

Fasting Part 10

The Scriptures in The bible speak about fasting, and as we read and meditate on the Word of God in these Scripture we can apply that in our lives.

Fasting is a powerful weapon in facing persecution. The people of God along the history who lived their life to worship God and to serve Him they were persecuted by the devil who used people to do that. They faced that persecution with prayer and fasting, presenting their requests and petition unto God, who ultimately delivered them and saved them.

The Jewish that God sent into exile to Babylon and later on they became under the Persian Empire, they faced persecution and the enemy wanted to annihilate them. That happened during the reign of the king Ahasuerus. One of their enemies was Haman who was elevated by the king and had given a seat of honour higher than that of all the other nobles. *"1 After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him. 2 And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence. 3 Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment? 4 Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew."* (Esther 3:1-4 KJV) Mordecai would not kneel down because he was a true worshipper of God who would bow down to God and serve Him only. Therefore, we as true worshipper of God we bow down only to God and to Him alone we worship and serve.

"5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath. 6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai." (Esther 3:5-6 KJV) Haman truly worked out to annihilate the whole Jewish. He set a day and a month to do that, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar (now is March), and was able to convince King Ahasuerus to issue a decree to do that as we can read here: *"7 In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar. 8 And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. 9 If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries. 10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy. 1 And the king said unto Haman, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee. 12 Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman*

had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring. 13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey. 14 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day. 15 The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed." (Esther 3:7-15 KJV) Now you can see clearly how the devil use evil people and circumstances to wage a war against the people of God. Therefore you need to be aware that the devil fighting is real and is working mightily to destroy Gods church.

Mordecai and all the Jewish who heard the King's commandment they resort into mourning, crying to God, prayer and fasting as we read here: *"1 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry; 2 And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. 3 And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes."* (Esther 4:1-3 KJV) Therefore, and in the same way, need to understand that the devil would always plan to destroy God's people and God's church, therefore when we hear that the devil is moving to destroy we need to come united in prayer and fasting to the Lord asking Him help and deliverance in our time of need.

Hadassah who was also called Esther was Mordecai cousin. He adopted her as his daughter after the death of her parents, and later on she became the wife queen of King Ahasuerus. How she was brought to the citadel of Susa and became the wife of the king we can read the whole events here: *"5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; 6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. 7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter. 8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women. 9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women. 10 Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it. 11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her."* (Esther 2:5-11 KJV) Esther hid her Jewish origin from the king and the people of the citadel so that God's purpose in her life would be fulfilled. In the same way, God had a purpose for each and everyone of us life and we need to be ready and prepared to do that very purpose of God in our lives at the time that we are called to do that.

The news of what had happened about the evil plan of Haman reached Esther in this way: *“4 So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not. 5 Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was. 6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate. 7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. 8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people. 9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.” (Esther 4:4-9 KJV)* Now Esther she needs to act in faith and serve God to save His people. The devil was using Haman to persecute and annihilate the people of God in exile; therefore the people of God should act in faith. They already started as we read, great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing, petitioned their requests to God to act and to intervene to save them. *We need to do the same when we can see the devil is attacking the brethren and the church of God, that we should rise up in prayer and fasting and in full willingness to achieve the purpose of God.*

“9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai. 10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai; 11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.” (Esther 4:9-11 KJV) It seems here that Esther was showing fear and afraid to face the situation; she was trying to escape and to justify her drawing back in contradiction to the Word of God, *“38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him..” (Hebrews 10:38 KJV)* *Don't act in this way; when you have received all the blessings of God and then the time God is calling you to serve Him you want to escape, then that is really unacceptable and ugly in the sight of God.*

“12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words. 13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. 14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:12-14 KJV) Mordecai rebuked her and reminded her about God's calling in her life and how she needs to serve Him wholeheartedly. *The message is also for you, don't be afraid and do not draw back to serve God and do your part as Christian. If you are blessed now by the Lord and others in trouble, you need to do something to help them and to help yourself; don't think that you are safe and spared troubles if you fail to do your part as Christian toward God and toward His people.*

That rebuke was effective to mobilize Esther and I believe it is effective for you to mobilize you to do God's will. *“15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, 16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. 17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.” (Esther 4:15-17 KJV)* Three days prayer and fasting without food and drink was the only solution for the people of God to face that devastating threat. ** Take heed and commit yourself to do your part as you obey God and do His will.*

** As a church let us adopt that in our life, that when we are faced with hazardous condition that the whole church will be called to pray and fast in facing the threat of persecution.*

** Fasting we do it as a commitment and responsible behavior toward God and toward His people in facing the hardship of life and the threats of persecution.*

Now a day's no one like to suffer and take some responsibility toward God and toward other people who are under the pressure of the enemy, the devil. Esther was the queen, so she thought that she is safe and why should she suffer for others. Because it was risky to go to the king without being called, so she was afraid that she will be losing her position and her life for she said, *“11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.” (Esther 4:11 KJV)* Many they don't like to take risk while they are serving the Lord. But that is not possible, the Bible tells us that, *“12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” (2Timothy 3:12 KJV)* ** We are here on earth waiting for the Lord to come and take us. But while we are waiting for the Lord the persecution will come from the devil and attack us. But we should not escape the responsibility to face persecution, for the LORD will be with us to aid us and to support us.*

** So as Esther responded to the call of God in her life. Today the LORD had called you to stand firm and to do your part. Feel the pain of others and take the step forward to help them.*

When Esther responded to God's call the LORD worked it out for her behalf as we can read here: *“1 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house. 2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. 3 Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.” (Esther 5:1-2 KJV)* After three days of fasting, Esther received favour from the LORD as she obeyed the call of God and the king accepted her and gave her assurance that he will grant her request. *The same for you as you obey God and accept to do the task when you pray and fast the LORD will grant you favour and give you your request.*

Esther invited the king for a banquet and asked him to bring Haman, therefore both of them went, and Esther requested the king to come for another banquet in the next day so that she will tell him what her request is.

Haman went home happy because he was the only one invited by Queen Esther and he boasted about that. But he was enraged when he met Mordecai at the king's gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence. Haman was filled with rage against Mordecai. However, ***"14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made."*** (Esther 5:14 KJV) *The devil and the people who worked with him they are in rage against us and the church of God, therefore we need to be alert and willing to live in Godliness and stand for God and respond to God's call and do His work and the ministry that He is calling to achieve.*

But in the next day Mordecai was honored. That had happened in this way: ***"1 On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. 2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. 3 And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him. 4 And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. 5 And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in. 6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself? 7 And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, 8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: 9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour. 10 Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken. 11 Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour. 12 And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered. 13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him. 14 And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hasted to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared."*** (Esther 6:1-14 KJV) So now we can see clearly

that God is moving in behalf of His people. The power of united prayer and fasting now is very clear in this event. The king was not able to sleep and he asked for the book of chronicles to be read to him. God ordained all that to happen, and he opened the king's eyes to see Mordecai and to honour him. That was the first strike of God against the evil power of darkness that was working against His people. And He made it very clear point to the enemies that they cannot stand against the people of God. *In the same way, as we stand with God and united in prayer and fasting to face the threat of the devil and the wicked people with him, the Lord shall move on our behalf and strike the power of darkness and the evil schemes of the enemies of God.*

Now take heed to trust God fully. The Lord will do the same for you. Even you are facing big problem and huge force but God can help you in all that. He will fight the battle for you and combat all the evil forces. You will see and witness that in your eyes as you have faith and go to Him in prayer and fasting and in the name of Jesus.

There is power in fasting unto the Lord when we are faced with hard trial and persecution. God will work powerfully in our behalf as we draw near to him in prayer and fasting committing our lives once again to Him to serve Him, worship Him and live our lives fully unto Him.

The people of God fasted in Susa when they were faced with the evil plan of Haman to annihilate the whole Jewish. The Lord truly worked it out for their benefits. The Lord lifted up Mordecai and honored him over Haman, and the evil plan of Haman failed and Haman finally got punished and executed as we can read here: -

"1 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. 2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom. 3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: 4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage. 5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? 6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. 7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king. 8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. 9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon. 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified." (Esther 7:1-10 KJV) Haman was hanged on the same gallows that he prepared for Mordecai. *As we pray and fast to face the persecution and the threat that we are facing, God will work it out for our behalf, that the schemes that our enemies had prepared for us they will fall in it and got punished and disciplined by the Lord.*

My Dear and Beloved: The prayer and fasting of the people of God in Susa was not only resulted that Haman was hanged but the whole plan of the evil one was reversed as we can read here:

1. *“1 On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her. 2 And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.” (Esther 8:1-2 KJV)* What Haman had from estate, position and authority was given to the Esther and Mordecai. The same for us when we obey God's calling and stand firm in prayer and fasting against the work of the evil one, the Lord will take away the good things from our enemies and give them to us.

2. *“3 And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews. 4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king, 5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces: 6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred? 7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews. 8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse. 9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language. 10 And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries: 11 Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey, 12 Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar. 13 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies. 14 So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace.” (Esther 8:3-14)* The deliverance not only was granted to the Jewish in Susa but extended to other provinces. As we pray and fast God will bring salvation and deliverance not only in our mid but that will extend to the rest of the congregations of the church and to the people of God in other places and they will got

delivered and released from the plan of the devil in their lives. When Haman and his people casted the lot to put the date to devise their evil plan against the people of God, the date that they decided to execute their evil plan was the same date that God used to bring judgment upon their heads. Our Lord can reverse the evil plan of our enemies and can turn it into their own heads.

3. *“15 And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. 16 The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour. 17 And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.” (Esther 8:15-17 KJV)* There was great joy and celebration for the event that had happened, and many people of other nationalities became Jews because the fear of the Jews had seized them. In the same way, as the Lord will work miraculously in our mid, we will have great rejoicing and many they will come to the knowledge and to the fear of the Lord when they witness clearly His grace in our lives.

4. *“1 Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)” (Esther 9:1 KJV)* The people of God who were oppressed by the others, the tables were turned and the time had come now to be relieved and got the upper hand as we can read here: *“2 The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people. 3 And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. 4 For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater. 5 Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them. 6 And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men. 7 And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha, 8 And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha, 9 And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha, 10 The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand. 11 On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought before the king. 12 And the king said unto Esther the queen, The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? now what is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: or what is thy request further? and it shall be done. 13 Then said Esther, If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do to morrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows. 14 And the king commanded it so to be done: and the decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons. 15 For the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and slew three hundred men at Shushan; but on the prey they laid not their hand. 16 But the other Jews that were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey, 17 On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and*

gladness.” (Esther 9:2-17 KJV) In the same way, as we continue to pray and fast and persevere the tables will be turned for our behalf and we will get the upper hand over our enemies.

5. “18 But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. 19 Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another. 20 And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far, 21 To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly, 22 As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor. 23 And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them; 24 Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them; 25 But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. 26 Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them, 27 The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year; 28 And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed. 29 Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim. 30 And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth, 31 To confirm these days of Purim in their times appointed, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry. 32 And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book.” (Esther 9:18-32) It became a great day to be remembered and for a joyful celebration.

The same for us today, as we mourn and fast at the present time, we will rejoice and celebrate the victory in the future and we will receive the relief, the deliverance and the plunder as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God in heaven I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that brings hope and assurance in my life.*

Confess now your sins and renounce them. Repent from your irresponsible and careless attitude toward God and toward His work and toward doing His will.

Lord I take courage from your word in facing the threat that is ahead of me. LORD I trust you that you will fight the battle for me and defeat my enemies. Lord gives me more faith and gives me the courage to stand firm. I pray and fast and put the following situation _____ in your hand, LORD to solve it to me.

Lord, I commit myself from this day on to go forward and do the things that you want me to do for your sake and the welfare of your people and your church. Lord give me more faith and give me the courage to do that, protect me and grant me the favour from you and from the people as I pray and fast and commit my request to you.

Lord as a church as we pray and fast putting this problem in your hand _____ trusting you that you will work it out for our behalf and we will receive from you victory, relief from our enemies, plunder and rejoicing in Christ our Lord.

Lord enable us as a church, as we pray and fast, that you will go before us and deal with all the obstacles and the enemies that are trying to hinder our progress and our service unto you. Lord we ask you to go before us, fill us with the Holy Spirit, and enable us to continue to evangelize and to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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