

# The Providence of God: A Study of the Book of Esther

## Chapter 7- 8:1-8 Study Questions

### Divine Providence and Divine Retribution

*“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.” Psalm 73: 26-28*

*Begin with prayer – asking God to lead and guide you into all truth.*

Read Esther chapter 7 – 8:1-8. (Suggestion – print out the chapter on a separate piece of paper. This may be helpful as you observe, mark, and take notes.) Have fun digging into God’s precious Word!

#### **Observation:**

1. Get the facts:
  - a) Who are the main characters in Esther chapters 7, 8:1-8?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b) When? Any references to time?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c) Where are the events taking place?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d) What is happening?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is Esther’s petition and request from the king?

3. How does Esther approach the king?
  
4. How does King Ahasuerus respond to finding out Haman is responsible for his queen's and the Jewish people's predicament?
  
5. What does Haman do upon seeing the king's anger?
  
6. What is Haman's end?
  
7. In chapter 8:1-8, what does King Ahasuerus give to Mordecai? To Esther?
  
8. In one or two sentences, summarize the paragraphs in chapter 7 & 8:1-8.
  - 7:1-4
  - 7:5-10
  - 8:1-8

**Interpretation:**

1. Ecclesiastes 3:7b says, "A time to be silent and a time to speak." In the first half of this book, Esther remains silent about who she is. Now, Esther speaks and tells the king her petition and request. How would you describe her approach to the king? (See verses)
  - Proverbs 25:15
  - Proverbs 9:10
  - Proverbs 22:4
  
2. How do you see the connection between God's providence and human responsibility in Esther 7-8:18?

3. How do you see Matthew 23:12 in the life of Haman?
  
4. According to Psalm 73:12-20, 27, what is the true end of the wicked?
  
5. We know that the king gives Esther Haman's house and, to both Esther and Mordecai, the authority to write another edict to save the Jewish people. According to Psalm 73:23-24, what is the true end of those who follow God?

**Application:**

1. What has God asked you to do that requires you to risk yourself, and how does this chapter help you obey Him?
  
2. What truths about God's people and God's plan do you learn from chapter 7, 8:1-8?
  
3. Are there principles from these chapters you need to begin to apply in your life? Humility? Discernment? Trust in Divine providence? Explain.
  
4. With eyes of faith, we can see that God cares for us and works ALL things for our good. This should give us hope and comfort! According to Psalm 73:28, what should you do in response to God's divine providence?

*Whom have I in heaven but You?  
 And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.  
 My flesh and my heart may fail,  
 But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.  
 For, behold, those who are far from You will perish;  
 You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to You.  
 But as for me, the nearness of God is my good;  
 I have made the Lord God my refuge,  
 That I may tell of all Your works.*