



“Great Grace and Mercy”

Study: Zechariah 12:1-14

Reading: John 19:1-36

Memory: Psalm 119:116

What Does the Bible Say?

The oracle given in chapter 12 began with a reminder that God was the Creator of the world. Not only did He create the sky and the earth, but He was also the Creator of men. Understanding and believing that God created all of this was vital for what He was about to declare. It revealed that He had the power to do what He says He was going to do. Though humanly, many of these predications seemed impossible, the fact that He was the Creator gave proof of His ability to do as He pleased. One of the reasons that the message of God seemed impossible was because the city of Jerusalem lay in ruins. It was hard to imagine a rebuilt city, let alone a city of greatness which could not be destroyed. The picture given here is one of a future Jerusalem where enemies will attempt to attack it, but the attackers will become like intoxicated men.

They will lose their abilities to fight and not be able to defeat the city because God was going to make Jerusalem like an immovable rock. Even though all the nations of the earth will come together to defeat it, the city will not be moved (vs 1-3).

The victory given to Israel will be a supernatural one. God will make the enemy armies weak and confused. They will not be able to see clearly to attack because God will cause great panic among the attackers. The city of Jerusalem will remain secure while all the nations who attacked them will become like fuel for a great fire. They will be destroyed like stacks of grain that were set ablaze (vs 4-5).

This victory will not just be for Jerusalem, but would be first given to the land of Judah. God will purposely do this so that all of Israel will be exalted and not just the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Even the weakest people in Israel will feel victorious because they will understand that it was God’s power which gave them victory. Any nation who will dare to fight Israel would be destroyed (vs 6-9).

In that day, God will pour out His spirit of grace upon the people as they cry out for His mercy. Though they had done so much to reject God

over the years, one day His desired relationship with His people will be realized. John 19:37 makes reference to this verse after describing how a Roman soldier pierced the side of Jesus. John revealed that this piercing was a fulfillment of verse 10. This gives us a deeper understanding of the grace and mercy of God. Even though the majority of His chosen people rejected His Son, they will one day turn and be the recipients of His great mercy and grace. The fact that they will one day mourn indicates that the Jews will realize what they had really done to God over the years and how this rejection culminated with the rejection of the Messiah. The leaders, who in the past have led the people away from God, will be the ones who now lead the nation towards God (vs 10-14).

How Does this Apply to Me?

In Luke 23:34, while Jesus was hanging on the cross, He declared, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Though it was actually a Roman soldier who pierced the side of Jesus (John 19:31-37), the actions of the Jews led to the crucifixion of Jesus. This was the lowest day in the history of Israel, though they did not realize it at the time. The Jews probably would list the destruction of Solomon’s temple by the Babylonians, the destruction of Herod’s temple by the Romans and the death of over 6 million Jews in the holocaust as the most tragic times in Jewish history. Yet, this passage implies that the period of time that will be mourned over the most is the time that they killed the Son of God. When those other events happened, there was immediate mourning because someone else was doing the actions to them, but at this event they will understand how wicked they were by rejecting the Son of God. This understanding will lead to the realization of the great mercy and grace of God. You would do well to learn from the Jews and their rejection of God, by realizing that you can reject Jesus as well. It is easy to over look how much God loves you and what He is constantly doing for you. It is easy to take His grace and mercy for granted and forget that your sinful actions are like you thrusting a spear into His side. Even though you do this, God still offers you the same grace and mercy that He offers Israel. Embrace this wonderful grace and mercy of God today.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God for His wonderful grace and mercy on your life.*

How is God described (vs 1)?

Why is understanding that God is the Creator of the earth so important?

Why do you think the enemy wants to get churches to turn from the creation truths of the Bible?

What was God about to make Jerusalem (vs 2)?

Why was Jerusalem compared to a rock (vs 3)?

What will God cause to happen (vs 4)?

Why would God keep His eyes open (vs 4)?

How will the people find strength even though they were being attacked from every side (vs 5)?

What will God do for Judah (vs 6)?

What will happen to Jerusalem (vs 6)?

Why was this significant?

Why would God allow Judah to be delivered before Jerusalem (vs 7)?

What will God do for the weakest Jew (vs 8)?

What will God seek to do (vs 9)?

What will this cause the nation of Israel to do (vs 10)?

Why would their mourning be so great (vs 11)?

Why is the recognition of sin so important for a right relationship with God?

Why do you think it states the families will mourn by themselves (vs 12-14)?

“The Lord Is My God”

Study: Zechariah 13:1-9

Reading: Mark 14:26-31, Matthew 25:31-46

Memory: Psalm 119:116

Though I grew up going to a Christian school, following God was not the cool thing to do as a teenager. Those who were rebellious seemed to be more popular and that lifestyle appeared much more attractive to me than following God. This all changed when I went to Bible college. I was expecting much of the same spirit in college, yet the atmosphere was the exact opposite. In college, the cool thing to do was to follow God. Those who were rebellious were more looked down on for their actions rather than exalted. This spirit of seeking God helped me make the choice to follow God with my life.

Today, we will read how God pictured a future Israel where all of His children desire to follow Him with their lives.

What Does the Bible Say?

Yesterday, we read how the Israelites will look to Jesus and realize that they crucified the Son of God. They will mourn over their sins and God will open a fountain for their cleansing. This is most likely a symbolic picture rather than an actual fountain. Whether it is a physical fountain or a word picture, the result is still the same. God will provide a way for men to be cleansed from their sin and we know that is through Jesus Christ, the One whom they pierced (vs 1).

In that day, a reference to the end times, God will remove all the idols and false gods they represent from the land. The false prophets will also be removed from the land. The desire for holiness and righteousness will be so great that parents will choose to have their children put to death rather than watch them lead others into sin. Men will not desire to be false prophets in those days. If a person starts to waiver, those around him will warn him, even to the point of punishing him for his actions. These people who do the punishing will be called “friends” because they would spare a person from great harm. Most likely, these things were mentioned because they were in direct contrast to what had been taking place in the land (vs 2-6).

The end of chapter 13 has been subject to many different interpretations of the years, since the meaning is not exactly clear. We do know that Jesus makes reference to verse 7 in Matthew 26:31 and Mark 4:27 when telling the disciples that they would run away when He was arrested. Because Jesus made this reference, it appears that the shepherd in verse 7 is referring to Jesus. Most likely, this is a picture of how God was going to cause Jesus to be struck down by leading Him to His death on the cross. Even though Jesus stood next to God (was equal to God), He would be treated this way for the good of the sheep. The sheep would also feel abandoned, which is a possible reference to persecution. Yet, in the end, those who were faithful to God would be called His people (vs 7).

Verse 8 mentions how only 1/3 of the people will be left alive while 2/3 will perish. The exact meaning of this is unclear and many commentators believe that the idea presented here is that the majority of people will not be true followers of God. They will not believe in the Shepherd, but those who do believe will be tested. They will be purified like gold and come out of their time of testing calling on His name. Some have suggested this points to the time after the death and resurrection of Jesus, while others believe it points to the time of the tribulation period (vs 8-9).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you willing to boldly declare that the Lord is your God? Are you willing to take a stand against sin and confront others around you who promote teaching that is not according to God’s Word? There will be a day in the future where this will be fully performed, but you don’t have to wait for that day. You can make following God and His way a priority in your life and seek to lead others in that path today. God’s desire, that will be ultimately fulfilled in the end, is a desire He has for you now. He wants to call you His child and He wants you to declare that He is your God. Simply put, He wants you to live in obedience and surrender to Him today so that He doesn’t have to wait until the end times to pour out His blessings on your life.

Thought for the day

What will be open for the Israelites (vs 1)?

Why will they need a fountain like this?

What does a fountain like this represent for you today?

What will God cut off from the land (vs 2)?

Who will God remove from the land (vs 2)?

Why were false prophets so dangerous?

Are there still false prophets today? Explain.

How serious will the people be about righteousness in the land (vs 3)?

How do you think that applies to you today?

What will happen on that day (vs 4)?

What will false prophets realize (vs 5)?

What do you think verse 6 is a reference to?

How is the shepherd described (vs 7)?

What was the sword a reference to (vs 7)?

What was going to happen when the shepherd was struck down (vs 7)?

What do the fractions in verse 8 represent?

Why do you think Scripture makes it clear in many places that those who follow wickedness are more than those who seek after righteousness?

What will happen to the 1/3 who choose to follow God (vs 9)?

What will be the end result (vs 9)?

“Holy to the Lord”

Study: Zechariah 14:1-21

Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-12, Revelation 6:12-17, 21:22-22:5

Memory: Psalm 119:116

What Does the Bible Say?

Chapter 14 continues to look forward to a future time when foreign nations will be conquered and Israel will reap the benefits from all of their spoils. This will happen when all the nations of the world join together to fight against Jerusalem. At first, these nations will be successful and will conquer the city. Jerusalem will be plundered and many of the women would be raped. Half of the city will be taken into exile, though the other half will be allowed to remain in the city. Following this, God will step in on behalf of the people and will fight against the nations. He will physically come to the earth and when His feet touch the top of the Mount of Olives, the mountain will be split and a very wide valley will be formed. This will allow the remaining inhabitants of the city to escape from the terror that awaits the city. It is then that the Messiah will enter the city with his holy ones. It is not clear if the holy ones are the angels, Jewish believers or Christians (vs 1-5).

The sources of light, most likely a reference to the sun, moon and stars, will stop. The fact that there will be no cold or frost points to a complete change in the climate. This will be a unique time because there will no longer be a day and night determined by natural forces. Jesus will be the continual light to the world, though we can not understand this because it will be so different than anything we have ever known. Jerusalem will be completely transformed and there will be a stream that originates in the city with half of the water flowing east towards the Dead Sea and half of the water flowing west towards the Mediterranean Sea. This will not be a seasonal river, like most in Israel, but would have a continuous flow all year round. Jesus will be king over the whole earth and will reign from Jerusalem. All the other religions of the world will be done away with and Jesus will be the center of the worship of all men (vs 6-9).

Israel, which is a very mountainous area, will be flattened and the hills will become plains. This means that the area will be a well watered area, great for growing abundant crops. Though many of the hills would

be gone, Jerusalem would remain on the top of a hill and will be completely safe from ever being destroyed again. Anyone who will choose to fight against Jerusalem will suffer a great plague which will immediately cause their flesh to rot (vs 10-12).

This plague will come upon those who had gathered to fight against Jerusalem. The enemy soldiers will become terrified and cling to one another out of fear when they see this plague. This plague will cause all the animals they use for war to basically disintegrate in front of their eyes. Both men and animals will be subject to this destruction. This will lead to an obvious victory for the Messiah (vs 13-14).

Those who survived this period will do so because they were converted and chose to follow God. They will go up year after year to worship God, following the Jewish feasts. Anyone who will choose not to celebrate these feasts will experience great drought which would lead to a severe famine. It is not clear why the nation of Egypt is specifically mentioned, but it could be that the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) was commemorating the time that the Israelites lived in tents in the desert after the Exodus from Egypt (vs 15-19).

Everything that people use, whether it is the bells on the horses bridles or the pots in a person's home will be "Holy to the Lord." Basically, the worship of God will be a part of everyone's daily life and there will no longer be anyone in the land who seeks to get the people to turn away from God (vs 20-21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

One of the things that makes the study of end times (Eschatology) so difficult and so controversial is that we are not given a clear time line of events. Many prophetic passages give short little glimpses of what things will be like and often cover large periods of time in these summary looks. I believe that these prophecies are given not to be dissected, but they were given to present a sharp contrasts of what the future will look like compared to what it looks like today. For example, the flattening of the hills and water flowing from Jerusalem will be completely opposite of what the land of Israel has been. These changes would have been welcome changes to the initial reader of this prophecy because they pointed to an abundance of food and water, something that Israel continually struggled with. The main point is that the eternal future you have waiting for you is far better than anything you have today. Prophecy should lead to great anticipation of an incredible future.

What will the Israelites be given (vs 1)?

What was going to happen to Jerusalem (vs 2)?

What will God do for Israel (vs 3)?

Where will Jesus stand when he comes to earth (vs 4)?

What will happen (vs 4)?

What will the people of Jerusalem do when this happens (vs 5)?

Who will be with Jesus (vs 5)?

How will things be different (vs 6)?

What will be unique to this period of time (vs 7)?

What will come out of Jerusalem (vs 8)?

What will Jesus be (vs 9)?

How will the land be changed (vs 10)?

What will never happen after this (vs 11)?

What will happen to those who choose to fight against Jerusalem (vs 12)?

What will cause great panic (vs 13)?

Who will be a part of this army against Jerusalem (vs 14)?

What will Jerusalem gain (vs 14)?

What will the survivors do (vs 16)?

What will happen to anyone who fails to celebrate the feasts (vs 17-19)?

What will be inscribed everywhere (vs 20)? Why?

“Great Joy”

Study: Ezra 6:15-7:6

Reading: 2 Kings 23:21-23, 2 Chronicles 30:1-27

Memory: Psalm 119:116

I have gone through periods of time in my life where I have been very disciplined in what I eat and how I exercise. During these times I felt great physically and would try to be determined not to lose my physical conditioning. Yet inevitably, I would experience injuries, or a sickness, or some very busy times and little by little I would find myself not feeling as good as I once did. Though I loved the physical feeling of being in shape, the effort it takes to get back in shape and remain in shape often seems like too much work.

Today, we are going to read how Israel experienced a time of great joy when they gave their hearts over to worship God. Yet, we will be reminded that those times can easily fade if we are not careful.

What Does the Bible Say?

A few weeks ago, we studied through Ezra 6:14 where it described how Haggai and Zechariah were used to encourage the people to finish the temple. With the financial help from the Persian government they were able to complete the temple in the sixth year of the reign of Darius, around 516 B.C. The returned exiles took time to celebrate this completion and dedicate this temple to the Lord. They offered a large amount of animals to the Lord. The priests and Levites took their rightful positions of service in the temple, just as was described in the law (vs 15-18).

The Jews also took care to celebrate the feasts as prescribed in the law. The first one they celebrated was the feast of the Passover. This, along with the Feast of Unleavened Bread, was celebrated with great joy. The Passover was a one day celebration, followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread which lasted for one week. The completion of the temple and the celebration of the feasts caused great joy among the people. They also found joy in the fact that God had worked in the heart of the leader of Assyria who assisted them in the completion of the temple. The Assyrian empire had ended many years before, but under the Persian empire, regions had their own kings or governors who would rule over the land,

but were subject to the Persian empire. What does appear significant about this is that it was the Assyrians who first destroyed much of northern Israel and now it was the Assyrians who were the first to assist them in rebuilding (vs 19-22).

There is a large gap of almost 60 years between the end of Ezra 6 and the beginning of Ezra 7. Ezra 7 describes events that took place in the reign of Artaxerxes who reigned from 464-423 B.C. The reign of Darius ended around 486 B.C. and was followed by Xerxes and Darius II. There is no Bible history recorded during those kings. During the reign of Artaxerxes, Ezra, who was in the high priestly line, traveled from Babylonia, where many exiles still lived, and headed to Jerusalem. He had taken great care to learn the law of the Lord and he had also earned the favor of the king. The hand of God was clearly on Ezra and God was going to use him for the spiritual restoration of Israel (vs 1-6).

How Does this Apply to Me?

It is very interesting to note that every time there was a great revival in the Old Testament and the people started to worship as God instructed them, that this movement of the Spirit was accompanied by great joy. When people are obeying God and gather together to worship and praise Him, the result has always been and always will be great joy. The enemy does not want you to experience this joy and does what he can to cause the mundane things of life pull you away from the joy God has planned for you. This is why it is important for you to not let the things of this world steal your joy. You have to go to work. You have to live life. You can't spend all your time in special events or occasions, but as you make the Word of God a priority in your life, you can meet with God each day and this joy can be part of your daily life. Don't let the things of this life keep you from the joy that God desires you to have.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God for the joy that the Spirit brings into your life.*

* *Ask God to help you live in joy.*

Thought for the day

What was finished in the sixth year of Darius (vs 15)?

What did the Israelites do when this was finished (vs 16)?

What was their attitude during this time (vs 16)?

What did they offer to God (vs 17)?

Why do you think they offered so many sacrifices?

Why did they offer 12 goats (vs 17)?

What did the priests and Levites do (vs 18)?

Why was this significant?

What did they keep (vs 19)?

Why do you think Ezra emphasized that the priest and Levites were clean (vs 20)?

Who took part in this feast (vs 21)?

What was the general attitude of the people during this time (vs 22)?

What had God done to the king of Assyria (vs 22)?

Who was the king of Persia when Ezra started his ministry (vs 1)?

Why is the list of his family given in verses 1-5?

Where had Ezra lived (vs 6)?

How is Ezra described (vs 6)?

What was on Ezra (vs 6)?

Why do you think this was important?

“Improper Authority”

Study: Esther 1:1-22

Reading: Ephesians 5:22-33, 1 Peter 3:1-7

Memory: Psalm 119:116

I was in a church service once where the pastor talked about the importance of wives obeying their husbands. He then did something that still puzzles me today. He asked his wife to stand up and she did. Then he asked her to jump. She reluctantly hopped in the air and he asked her to do it again. I think he was doing this somewhat as a joke, but I came away wondering why he would do that. His point may have been the importance of wives submitting to their husbands, but the way it came across didn't present him as a loving and sacrificing husband.

Today, we are going to read how Xerxes treated his wife and be reminded that over the centuries men have tried to rule their wives by force. We will be reminded that this is not God's desire.

What Does the Bible Say?

King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) reigned over Persia from 485 to 465 B.C. The kingdom at that time extended from Ethiopia (Cush), south of Egypt to India. It also extended to Asia Minor, almost all the way to Greece. Susa was the capital city of the Persian empire at that time and in the third year of his reign, he threw a great feast for all of his officials and servants. Almost every important official and leader of the land had come to this feast to give honor to Xerxes. This was also a way for the king to show off his greatness to all of those he ruled over. This was probably the first great feast thrown by Xerxes in his three years of ruling and he had probably spent quite a bit of time making his palace and grounds as impressive as he possibly could. The palace was filled with the finest furniture and decor available in those days. For this feast, golden vessels and other valuable vessels were used which displayed the great wealth the kingdom had been able to obtain. Those who were invited to the feast had no limit placed on them as to the amount of food and drink they could consume. The king's staff was ordered to give the attendees anything they wanted to eat and drink. While the men gathered together to celebrate, the women also gathered in a palace nearby where they were being entertained

by Queen Vashti (vs 1-9).

On the seventh day of the feast, the king had been drinking a while and he commanded that his eunuchs bring the queen before him. He insisted that she come all dressed up and wearing her royal crown so that all the men could see how beautiful she was. The queen did not like the request. Most likely she did not want a bunch of drunk men gawking at her and making comments about her. Xerxes was not very happy that the queen refused his request and his anger burned deep (vs 10-12).

Xerxes gathered together his key counselors who understood the Persian laws and asked them what he had the right to do to Vashti because of her refusal to obey his order. These men described how the queen had not only committed wrong against the king, but she had also wronged all the officials by not showing obedience to her husband. These men were afraid that the other women of the land would hear of Vashti's disobedience and follow her pattern. They advised the king to oust Vashti from being queen and to appoint a new queen. This would help all the women of the land understand their rightful place to obey their husbands. He sent a letter to all the people of the land ordering that the men be the masters of their own homes and that their wives should live in obedience (vs 13-22).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Why was a story like this included in the Scripture? There are a few reasons for this. The main reason is to setup the eventual display of faith that Esther was going to show by approaching the king. A secondary reason, and a much more subtle one, is to show the improper authority of men the world has pushed over the years. The Scriptural commands given to husbands on how to treat their wives are in great contrast with the actions of Xerxes towards Vashti. Men over the years have used their strength to force women into obedience, while the biblical approach to true manhood pictures that men use their strength to protect their wives and that they humble themselves to love and serve their wives.

Thought for the day

Who was king over Persia (vs 1)?

How big was His kingdom (vs 1)?

What did he do in the third year of his reign (vs 3)?

Who did the king invite (vs 3)?

What did he desire to accomplish with this feast (vs 4)?

How long did this feast last (vs 5)?

How fancy was his palace (vs 6)?

What did he do to impress (vs 7)?

How does verse 8 describe the drinking that took place?

What did Queen Vashti do (vs 9)?

What did the king command (vs 10-11)?

Why do you think he did this?

What was the queen's response (vs 12)?

How did the king respond to this approval (vs 12)?

Who did the king call for (vs 13)?

What did the king ask (vs 15)?

What did these men say the queen's actions had done (vs 16)?

What were they afraid of (vs 17)?

What did they advise the king to do (vs 18)?

How did the king respond (vs 19-22)?

“Great Beauty”

Study: Esther 2:1-11

Reading: 2 Samuel 16:5-13, 19:16-23

Memory: Psalm 119:116

I really enjoy watching movies that are based on real life events and I find it interesting that at the end of the movies, they often show pictures of the real people that were portrayed in the movie. Though the actors look similar to the real people, in almost every circumstance, the actors are more pleasing to the human eye than the actual person. Though outward beauty is often subjective, there have always been certain characteristics that make people more physically attractive than others. This is because most people are very average in their looks and there are a few people who really stand out.

Today, we are going to see that the attraction we have with outward looks in our society today is nothing new. We will see how God chose to make Esther beautiful in order to deliver the nation of Israel.

What Does the Bible Say?

Though Aretexxes was very angry with Vashti, after his anger subdued he realized that he missed having a beautiful queen. Though he most likely wanted to restore her as queen, he realized that was going to be impossible. As an alternative, the young men of the land suggested that there be a search made throughout the kingdom for the most beautiful young virgins of the land. They were to gather all of these eligible women in Susa where they would undergo beauty treatments and be given the opportunity to be the next queen (vs 1-4).

In verse 5 we are introduced to a Jewish man who was living in the Persian capital city of Susa. We are told that he was a descendant of Shimei. Most likely, you probably don't recognize the name of Shimei, but I do not believe that it is coincidence that Shimei and Kish are mentioned. Perhaps those were the names of who he directly descended from, but I believe they were his distant relatives. In 2 Samuel 16, when David left Jerusalem after the rebellion of his son Absalom, Shimei walked along the ridge above David as he was fleeing and threw stones at him. Shimei was a relative of King Saul (Saul's father was Kish). Shimei

didn't like that David took over for Saul. Some of David's men wanted to kill Shimei, but David would not let that happen. Now, over 500 years later, one of Shimei's descendants was going to save many of the Jews from being annihilated (vs 5).

Verse 6 described how Mordecai was taken from Jerusalem when Jehoiachin (Jeconiah) had been captured in 597 B.C. Many scholars believe that the narrative of Esther took place in the mid 400's which means that Mordecai was not the one taken captive, but most likely it was his father or grandfather. Mordecai was responsible for raising his niece Esther who had been orphaned when her parents died. She is described as having a beautiful face and a beautiful figure. Her beauty set her apart from many of the other women and she was one of the women chosen to be taken to the king's palace. Hegai, the man who was in charge of all the young women not only saw the external beauty of Esther, but she also won him over with her lovely character. He saw great potential in Esther and moved her to the front of the line where she and seven other women were given the best place in the harem (vs 6-9).

Esther was living in Susa and it was naturally assumed that she was a Persian woman, unlike many of the other women who were brought in throughout the kingdom. Mordecai told her not to make it known to anyone that she was a Jew. Though we see in the Persian empire that Jews were often well respected, they were normally treated as servants rather than equals. Mordecai kept tabs on Esther by daily walking by the court of the palace to see what was happening to her and the other women (vs 10-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Two things that stand out to me about this passage. First, God used the descendant of a man who had at one time treated the king of Israel. The mercy that David showed to Shimei paid great dividends many years later and is a great picture of the grace and mercy of God. You will read this many times in Scripture where God used people who descend from some very unsavory characters. This reveals that no matter what type of family you come from, God can use you. Second, we see how God makes certain people in certain ways to accomplish certain tasks. The New Testament reveals how believers are given many different gifts and talents to help build the kingdom of God. One of the gifts He had given Esther was natural beauty, and He was going to use that beauty to spare His people.

Why had the king been angry with Vashti (vs 1)?

What happened when his anger settled down (vs 1)?

What does this reveal about choices made in anger?

Who advise the king on what to do next (vs 2)?

What advise did they give the king (vs 2)?

Where were they going to look for a new wife (vs 3)?

Who would be responsible for the women (vs 3)?

What process would these women go through (vs 3)?

What was the ultimate plan (vs 4)?

What key Jewish man was mentioned in verse 5?

Why was he in Susa (vs 6)?

Who was he responsible for (vs 7)? Why?

What happened to Esther (vs 8)?

Why was she taken (vs 8)?

What happened once Esther was in the king's palace (vs 9)?

What did Hegai do for Esther (vs 9)?

What did Esther not tell anyone (vs 10)?

Why do you think Mordecai told her to keep this quiet?

How was Mordecai's love for Esther shown (vs 11)?

How do you think Esther and Mordecai would have felt during this time?

Memory Verse:

Psalms 119:1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! 4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. 5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! 6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. 7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. 8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me! 9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. 10 With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! 11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. 12 Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! 13 With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. 14 In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. 116 Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope!