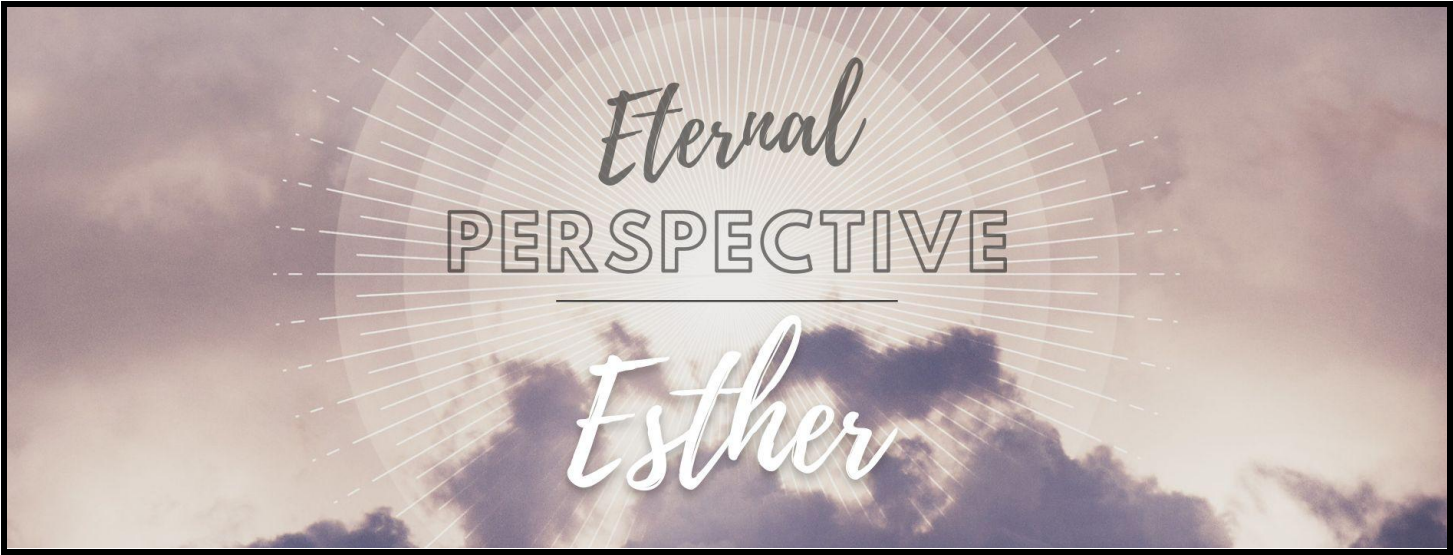


Eternal PERSPECTIVE Esther

BIBLE TEXT | ESTHER 9:20-32

20 And Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, **21** obliging them to keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year, **22** as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor. **23** So the Jews accepted what they had started to do, and what Mordecai had written to them. **24** For Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur (that is, cast lots), to crush and to destroy them. **25** But when it came before the king, he gave orders in writing that his evil plan that he had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. **26** Therefore they called these days Purim, after the term Pur. Therefore, because of all that was written in this letter, and of what they had faced in this matter, and of what had happened to them, **27** the Jews firmly obligated themselves and their offspring and all who joined them, that without fail they would keep these two days according to what was written and at the time appointed every year, **28** that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, in every clan, province, and city, and that these days of Purim should never fall into disuse among the Jews, nor should the commemoration of these days cease among their descendants. **29** Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew gave full written authority, confirming this second letter about Purim. **30** Letters were sent to all the Jews, to the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, in words of peace and truth, **31** that these days of Purim should be observed at their appointed seasons, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther obligated them, and as they had obligated themselves and their offspring, with regard to their fasts and their lamenting. **32** The command of Esther confirmed these practices of Purim, and it was recorded in writing.



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Esther

DEVOTIONAL FOR ESTHER 9:20-32

AUTHOR: MARISSA WYNN

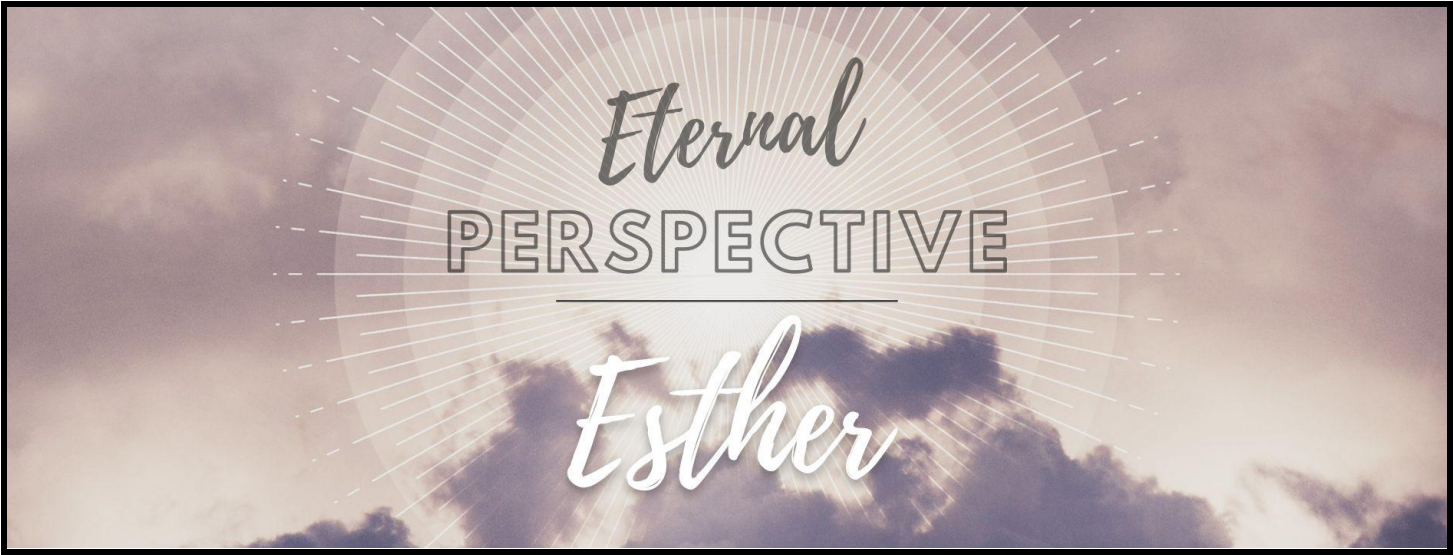
Throughout the whole book of Esther, I feel that there is a shared work and call to duty from both Mordecai and Esther. Mordecai is just an ordinary guy who heard the plot against the king and stood his ground against Haman for his beliefs. Yet none of the good things that end up happening would have been possible if not for Esther and her connection to the king. Both Esther and Mordecai are devoted and obedient servants to God. Esther proves her dedication to God to the point of being willing to die for her beliefs. She knows full well what going to the king and exposing her belief could mean for her; death.

Mordecai wants to initiate a remembrance of their triumph just as Moses and his people did with the Passover. Mordecai and Esther's people were once again delivered from evil by the hands of God. Though God is not mentioned in this book, it is clear that He is at work - from a Jewish woman being chosen as queen to the king of Persia, to the victory of the Jews over their countless enemies (John 14:11). One can compare this victory to the similarities of Exodus when Moses and the Israelites were freed from Egypt - God's mighty hand at work for the many through the few. As in Exodus when the Israelites celebrate their victory over Pharaoh with the yearly Passover, Mordecai wants to establish a celebration for those Jews in Persia and all over to remember yet another deliverance God provided them (Numbers 9:2-4).

Mordecai and Esther, still collaborating for their people, wrote letters to the Jews of the kingdom and surrounding areas, giving encouragement to celebrate and instructions on how to celebrate the victory God provided. These feasts - Passover, Purim - were more than just an opportunity to celebrate, they served a specific purpose. The Lord knew that the Israelites were prone to be forgetful, just as all of mankind (Psalm 78:39-42). We all need to be reminded of where we came from and how the Lord has rescued us. These feasts helped the Israelites to do just that.

We see in this book that there is never a part cast by God that is too big or too small, and never a part that is given without a how-to. Even down to celebrating His victories, God tells us his expectations and how to achieve them to the best of our human ability. Teamwork, dedication, and self-sacrifice that is led by God will always accomplish His purposes for our good and His glory.

Questions:



Eternal PERSPECTIVE --- *Esther*

1. How far will your dedication go?
2. Are you able to trust God even when a situation seems hopeless? Why or why not?
3. How do you celebrate and remember a God victory in your life?