Keys to Experiencing REST

Esther #4 Noah Largent 11/24/18

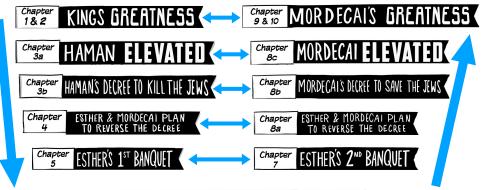
<u>Esther 7:3-6&7</u> ..."If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my



life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request. ⁴ For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king." ⁵ King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?" ⁶ Esther said, "An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. -NIV

Esther 9:20-22 Mordecai wrote these things down and sent letters to all the Jews in all the provinces, both near and far, of King Xerxes. ²¹ He made it a rule that Jews keep the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as special days each and every year. ²² They are the days on which the Jews finally put to rest the troubles with their enemies. -CEV

Structure/Plot of Esther (chiastic structure)



THE STORY PIVOTS

"The story of Esther calls us to trust in the power and presence of God even when, and perhaps especially when, He seems absent and we cannot imagine how he could possibly do what He has promised in His Word." -Karen H. Jobes, <u>The NIV Application</u> <u>Commentary</u>, pg. 211

Experiencing REST in your relationship with God:

In a book full of tension, Esther 9:22 tells us that Jews *finally* experienced a time of rest. The same keys that brought Esther and her people rest are available to us.

Esther 9:22 They are the days on which the Jews finally put to rest the troubles with their enemies. -CEV

Rely on God's truth.

Esther 4:14 "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place"

Ps 119:160 All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

John 8:32 & 17:17 "your word is truth"; "Then you will know the truth, & the truth will set you free.

Endure challenges with prayer and patience.

Esther 4:16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day."

Philippians 4:6&7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Speak up on God's behalf when you have the opportunity.

Esther 7:4 For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated.

<u>Psalm 32:3</u> When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

Trust your relationship with the King.

Esther 7:4 On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace... Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

John 14:1 Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

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