

Day 256 - Psalm 107; 116; 118 ●

The four vignettes of Psalm 107 each consist of a problem, God's provision, and praise.

Per Psalm 118, what attribute of the Lord is everlasting?

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Day 257 - Psalm 125-126; 128-129; 132; 147; 149 ●

Pastor Walt Schmidt's life verse is Psalm 126:5-6.

Why do you think he picked this one?

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Day 258 - Zechariah 9-14 ●

Zechariah chapters 9-14 are two oracles concerning the future. An outline of these chapters follows.

- 1) The First Oracle, 9:1-11:17
  - a) The victories of Alexander the Great, 9:1-8
  - b) The comings of the King, 9:9-10
  - c) The victories of the Maccabees, 9:11-17
  - d) The blessings from Messiah, 10:1-12
  - e) The rejection of the Shepherd, 11:1-17
- 2) The Second Oracle, 12:1-14:21
  - a) The Lord's care for Jerusalem, 12:1-14
  - b) The Lord's cleansing of Jerusalem, 13:1-9
  - c) The Lord's second coming to Jerusalem, 14:1-21

What are the prophecies of Zechariah 9:9-10 about?

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The phrase "In that day" occurs sixteen times in Zechariah 12-14 and refers to the future campaign of Armageddon.

The Feast of Booths will be celebrated by some in the millennium, per Zech. 14:16-19.

During this festival the people live in booths, or huts made of boughs, commemorating God's provision for them in bringing them out of Egypt and through the wilderness. (Lev. 23:33-44).

Day 259 – Esther 1-4 •

Though the name of God is nowhere mentioned in the book of Esther, His sovereignty and providence are evident throughout.

Vashti's dismissal, Esther's regal position, Ahasuerus's indebtedness to Mordecai discovered during a sleepless night, and the miraculous deliverance of the Jews all demonstrate God's control and care for His people. This book also explains the origin of the Feast of Purim, when Jews celebrate the deliverance from Haman. <sup>1</sup>

The events of this book cover a 10-year portion (483-473) of the reign of Xerxes I (486-465). Ahasuerus is the Hebrew form of this name, equivalent to the Persian Khshayarsha and the Greek Xerxes. The events occurred between those recorded in the sixth and seventh chapters of Ezra.

Esther 1 records the divorce of Queen Vashti. She had refused to come at the king's command on the last day of a seven-day drinking feast. Presumably the king wanted to make a lewd display of her before his guests.

In chapter 2, Esther was taken into the king's harem and instructed by Mordecai (her cousin) not to reveal her nationality.

*He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. Now the young lady was beautiful of form and face, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter. Esther 2:7*

Esther's Hebrew name was Hadassah.

Esther was crowned queen four years after Vashti's divorce.

In Esther 3, what did Mordecai do that enraged Haman?

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*Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from those of all other people and they do not observe the king's laws, so it is not in the king's interest to let them remain." Esther 3:8*

The king, not even interested enough to inquire who the people were, gave Haman his signet ring (on which was the official seal, the equivalent of the king's signature) and permission to do whatever he wished with the people and their money. <sup>1</sup>

*"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14*

Verse 4:14 is perhaps the best-known verse in the book of Esther, emphasizing the theme of God's control of all events.

Day 260 – Esther 5-10 •

Esther 4:11 recounts the law whereby any man or woman who comes to inner court of the king palace who is not summoned will be put to death, unless the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. Having learned of Haman's plot to exterminate the Jews, Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace. Esther obtained favor in the king's sight, and he extended to Esther the golden scepter which was in his hand.

The events of Esther 6 illustrate God's sovereign control of government affairs.

Who did the king desire to honor after the sleepless night he spent reading the book of records?

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*“Then Queen Esther replied, “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me as my petition, and my people as my request; for we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed and to be annihilated. Now if we had only been sold as slaves, men and women, I would have remained silent, for the trouble would not be commensurate with the annoyance to the king.” Esther 7:3-4*

When the king returned (Esther 7:8), he found Haman pleading for his life before Esther, who was reclining on the couch at the banquet table. The king placed the worst possible construction on the situation, and ordered the execution of Haman.

So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai.

Mordecai was then given a leadership position. Though the king could not revoke the previous decree Haman had devised, a counterdecree was issued. The Jews were permitted to defend themselves, kill their attackers, and take the spoils. The counterdecree was issued on June 25, 474 B.C. and disseminated posthaste, allowing the Jews about eight months to prepare to defend themselves. <sup>1</sup>

References

<sup>1</sup> *Ryrie Study Bible*, Moody Press, 1995.