

Reason's To Celebrate

Esther 9 & 10

1. Efficacy of God's Word vs. 1-19

The Jews experienced deliverance from their enemies because of God's providence, as He faithfully kept his covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) and His promise to Moses and His people (Exodus 17:8-16).

As God's church, we experience deliverance from the devil's evil schemes because of God's providence, as He faithfully keeps the new covenant that we receive through Jesus' sacrificial love. (Ephesians 6:10-12)

2. Immanence of God Vs. 20-32

We observe God's sovereignty, as through his grace, He displayed behind the scene intervention in history through people (flawed and even evil), and through events (improbable events which included ethical, and political flaws).

As we face each day, we are reminded that God keeps his promises through interacting in human lives. There are times that God reveals himself in those moments, while other times He does His work through the unseen reality that takes place behind the visible events (Hebrews 11:1); even through flawed and even evil people.

3. God's Eternal Peace 10:1-3

Although King Xerxes and Mordecai received the credit for the temporary peace and rest that the Israelites experienced, the Israelites look forward to the future Messiah whose peace and rest are eternal.

Jesus is the long expected Messiah who conquered all dominion and powers through the cross, and now reigns supreme at Father God's right hand and will. His kingdom will have no end; a kingdom of eternal peace.

Questions:

1. How can you rejoice and thank God for everything he has done for you this week?
2. How can we remember and observe what God has done for us? In what ways can we increase our times of celebrating?

3. “The Jews did not commemorate the day of their victorious battle, but the day on which they rested from their enemies.” The Jews did not make an anniversary of their war but of their rest.
- Do you have a day set aside where you rest and focus on the Lord?
 - Am I enjoying my relationship with God more and more?
 - Am I taking regular times to celebrate God’s goodness with others?
 - Do I Take time for solitude, contemplation, reflection?
 - Do I have special personal worship times engaged in things that suit how God has hard-wired me (nature, music, poetry etc.)?