



HAVERIM

CCS LADIES BIBLE STUDY





May 1 Luncheon RSVP

so was she

called
by God

for His
glory



Esther 9-10

- Reversal
- Violence
- Celebration

The reality of God's
promise is the
ultimate reason for
celebration.

Reversal

a purple robe of fine linen.^t And the city of Susa held a joyous celebration.^u ¹⁶For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy,^v gladness and honor.^w ¹⁷In every province and in every city to which the edict of the king came, there was joy^x and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear^y of the Jews had seized them.^z

9 On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar,^a the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand^b over those who hated them.^c ²The Jews assembled in their cities^d in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those determined to destroy them. No one could stand against them,^e because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them. ³And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king's administrators helped the Jews,^f because fear of Mordecai had seized them. ⁴Mordecai was prominent^g in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and he became more and more powerful.^h

⁵The Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them,ⁱ and they did what they pleased to those who hated them. ⁶In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. ⁷They also killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, ⁸Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, ⁹Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Vaizatha, ¹⁰the ten sons^j of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. But they did not lay their hands on the plunder.^k

¹¹The number of those killed in the cit-

8:15 Ge 4:12
u Es 3:15
8:1 v Ps 97:1-
12 Ps 112:4
8:7 x Est 9:15
2 Ps 35:27;
R 11:10
x 15:14;
Dt 11:25
Est 9:3
11 Est 8:12
Jer 29:4-7
Est 3:12-14;
Pr 22:22-23
9:2 d ver 15-18
Est 8:11, 17;
Ps 71:13, 24
9:3 f Ezr 8:36
9:4 g Ex 11:3
h 2Sa 3:1;
1Ch 11:9
9:5 i Ezr 4:6
9:10 j Est 5:11
k Ge 14:23;
1Sa 14:32;
Est 3:13; 8:11

9:12 l Est 5:6;
12
9:13 m Est 5:
Dt 21:22-2
9:14 o Ezr 6:1
9:15 p Ge 1:23;
E 8:11
9:16 q Est 1:14
r D 15:1
s 1C 13
9:17 t Ki 3:15
9:19 u Est 3:7
v ver 22;
Dt 16:11,
14; Ne 8:10,
12; Est 2:9;
Rev 11:10

same day. ¹²The king said, "The Jews have killed an hundred men and the ten in the citadel of Susa. Now what is your petition en you. What is your request granted?"^l

¹³"If it pleases the king," answered, "give the Jews leave to carry out this day's work also, and let Haman's body be impaledⁿ on poles."

¹⁴So the king commanded. An edict was issued that they impale^o the ten. ¹⁵The Jews in Susa carried out the work on the fourteenth day of the month. They put to death in Susa many more men, but they did not lay hands on the plunder.^p

¹⁶Meanwhile, the remnant of the Jews who were in the king's court assembled to protect themselves from their enemies. They numbered ninety-five thousand of them. They laid their hands on the plunder and opened on the thirteenth day of Adar, and on the fourteenth day and made it a day of feasting.

¹⁸The Jews in Susa, too, assembled on the thirteenth day and then on the fifteenth day and made it a day of feasting.

¹⁹That is why rural Jews in villages—observe them in the month of Adar^u as a day of giving presents.

Purim Established

²⁰Mordecai recorded the events and he sent letters to all the

1:3 Psa 33:9; 104:2
2 Cor 4:6

1:6 Job 26:10
Ps 136:5-6
Isa 40:22

1:7 Job 38:8-11
Ps 148:4

1:9 Job 26:7
Ps 95:5
Jer 5:22
2 Pet 3:5

1:10 Psa 33:7; 95:5

1:11 Gen 2:9
Ps 104:14
Matt 6:30

BEGINNINGS

³Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day," and the darkness "night."
And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

⁶Then God said, "Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth." ⁷And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. ⁸God called the space "sky."
And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

⁹Then God said, "Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear." And that is what happened. ¹⁰God called the dry ground "land" and the waters "seas." And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and

THE BIBLE does not discuss the subject of evolution. Rather, its worldview assumes God created the world. The biblical view of creation is not in conflict with science; rather, it is in conflict with any worldview that starts without a creator.

Equally committed and sincere Christians have struggled with the subject of beginnings and come to differing conclusions. This, of course, is to be expected because the evidence is very old and, due to the ravages of the ages, quite fragmented. Regardless of what position we take, we should avoid polarizations and black-and-white thinking. We must also be careful not to make either the Bible or science say what it doesn't say.

The most important aspect of the continuing discussion is not the process of creation but the origin of creation. The world is not a product of blind chance and probability. God created it.

The Bible not only tells us that the world was created by God; more importantly, it tells us who this God is. It reveals God's personality, his character, and his plan for his creation. It also reveals God's deepest desire: to relate to and fellowship with the people he created. God took the ultimate step toward fellowship with us through his historic visit to this planet in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ. We can know in a very personal way this God who created the universe. As we open his Word and start getting to know him, we begin the most exciting and fulfilling journey imaginable.

needs over 200 million years to make one rotation. And there are at least one trillion other galaxies in the universe.

It has been said that the number of stars in the universe is more than all the grains of sand on all the beaches of the world. Yet this complex sea of spinning stars functions with remarkable order and efficiency. To say that the universe "just happened" or "evolved" requires more faith than to believe that God is behind these amazing statistics. God truly did create a wonderful universe, and he is worthy of our praise.

God did not need to create the universe; he chose to create it. Why? God is love, and love is best expressed toward something or someone else—so God created the world and people as an expression of his love. We should avoid reducing God's creation to merely scientific terms. Remember that God created the universe because he loves us.

1:1-31 The Creation story teaches us much about God and ourselves. First, we learn about God: (1) He is creative; (2) as the Creator, he is distinct from his creation; (3) he is eternal and in control of the world. We also learn about ourselves: (1) Since God chose to create us, we are valuable in his eyes; (2) we have an important role in the created order that includes ruling over other living things.

1:1-31 Just how did God create the earth? Even among believers, this is an ongoing subject of debate. Some believe God created it in seven 24-hour days. Others believe it happened over millions of years under God's direction. Almost every ancient religion has its own story to explain how the earth came to be. And some scientists try to attribute our origins to natural causes alone. The Bible doesn't tell us how it all happened, but it does show us one supreme God creating the earth out of his great love and giving all people a special place in it. We may never know all the answers to how God created the earth, but we know from Scripture that God did create it. That fact alone gives worth and dignity to each of us.

1:2 Who created God? To ask that question is to assume there was

another creator before God, and who would have created that being? Eventually we are forced to stop asking that question and realize that there has to be something that has always existed: God is the infinite Being who has always been and who was created by no one. This is difficult to understand because finite minds cannot comprehend the infinite. (For example, we can try to think of the highest number, but we can't do it.) We must not limit the infinite God by our finite understanding.

1:2 The statement "the earth was formless and empty" provides the setting for the Creation narrative that follows. During the second and third days of Creation, God gave form to the universe, during the next three days, God filled the earth with living things. The darkness was dispelled on the first day, when God created light.

1:2 The image of the Spirit of God hovering over the surface of the waters brings to mind a mother bird caring for and protecting her young (see Deuteronomy 32:11-12; Isaiah 31:5). God's Spirit was actively involved in the creation of the world. God's care for and protection of us are still active through the Holy Spirit today.

1:3-2:7 How long did it take God to create the world? There are two basic views about the days of Creation: (1) Each day was a literal 24-hour period; (2) each day represents an indefinite period of time (even millions of years).

The Bible does not say how long these days were. The real question, however, is not how long God took, but how he did it. God created the earth in an orderly fashion (for example, he did not make plants before light), and he created men and women as unique beings capable of communication with him. No other part of our created order can claim that remarkable privilege. The important thing is not how long it took God to create the world, whether a few days or a few billion years, but that he created it just the way he wanted it.

1:6 The "space between the waters" was a separation between the sea and the mists of the skies.

“For the fear of (Mordecai,
the Jews) had fallen on
them.”

Esther 8:17, 9:2, 9:3

“...but they laid no
hands on the plunder.”

Esther 9:10,15,16(ESV)

Violence in Esther

1 Samuel 15:2-3, 9

Haverim

When the Spirit of truth
comes, he will guide you into
all the truth.

~~John 16:13

Psalm 131

Exodus 34:6

Celebration in Esther

When you think about the story of your life, what are the ways God has delivered you?

What work has He done in your life that's worth celebrating?

The reality of God's
promise is the
ultimate reason for
celebration.

“The discipline of delight is not pretending. Celebration is not avoidance.”

~~Nicole Zasowski

Philippians 2:6-8

“We wait in hope for the LORD; he is
our help and shield. In him our hearts
rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.
May your unfailing love be with us,
even as we put our hope in you.”

~~Psalm 33:20-22

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