



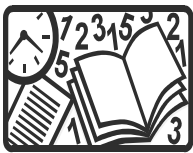
The Chosen Life: Studies in Esther

Esther Ch. 8

Inductive Women's Bible Study – Lesson 8

Haman's execution was swift justice, but the evil scheme he set in motion still threatened. The Jews lived under a death sentence that was sure to be carried out unless someone intervened. Esther's next step was to go *back* to the king and plead for her people. Do we wonder what good can come out of personal suffering? Consider this. Esther's own security was assured. Mordecai was safely nearby. But Esther was no longer willing to be isolated in her privileged, comfortable existence. She could see beyond the palace walls. It has been said that the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. Esther chose to *do* something.

Background In keeping with Persian law, upon being executed as a traitor Haman's estate became the property of the king. Ahasuerus gave it to Esther and she passed it on to Mordecai. The king also gave Mordecai his signet ring (the very ring Haman had used to seal the death warrant against the Jews) making Mordecai his new prime minister. Everything that wicked Haman had acquired through grasping and greedy manipulation was simply given over to Mordecai. What an illustration this is of Proverbs 13:22 which says, "The wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous."



Getting started. Find a quiet place to study. Take your Bible, your lesson and any other study tools you want to use. Plan to spend about an hour each day on your lesson. **Pray.** Take time to settle your heart, focus your thoughts and ask the Lord to help you see with clear eyes.

"Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in Your law." – Psalm 119:18 NLT

Esther Ch. 8 Read the passage, without interruption, two or three times. If possible, read from more than one Bible translation. Briefly describe in your own words what you have read.

With each lesson, a “working” text is provided for your convenience. You can use this to scribble notes, write down word definitions, highlight events—whatever you find useful to your own personal study. The translation used will vary from week to week.

Working Text for Esther Ch. 8

New Living Translation (NLT)

1 On that same day King Xerxes gave the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther. Then Mordecai was brought before the king, for Esther had told the king how they were related. 2 The king took off his signet ring—which he had taken back from Haman—and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed Mordecai to be in charge of Haman’s property.

3 Now once more Esther came before the king, falling down at his feet and begging him with tears to stop Haman’s evil plot against the Jews. 4 Again the king held out the gold scepter to Esther. So she rose and stood before him 5 and said, “If Your Majesty is pleased with me and if he thinks it is right, send out a decree reversing Haman’s orders to destroy the Jews throughout all the provinces of the king. 6 For how can I endure to see my people and my family slaughtered and destroyed?”

7 Then King Xerxes said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, “I have given Esther the estate of Haman, and he has been hanged on the gallows because he tried to destroy the Jews. 8 Now go ahead and send a message to the Jews in the king’s name, telling them whatever you want, and seal it with the king’s signet ring. But remember that whatever is written in the king’s name and sealed with his ring can never be revoked.”

9 So on June 25 the king’s secretaries were summoned. As Mordecai dictated, they wrote a decree to the Jews and to the princes, governors, and local officials of all the 127 provinces stretching from India to Ethiopia. The decree was written in the scripts and languages of all the peoples of the empire, including the Jews.

10 Mordecai wrote in the name of King Xerxes and sealed the message with the king’s signet ring. He sent the letters by swift messengers, who rode horses especially bred for the king’s service.

11 The king's decree gave the Jews in every city authority to unite to defend their lives. They were allowed to kill, slaughter, and annihilate anyone of any nationality or province who might attack them or their children and wives, and to take the property of their enemies. 12 The day chosen for this event throughout all the provinces of King Xerxes was March 7 of the next year. 13 A copy of this decree was to be recognized as law in every province and proclaimed to all the people. That way the Jews would be ready on that day to take revenge on their enemies. 14 So urged on by the king's command, the messengers rode out swiftly on horses bred for the king's service. The same decree was also issued at the fortress of Susa.

15 Then Mordecai put on the royal robe of blue and white and the great crown of gold, and he wore an outer cloak of fine linen and purple. And the people of Susa celebrated the new decree. 16 The Jews were filled with joy and gladness and were honored everywhere. 17 In every city and province, wherever the king's decree arrived, the Jews rejoiced and had a great celebration and declared a public festival and holiday. And many of the people of the land became Jews themselves, for they feared what the Jews might do to them.



Esther 8:9–14

Bible Facts and Information:

[illegible]

Esther 8:15–17

[illegible]

My Research and Observations:

[illegible]



INTERPRETATION – *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as, “Is there a command to obey? A promise to claim? A condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**



APPLICATION – *How does it apply to me?*

We don't study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new lesson, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Esther 8:1–8

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Esther 8:9–14

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Esther 8:15–17

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it. _____



Take A Closer Look

**“Now Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet,
and implored him with tears...”**

Esther 8:3a NKJ

Esther’s own personal crisis had passed, but she knew that her people were still condemned to die unless something was done. She went before the king a second time, imploring him with tears to counteract the evil scheme of the enemy. Can you picture the queen kneeling at the throne, pleading for her people? Esther’s intercession is a stirring model for every believer to follow. This week, let’s take a closer look at the sacred responsibility and privilege of intercessory prayer.

Intercession: The act of interceding, mediating, pleading, or praying on behalf of another or others.

--Webster’s Dictionary

Moses was a mighty intercessor who prayed passionately and *frequently* for his people. They were stubborn and often rebellious, at times pushing Moses to the limits of endurance—but he prayed for them anyway! If you want to pray with humility, forgiveness and heartfelt compassion, learn from the prayers of a man who spoke

face to face with God. You will find some of Moses’ prayers in: Exodus 32:11–14; Numbers 12; Numbers 14:11–21; and Psalm 90.

Ezra prayed for his nation (Ezra 9), confessing their backsliding and asking God for revival. Likewise, Nehemiah fasted and prayed that God would forgive and restore the Jews to a right relationship with God.

Do you want to be stirred to the very core of your soul? Read and reflect on the intercessory prayer Jesus prayed with *you* in mind (John 17).

The church prayed for Peter when he was in jail (Acts 12), Paul asked for prayer on his behalf (Ephesians 6:18–20) and he constantly prayed for others (Romans 1:9–10, Philippians 1:4, Colossians 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 1:2). Needless to say, the Bible makes it clear that intercessory prayer is the responsibility and privilege of every Christian. We must intercede for believers and we must pray for those who need salvation.

**“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”**

Hebrews 4:16

Go over the following scriptures that deal with prayer. Read each one with the purpose of applying it in your prayers for an individual or a specific group of people. What instruction is there for you?

John 14:13 & 1 John 5:14–15 _____

Ephesians 6:18–20 _____

Philippians 1:9–10 _____

James 5:14 _____

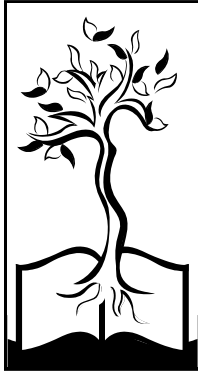
1Timothy 2:1–2 _____

Luke 6:28 _____

Romans 8:26 _____

Esther's concern for her people compelled her to plead their case to the king. She fell down at his feet and implored him with tears. The king listened and granted her petition. Do you share Esther's heart? Who has come to mind as you've been listening to God speak in His Word? Will you take your petition before God's throne of grace and intercede on their behalf?

**“On the day I called, You answered me;
You made me bold with strength in my soul.”
Psalm 138:3**



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

“One concerned person devoted to prayer can make a great difference in this world,
for prayer is the key that releases the power of God.”

— Warren Wiersbe —

