

# Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

## **Monday (November 6) – Esther 1**

The king decrees that the queen's royal position should be given to another better than herself. Although God's people had been taken into exile for their sin, in the working of the Lord's will He is raising up Esther, a woman of humble faith. She is raised to a place of prominence in the kingdom. There is a time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1), and all things will ultimately serve the purposes of God. Through Esther the fullness of time will come when the Father will send forth His Son to redeem His people (Galatians 4:4).

## **Tuesday (November 7) – Esther 2, 3**

Mordecai now enters the picture. He is an older cousin to Esther, and as she has neither father nor mother, Mordecai is bringing her up (v.7). Esther is raised as his daughter in the discipline and the instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Although the king places a crown upon Esther's head, it is truly the Lord that is raising her up for His own purposes (4:14). Despite the royal decree of destruction (v. 12), the Lord works all things for the eternal good of His own people (Romans 8:28).

## **Wednesday (November 8) – Esther 4, 5**

Esther has been obedient to Mordecai by keeping silent about her people. However, the Lord who is raising her up in the kingdom is directing affairs for His own purposes. The time has come to speak. Mordecai says to her "who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (4:14). Esther then calls Mordecai and the Jews to a fast on her behalf, for safety in approaching the king and that the Lord might provide relief and deliverance for His people (v.16). With godly wisdom Esther provides for the king an invitation to feast. This will allow an opportunity for her to act on behalf of the people of God.

## **Thursday (November 9) – Esther 6, 7, 8**

The schemes of man do not thwart our Lord's plan. In this historic record we see how our Lord orders all things in His providence according to His will. Here the Lord raises up Esther and Mordecai for His holy purposes. For, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). Thanks be to God that He has recorded these events in His Word for us all! Let us then come boldly to the throne of His grace to receive His help in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16). May we boldly pray in the words of the Lord's Prayer, "Thy will be done!" For we pray that His will may be done among us also! The Lord provides. So, "the Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor" (8:16).

## **Friday (November 10) – Esther 9, 10**

As God's people gather to defend themselves against their enemies, they lay no hands on the plunder (9:10, 15–16). The Jews had been given permission to do so (8:11), but they restrain themselves. In this way they display the purpose of their action, merely to defend

themselves in the strength of their God. Their neighbors would surely take notice of this behavior.

As the Jews defend their lives against those who hate them, it is truly the Lord fighting for His people. For what is said of Mordecai (10:3) is no less true regarding the Lord's care. He seeks the eternal welfare of his people speaking peace to them all! Let us then hold to His promise always, "Be strong and courageous...It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed" (Deuteronomy 31:7-8).

### **Saturday (November 11) – Job 1, 2, 3**

Although written in the genre of poetry, the record of Job and his trial of faith is real. Gods' truth here speaks to us as His people today. Job is a man blameless and upright. He fears God and turns from evil (v.1). "Does Job fear God for no reason?" (v. 9). Satan questions Job's integrity as a child of God, suggesting that Job serves out of selfishness. Job asks, "Shall we receive good from God and shall we not receive evil?" (v. 10). It is not a moral evil that Job refers to here but calamity. Job speaks rightly that whatever comes our way we may receive as from our loving God, whether blessing or calamity. "Who has known the mind of the lord, or who has been his counselor?" (Romans 11:34).

Job's wife and his friends do not provide reliable guidance. The Lord alone keeps watch over his own always and in all circumstances. The Lord guides with his never-failing Word. "Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me" (Psalm 50:14,15).

### **Sunday (November 12) – Job 4, 5, 6**

"We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful" (James 5:11). Although certainly not without his sinfulness, Job remains steadfast in faith. Scripture reminds us that the trying of our faith produces the ability to endure. God's people must let this endurance have its full work that our faith may become mature. (James 1:3,4).

Job struggles to see beyond his pain. In our suffering we may recall the Man who is acquainted with sorrows (Isaiah 53:3), our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He became as we are in weakness that we might receive the eternal life that is His alone. "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward Him" (2 Chronicles 16:9). No, we are not promised a life without suffering, but with Job we may confidently confess, "I know that my Redeemer lives...and in my flesh I shall see God!" (Job 19:25-26).