

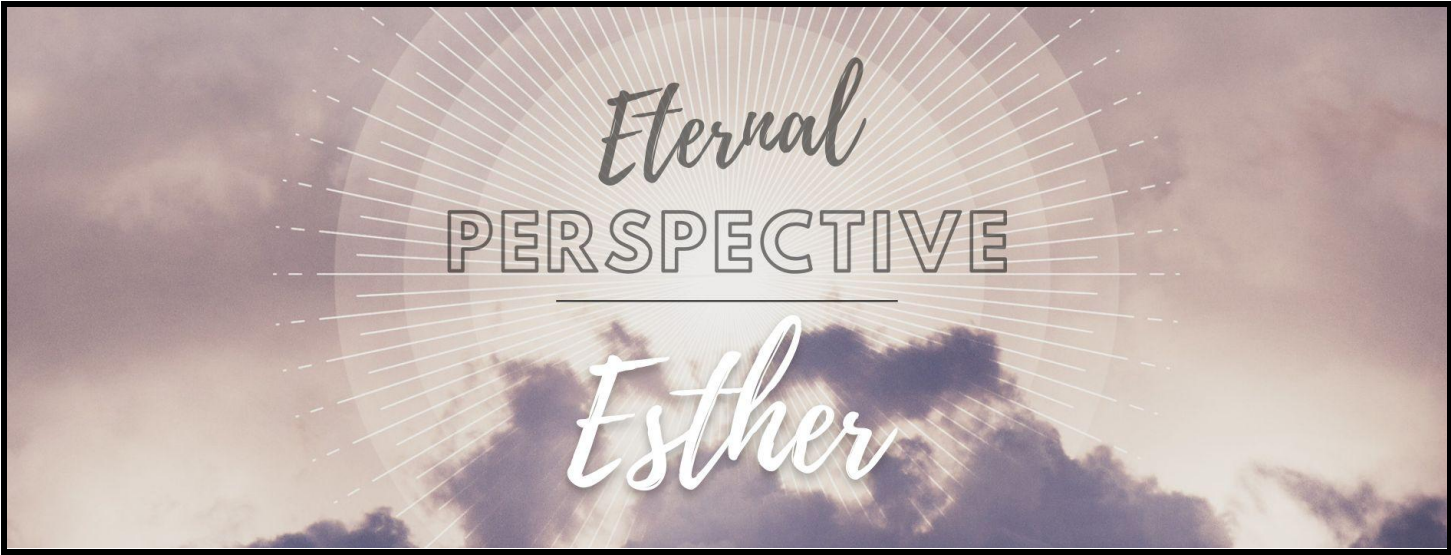
Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Esther*

BIBLE TEXT | ESTHER 9:1-19

1 Now in the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's command and edict were about to be carried out, on the very day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, the reverse occurred: the Jews gained mastery over those who hated them. **2** The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could stand against them, for the fear of them had fallen on all peoples. **3** All the officials of the provinces and the satraps and the governors and the royal agents also helped the Jews, for the fear of Mordecai had fallen on them. **4** For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces, for the man Mordecai grew more and more powerful. **5** The Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and did as they pleased to those who hated them. **6** In Susa the citadel itself the Jews killed and destroyed 500 men, **7** and also killed Parshandatha and Dalphon and Aspatha **8** and Poratha and Adalia and Aridatha **9** and Parmashta and Arisai and Aridai and Vaizatha, **10** the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, but they laid no hand on the plunder.

11 That very day the number of those killed in Susa the citadel was reported to the king. **12** And the king said to Queen Esther, "In Susa the citadel the Jews have killed and destroyed 500 men and also the ten sons of Haman. What then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces! Now what is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what further is your request? It shall be fulfilled." **13** And Esther said, "If it please the king, let the Jews who are in Susa be allowed tomorrow also to do according to this day's edict. And let the ten sons of Haman be hanged on the gallows." **14** So the king commanded this to be done. A decree was issued in Susa, and the ten sons of Haman were hanged. **15** The Jews who were in Susa gathered also on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and they killed 300 men in Susa, but they laid no hands on the plunder.

16 Now the rest of the Jews who were in the king's provinces also gathered to defend their lives, and got relief from their enemies and killed 75,000 of those who hated them, but they laid no hands on the plunder. **17** This was on the



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Esther

thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth day they rested and made that a day of feasting and gladness. **18** But the Jews who were in Susa gathered on the thirteenth day and on the fourteenth, and rested on the fifteenth day, making that a day of feasting and gladness. **19** Therefore the Jews of the villages, who live in the rural towns, hold the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a day for gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and as a day on which they send gifts of food to one another.

DEVOTIONAL FOR ESTHER 9:1-19

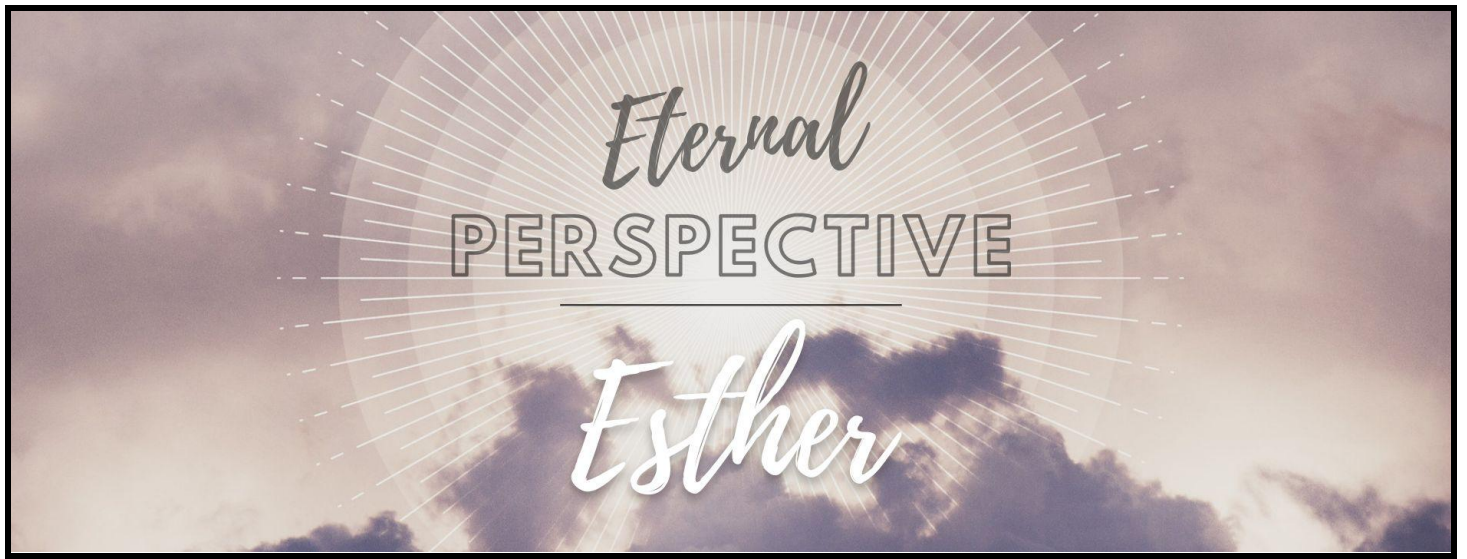
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In reading this ninth chapter I cannot help but think about Romans 8:31: "If God is for us, then who can be against us?" God had once again delivered the Jews from their enemies. Just when it looked like Haman and all those that hated them were sure to wipe them out, God raised up Esther "for a time such as this" (4:14), and Mordecai to lead the way.

Mordecai was a descendent of the tribe of Benjamin that God used to complete what Saul had failed when he was commanded to wipe out the Amalekites (from which Haman was a descendant) completely (1 Samuel 15). That makes me think of Isaiah 55:9: "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts".

It is truly amazing when you read the story of the nation of Israel and see all that God continually did for them, no matter how unfaithful they might have been at the time (2 Timothy 2:13). God was and is always true to His word and faithful to all who call on Him as their Lord. This book of Esther is just another way for each of us to see that God is always at work in ways that we have no idea about. No matter how big a mess my life might seem to be at the time, God's word tells me it will all be okay in the end. God has a plan and a promise for me. Even if I have no idea what He is doing, I know what He has done!

So, friends, no matter what book of the bible you may be reading, it is always applicable to some part of your life, even if you have no idea at the time (Hebrews 4:12). No matter how upside down your life may seem, the Lord is still in control. He is good, He loves us, He will provide what we need, when we need it. He will fight our battles for us, if we allow Him. "I therefore a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians in 4:1-3). To God be the glory!



Questions:

1. Do you truly believe that God is for you?
2. What, if anything, is going on in your life right now that you have no idea what God is going to do with it? Talk with your JG or reach out to a staff person and talk through it. Sometimes we just need another set of eyes to help us see.
3. What has God given you to do? What is helping you or keeping you from doing it?