

“Rejoicing in Our Lord’s Glorious Story”

Esther 8:1-17

May 28, 2023

I. God’s Salvation Work, Even Behind-the-Scenes

- A. Xerxes had no real interest in saving the Jews.
- B. Yet the Lord had placed Mordecai in the perfect position to issue the saving 2nd decree.

II. God’s Salvation Work Not Just About Us

- A. By preserving the Jews, God was preserving the promised Messianic line, one that would be bring salvation to all nations.
- B. God always works on our behalf but in ways that our always related to His larger salvation story – and not our feelings.

III. God’s Salvation Work Far Superior to Xerxes’

- A. On his own, impotent Xerxes could not figure out a way to undo the effects of Haman’s first decree.
- B. Our Lord had made a decree regarding sin leading to death (Gen. 2:17).
- C. Our Lord’s second decree, the promise of one to crush the serpent (Gen. 3:15), would completely undo the ravages of sin for His people.
- D. Yet our Lord didn’t have to set aside His first just decree, the Divine-Human Jesus took the brunt of that first decree upon Himself.

IV. God’s Salvation Work and the Rejoicing of the Gentiles

- A. The Persians rejoiced – outwardly, at least – at Mordecai’s new glory.
- B. Their rejoicing was a prophetic preview of the nations’ rejoicing in the glory of Christ.
- C. We go on participating in that today.