

A Sobering Story?

Esther 8-10

1. A decree for life counters the decree for death.
 - Holy war has ceased because Jesus won the final battle.

2. A holy war is waged with victory and vice.
 - Jesus is the only perfect warrior.

3. A celebration of divine providence is established.
 - God can save through divine providence as well as miraculous intervention.
 - If God can use flawed people in imperfect situations to fulfill His promises, He can certainly...
 1. Keep His promise to me.
 2. Use me for His purposes.

My Application

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or small group.

- 1) What surprises you about the ending of the book? Think about how God has completely turned the tables. See Esther 4:1-3 and 8:15-17. Have you ever experienced something like this?
- 2) How does the death and atonement of Jesus provide a way to stop the endless cycle of revenge and retribution?
- 3) Have you ever been hurt by a flawed leader? What does the Bible teach us about who our real leader should be?
- 4) Reflect back over the whole story of Esther. How do you balance God's work in miraculous intervention and daily, divine providence? What does this mean for your life?



Memory Verse

*"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.
For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*

2 Corinthians 4:18