10

Key Thought

Esther 10 is only 3 verses long and serves as a brief conclusion. It points readers to the annals of the Persian kings and emphasizes the greatness of Mordecai as prime minister of the empire. Here we see the trust God can bestow upon those who remain faithful to Him.

Important Insight

Esther is the last of the historical books of the Old Testament. From this time to the first advent of Christ the prophetic gift is silent and there are no further inspired writers to convey God's message to the people.

Questions for Discussion

- 1) Discuss why it was safe for Ahasuerus to promote Mordecai to such greatness in the kingdom.
- 2) The captivity of the Jews cured them of idolatry, but gave rise to a singular focus on the externals of religion. What equally destructive issues resulted?
- 3) What character traits made Mordecai so great?
- 4) What lessons for those in positions of leadership can be learned from the last clause of Esther 10:3?
- 5) What is the theme of the Book of Esther and how does it apply to those living at the present time?
- 6) Why are faith and hope so important?

For Further Discussion

Proverbs 22:11

Quotes for Reflection

After the Babylonian captivity the Jews placed "all the stress on the external and less momentous parts of [religion], while they neglected the weighty and substantial, true holiness of heart and life. Mankind are too easily drawn into this error; while they retain a sense of religion, they are too apt to listen to any methods by which it may be reduced to a consistency with the gratification of their passions, pride, and avarice." *Clarke's Commentary*

"There must be in this time of trial a dignified reliance upon the Word of God. We are to hold fast to past and present truth. The light is to shine forth with heavenly clearness. God will give an increase of light to those who walk in light received. Satan's devising and his mysterious, deceiving power cannot put out the light which God bids shine. Every soul who is willing to be instructed by the Word has the precious treasure of strength of character and is enabled to glorify God in word and act. The followers of Christ increase in power to be good and do good; for the Son of righteousness is shining upon them." *Manuscript 121*, (1907)

"We war not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in high places. But if the people of God will put their trust in Him, and by faith rely upon His power, the devices of Satan will be defeated in our time as signally as in the days of Mordecai." *Manuscript 51*, (1899)

"When God moves forward in His work, it divides men into two classes, those who follow in the way He leads, and those who turn aside." *Loma Linda Messages*, p. 38

Summary

Although not explicitly mentioned, God is central to the book of Esther. With the vantage of time, we can see the play and interplay of His providential working on behalf of his people. While His hand may be difficult to see in the midst of trials, we have the assurance that He will not forsake those who place their trust in Him and who refuse to give countenance to doubt.

For Further Reading

Ellen White. "What Doest Thou Here?," *Prophets and Kings*. Chapter 13.