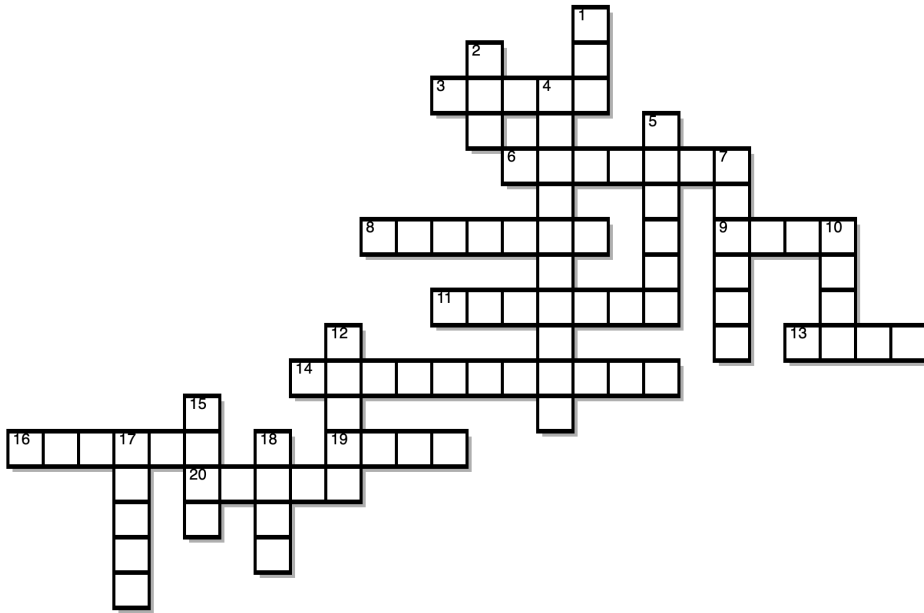


"FROM ASHES TO GLORY"

ESTHER 8:1-17



Across

- 3 The second decree was written and sent in the month of _____ (8:9).
6 This practice often accompanies prayer in scripture.
8 Although King Ahasuerus cannot revoke the first decree he has made, he can institute a _____-decree.
9 What is the season of the Church we are in right now?
11 It was Persian custom during that time for the property of a _____ to be returned to the king.
13 Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of the colors of Persia, the first of which was _____ (8:15).
14 The lie of sin is that you can continue in it without there being any _____.
16 Mordecai rode went out from the presence of the king wearing a robe of fine linen and _____ (8:15).
19 The second decree was sent by men who rode on horses that were bred from the royal _____ (8:10).
20 Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of the colors of Persia, the second of which was _____ (8:15).

Down

- 1 God's decree against _____ and the penalty of death that is the result cannot merely be repealed.
2 Satan's lie about sin is that we will surely not _____ (Gen. 3:4).
4 The _____ were the ancient enemy of God's people.
5 Both Haman and Judas us this method of payment to set in motion their insidious betrayals.
7 Mordecai went out from the presence of the king wearing a _____ crown (8:15).
10 God says to Israel: "Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you came out of Egypt, how he attacked you on the way when you were faint and weary, and cut off your _____," (Deut. 25:17-18)
12 Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the _____ of Haman (8:1)
15 "many from the peoples of the country declared themselves _____" (Esther 8:17).
17 The book of Esther seeks to explain how the Jewish feast of _____ came about, a word meaning "lots".
18 Ahasuerus gave Mordecai the _____ of Haman. (8:1)

1. What is the toughest part of seeking a raise: (a) The asking? (b) The amount? (c) Waiting for an answer? When have you had to do that? What answer did you get? How will you approach the boss next time?

2. "It's all over but the shouting"—How might that gleeful commentary from the sports world fit this chapter? What's now almost over? What's the shouting all about?

3. Before the victors dispatch Haman's estate (vv. 1-2; see 5:11), what must be dispatched first? Why the anguish for Esther, who is now quite secure in the king's favor (vv. 1-6)? What is the problem with getting the king to reverse the death sentence on the Jews (v.8)?

4. What does the new edict do for the Jews? For others? What seems like "deja vu" or "same song, second verse" about this edict (see 1:19; 3:1-4:3; 6:10)? What is particularly symmetrical about its timing (v.12; see 3:7,13)?

5. Verse 17 starts a new theme song. What is it? What is the principle for evangelism here?

6. The Jews had nine months to prepare their defense (vv. 9-12). What could you accomplish in the next nine months that would put your life in better order? What part of that re-ordering will you do this month?

7. If you were in a position to destroy your enemy without fear of the consequences to you, would you take advantage of the situation? Why or why not?

8. If the rules of the game are switched on you at halftime, how do you react: (a) Cry foul? (b) Suit up for battle anyway? (c) If you can't fight 'em, join 'em? When have you faced such a dilemma?

9. Would the way you react to the good things in your life give honor to God and convert anyone to the Christian faith? Why or why not?

S V C C P L U N D E R T G B H B Q N N X V
 U E A O N O I T C U R T S E D O N Y T Y Y
 R N L U T B R T K B B Q M Z K B L K B T L
 E G A R J F D G P V T B H O N O R I R Y Y
 U E M I L T E L M L T N B Z D J V V D V D
 S A I E Z K R A Q E B B M A Q Y J E K A M
 A N T R R E D D R M C N D Q I V M D R X Y
 H C Y S H J B N D K J I D E D P M G L Y J
 A E D T I A C E D R O M T E L K O K L N W
 W D S E J Z S S V J N W L S R A D I D T X
 J E G R V O R S Y R O I Z D U D E B H J V
 R B A D P I T J W D V Y X D M J N V H T Y
 E D T X T B S M S E C R E T D D N I E N E
 A T E S B P F E R A I D N I G O D S K R N
 A G A G I T E A D C B Z D J I D W L T M R
 S X B T P G N W V Q R Y M T E I T B T D P
 R A G R S C N N R O L O A N F S S Y D Q R
 J T D Y E E K E A Z R V S T W Q U U B N G
 Y L V U T P T W T M L P W S P W R S S J L
 D X Q D J Q T M N A A N Y N L Q J W W A K
 Z M Y R J P K T S M T H J Q Z N M L Q J Z

Ahasuerus
 Mordecai
 Esther
 Haman
 Secret
 Revealed
 Hidden
 Exposed
 Justice
 Signet
 Estate
 Wept
 Agagite

Devised
 Favor
 Revoke
 Calamity
 Destruction
 Kindred
 India
 Ethiopia
 Couriers
 Plunder
 Adar
 Vengeance
 Swift

Susa
 Gladness
 Joy
 Honor
 Fear
 Holiday
 Jesus
 Deliverance
 Cross
 Judas
 Salvation