

Study Guide

Pray: Pray that God will show you something new in this reading of His Word and that you will be fully present as you consider these questions.

Read: Begin by reading Esther 8 straight through, as you would any book. You can read on, but for this study week we will concentrate on this Chapter.

Questions:

1. Despite all the honors and reward, what problem still remained? What did Esther do about it in **V3**?
2. In **V5**, what suggestion did Esther make to solve the quandary of the Jewish people?
3. In **V3-6**, how does Esther's plea for her people reflect her heart?
4. Why was Haman's decree not simply reversed?
5. What did the king authorize Esther and Mordecai to do in **V7-8**?

6. Explain how God provided for the Jews in Mordecai's edict without breaking Haman's edict (**V11-13**).

7. Why do you think the Jews were not able to defend themselves before this second edict?

8. How did the Jews receive this new edict in **V16-17**?

9. How were other people affected and why? (see Zechariah 8:23 and think beyond the reason given in Esther 8:17)

10. In this chapter, one thing is certain: God is faithful to His people. The Jews responded with rejoicing and celebration. Our response to God should be no different. Recall a recent time when God has proven Himself faithful to you in a difficult situation.

For Possible Reflection: Focus verse: / prayer / quote