

# HOW THE TURNTABLES

Esther 9-10



## SYNOPSIS

As we wrap up our Book of Esther series, the day has come. The thirteenth day of the twelfth month has arrived, and the tables have turned. The first edict has been countered, the destruction of the Jews has been re-routed, and the mourning has been turned to feasting. The ending is a reversal of what was meant to be.

Even though the second edict goes out, there are still emboldened enemies that try to attack the Jews, and we read from our passages that the Jews successfully defend themselves, but do not lay their hands on the plunder. They simply act from self-defense. These two edicts clash with one another, and we are reminded of our own story of salvation, how we are people of two edicts. And yet, just as the Jewish people picked up arms to defend themselves from an enemy who hated them, we also have to defend ourselves against an enemy who hates us. Even after we've received the gospel of salvation, we know that spiritual warfare rages on. May we continue to be equipped, ready to fight the battle, but also be ready to wage war against the enemy, canceling the assignments of Satan and his emissaries.

Through the success of the Jews, we notice three things. They were united in their common enemy and common goal, the importance of a leader that propagated their success, and their ownership and responsibility in defending themselves. Yet, the success of the Jews was not solely dependent upon their own initiative. It was also the divine intervention of God that we see throughout the story of Esther.

At the end of the book, we see the Feast of Purim, a celebration that re-tells the story of their deliverance and celebrates their identity as Jews. And as Christians, though we don't have any 'feasts,' we do have sacraments like communion that also re-tell our story of our deliverance and affirm our identity as followers of Jesus. As we partake in communion, may we also be a people of celebration, remembering and rejoicing in all that Christ has done for us.



kairos  
church

## ? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 What category of spiritual vulnerability (don't take it seriously, don't know about it, weak and worn down) do you find yourself in or have been in? If you've been in it in the past, what helped get you out of it?
- 2 How can we be the peacemakers in this world? Starting with those in the church who disagree with us?
- 3 What does it look like to be a good leader? What can we practically do to start regularly for the leaders of our church? Of our country? Of our world?
- 4 How often do you remember times of deliverance from God? How often do you share and retell about them?
- 5 When was the last time you shared your testimony? When was the last time you reflected on your testimony?



## OUTLINE

- 1 **THE CLASHING EDICTS**  
The spiritual warfare that rages on despite the fact that we have received the gospel of salvation reminds us that we are to take spiritual warfare seriously. We are to encourage those who don't take it seriously, equip those who don't know about it, and help those who are weak and vulnerable.
- 2 **THE SUCCESS OF THE JEWS**  
Three observations about the success of the Jews: (1) They were organized with a common enemy and a common goal. We too realize that we have a common enemy (satan) and a common goal (the great communion). May our churches continue to grow in unity! (2) Leadership matters. Mordecai helped greatly in the success of the Jews, and we too must pray for and develop leaders. (3) Their own responsibility. We have the authority to pick up the sword to defend ourselves. May we commit ourselves to training and equipping ourselves for the battle that rages on.
- 3 **THE FEAST OF PURIM**  
The Feast of Purim was a re-telling of their deliverance and the involvement of God and the welfare of His people. It was also to celebrate their identity as Jews in the midst of assimilation into the Persian Empire.



## BIG IDEA

As the thirteenth day of the twelfth month comes to pass, we see the conclusion of the Great Reversal. The edict of death and destruction is countered, the success of the Jews is recorded, and the mourning turns into feasting. As people of God, we too must understand the spiritual battle that we are a part of - that we also have an enemy who hates us and wants to destroy us. And in that, we need to recognize that there are things that only God can do, but there are things that require our own responsibility as well. And as we recognize the spiritual battle that lies before us, we continue to remind ourselves of our own deliverance story and our identity as followers of Jesus.

