



Bible Teaching Resources

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A Practical Study of ESTHER

STUDY NUMBER ONE – [ESTHER 1:1-22](#)

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Esther 1:1-22 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. According to verses 4 & 5, how long did Xerxes celebrate with his people?

3. According to verse 11, what was the king's purpose in requesting the presence of Vashti?

4. Why do you think that Queen Vashti refused to come and honor the king's request for her presence?

5. Outline how the king responded according to verse 12, and what action that he took in the next verses.

6. Why was immediate action necessary for the king to take, according to verses 17 & 18?

7. Outline the proposal made by the leadership to the king recorded in verse 19.

8. Outline the king's action in verse 22.

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Xerxes is a victim of pride, prosperity, and perversion.

LESSON #2: Because of the greatness of his empire, Xerxes felt that he was unbeatable and invincible.

LESSON #3: Too much wine can ultimately lead to poor judgment.

LESSON #4: Xerxes made a big mistake when he sent seven grown men to fulfill the command of bringing his wife to the stag party.

LESSON #5: The last thing Queen Vashti wanted to do was to be put on display before a drunken audience.

LESSON #6: You will find yourself treading in a mine field when you become furious and you burn with anger.

LESSON #7: "This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God" (James 1:19-20).

LESSON #8: The three charges against Vashti were: (1) "She has not obeyed the command of King Xerxes; (2) "she has done wrong"; and (3) "she would not come."

LESSON #9: The penalty of no access and no position is terribly severe.

LESSON #10: When you are most eager to act is when you'll make the most pitiful mistakes.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWO – [ESTHER 2:1-23](#)

QUESTIONS:

1. Read [Esther 2:1-23](#) and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. After reading [verses 1 & 2](#), see if you can write down some words that describe the emotions of King Xerxes at this time.

3. Summarize the proposal of the king's men in verses 3 & 4.

4. Summarize in your own words how Mordecai and Esther fit into this whole picture, according to verses 5-7.

5. What happened to Esther, according to verse 8?

6. Describe all the preparations necessary for these candidates to enter the presence of King Xerxes, according to verses 12 & 13.

7. Describe what happened to Esther as a result of her time with the king, according to verse 17.

8. What did Esther do, according to verse 20? Why?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: When wine and emotions are involved, you are vulnerable to make some pretty dumb decisions.

LESSON #2: "Alcohol and prostitution have robbed my people of their brains" (Hosea 4:11 NLT).

LESSON #3: "This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God" (James 1:19-20 NASB).

LESSON #4: The five-point proposal of the king's personal attendants appealed to the king and he followed it.

LESSON #5: The providence of God throughout this chapter is so obvious in the way things are beginning to work out. People are being put in place for what the Lord wants to accomplish.

Larson & Dahlen have these principles and applications to the passage:

LESSON #6: God uses the ungodly to accomplish his purposes.

LESSON #7: Submission to authority is valued by God.

LESSON #8: God is always present and at work, even when circumstances seem discouraging or confusing.

LESSON #9: God's primary concern and hardest work focus on transforming the inner nature of people.

LESSON #10: Our times are in God hands.

They apply the truth of these lessons in the following way:

APPLICATIONS

- Focus your energy and attention on your inner nature so that you grow in godliness.
- Place your confidence in God’s revelation of his love, grace, mercy, justice, and care.
- Make God’s glory your daily goal. Then, no matter what happens, you will be at peace, resting in his sovereignty.
- Everyone is under someone’s authority. Learn to submit yourself to those over you.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER THREE – [ESTHER 3:1-4:17](#)

QUESTIONS:

1. Read [Esther 3:1-4:17](#) and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. According to [Esther 3:2](#), why was Haman upset with Mordecai?

3. Because of his anger, what does Haman propose to King Xerxes, according to [verses 8 & 9](#)?

4. According to Esther 4:1, how does Mordecai respond to King Xerxes edict to destroy the Jews?

5. Describe Esther's initial response to Mordecai's strange behavior, according to verses 4-7.

6. Summarize Mordecai's request of Esther, according to verse 8.

7. Describe the danger that Esther faces in this situation, according to verse 11.

8. How does Esther respond to the crisis, according to verse 16?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: So many times in the midst of our celebrations, a crisis is brewing.

LESSON #2: Pride, anger and hatred drive Haman to his own destruction.

LESSON #3: Mordecai, like Daniel, had personal convictions that caused him to refuse to kneel before a human ruler. “Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king’s meat” (Daniel 1:8).

LESSON #4: God honors those who with conviction stand against the culture. He provides and He protects His own.

LESSON #5: “A wicked scoundrel digs up evil, and his slander is like a scorching fire” (Proverbs 16:27 NET).

LESSON #6: “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble and suffering, but take courage—I have conquered the world” (John 16:33 NET).

LESSON #7: Esther’s character, commitment, conviction, and courage shine brightly here.

LESSON #8: Esther’s commitment is just like Paul’s in Philippians 1:20: “according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death” (NASB).

LESSON #9: Esther’s struggle is characterized by that of Jesus in Luke 22:42: “Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done” (NASB).

LESSON #10: “But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:37-39 NASB).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FOUR – ESTHER 5:1-6:14

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Esther 5:1-6:14 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Read verses 1-4 and describe how Xerxes responds to Esther's presence.

3. How did Haman respond to Esther's request for the banquet, according to verses 11 & 12?

4. Describe how Zeresh proposed that Haman take care of Mordecai's disrespect, according to verse 14.

5. Outline God's perfect timing in all of this by summarizing Esther 6:1-3.

6. Summarize how pride caused Haman to misjudge the situation, according to verses 4-6.

7. Outline the humiliation of Haman in verses 10-12.

8. Outline carefully the counsel of Zeresh, Haman's wife, in verse 13.

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: When we pray and proceed in fulfilling His purpose, God will be there to provide.

LESSON #2: A proud person is often blinded by reality.

LESSON #3: "Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honored him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials" (Esther 5:11).

LESSON #4: God's hand moves perfectly in the situation and He is right on time. "That night the king could not sleep" (Esther 6:1).

LESSON #5: Haman's situation is so similar to the experience of Belshazzar in Daniel 5:5-6: "Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way" (NIV).

LESSON #6: God is very much at work in this situation and Haman is not even aware of His ultimate purpose.

LESSON #7: Haman is totally humiliated because of his false assumptions about what the king was proposing.

LESSON #8: "Therefore, I have begun to destroy you, to ruin you because of your sins" (Micah 6:13 NIV).

LESSON #9: “Who is wise? He will realize these things. Who is discerning? He will understand them. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them” (Hosea 14:9 NIV).

LESSON #10: “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7 NIV).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FIVE – [ESTHER 7:1-8:17](#)

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Esther 7:1-8:17 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is Esther’s two-fold request, according to verse 3?

3. How does Esther describe Haman in verse 6?

4. Outline the action of the king in verses 7-10.

5. What four things took place in Esther 8:1-2?

6. Spell out the major issue that now is troubling Esther in verses 3-6.

7. How does King Xerxes respond to Esther's request in verse 8?

8. What did the king's edict do to protect the Jews, according to verse 11?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: "Many people seek the face of a ruler, but it is from the Lord that one receives justice" (Proverbs 29:26 NET).

LESSON #2: "He has told you, O man, what is proper, and what the Lord really wants from you: He wants you to promote justice, to be faithful, and to live obediently before your God" (Micah 6:8 NET).

LESSON #3: God's judgment is swift and certain. "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'" (Luke 12:20 NASB).

LESSON #4: The swiftness of God's judgment is also seen in the judgment of Belshazzar: "This is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN. This is what these words mean: Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians. . . . That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain" (Daniel 5:25-28, 30 NIV).

LESSON #5: "Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord" (Romans 12:19 NASB).

LESSON #6: "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the unfaithful destroys them" (Proverbs 11:3 NET).

LESSON #7: "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord like channels of water, he turns it wherever he wants" (Proverbs 21:1 NET).

LESSON #8: "There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12 NET).

LESSON #9: "Righteousness guards the one who lives with integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner" (Proverbs 13:6 NET).

LESSON #10: Lord, teach me how to turn to You and to trust You completely and to experience the joy of Your triumph.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SIX – ESTHER 9:1-10:3**QUESTIONS:**

1. Read Esther 9:1-10:3 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Describe what is taking place in Esther 9:1.

3. Outline the three things that are said about Mordecai in verse 4.

4. Describe the Jewish victory in verse 5.

5. According to verses 17 & 18, what two things did the Jews do after the victory was theirs?

6. What four things did Mordecai tell the Jews to do, according to verse 22?

7. How did the Jews choose to memorialize these days of victory, according to verses 26-28?

8. Outline the rest of the story for Mordecai, recorded in Esther 10:3.

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: God certainly knows how to lead and liberate His people in times of crisis.

LESSON #2: “When the storm passes through, the wicked are swept away, but the righteous are an everlasting foundation” (Proverbs 10:25 NET).

LESSON #3: Because has made an unconditional promise to the Jews, He will always do what is necessary to protect them in times of great threat or danger.

LESSON #4: “The Lord abhors every arrogant person; one can be sure that they will not go unpunished” (Proverbs 16:5 NET).

LESSON #5: “The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous” (Proverbs 15:29 NET).

LESSON #6: “The one who deals wisely in a matter will find success, and blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord” (Proverbs 16:20 NET).

LESSON #7: “One who has isolated himself seeks his own desires; he rejects all sound judgment” (Proverbs 18:1 NET).

LESSON #8: “A faithful person will have an abundance of blessings . . .” (Proverbs 28:20 NET).

LESSON #9: "In the transgression of an evil person there is a snare, but a righteous person can sing and rejoice" (Proverbs 29:6 NET).

LESSON #10: "The fear of people becomes a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord will be set on high" (Proverbs 29:25 NET).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
