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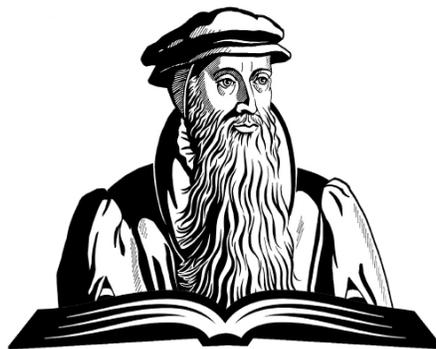
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 99

Esther—The Jews Saved

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
- 99. Esther—The Jews Saved**
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 99

Esther—The Jews Saved

The Book of Esther, chapters 6 through 10

Memory Verse

“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.”

Psalm 37:1–3

A Sleepless King

“On that night could not the king sleep.” Chapter 6 begins with another seemingly insignificant event which had enormous consequences. Again we see how even the smallest events are guided by the Lord. This is called “God’s Providence”—the invisible hand of God which accomplishes his purposes, usually without being noticed or recognized even by the very people whom God uses. Perhaps the reason why the name of God is not mentioned in the Book of Esther is to show us how God is always at work, even when he is not mentioned or recognized.

Also today, the Providence of God is at work behind the scenes, making even the sinful actions of ungodly men to work together for the coming of his kingdom, the glory of his name, and the salvation of his people. What a blessing to belong to his people! Do you sometimes see a glimpse of God’s Providence at work?

Instead of calling for musicians or entertainers, the sleepless king called for a scribe to read from the books of the chronicles of his kingdom, where the important events were recorded. As the scribe was reading, the king suddenly sat up. The scribe was reading about how Mordecai had saved the king’s life. The king interrupted, “What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this?” It was noticed that nothing had yet been done for Mordecai. At this point, the king heard someone in the court waiting to see him. It was Haman coming to ask the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows Haman had built. Before he had a chance to ask his question, however, the king asked Haman, “What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour?” (Esther 6:6). Haman thought to himself, “The king means me! Haman, the king’s best friend!” Haman’s mind was spinning. He thought the king wanted to honour him! This would be the best day of his life! Rashly, Haman suggested that the man whom the king delighteth to honour should wear the king’s robe and crown, ride the king’s horse, and be led through the streets of the city by the most important prince.

A Proud Man Humbled

At this point, events unfold very rapidly. The king ordered Haman to take his crown, his robe and his horse, go find Mordecai, and lead him through the city. What a shock this must have been for proud Haman. But Haman had to do it. After performing this task, he rushed home, “his head covered,” too ashamed to look up. At home he described the terrible events. His heartless friends, and even his wife, predicted out loud that he would probably perish. Before Haman could gather his thoughts, a servant was at the door telling him to make haste and come to the banquet which Queen Esther had prepared. At this banquet, Queen Esther pleaded to the king for her life and the life of her people. When the king asked who would dare to try to harm her, Esther pointed at Haman and said, “The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman.”

The Jews Saved

The king stormed out into the garden in anger. Haman clumsily fell on Esther’s couch to beg for his life. The king returned, and seeing Haman in that position, ordered him to be killed immediately. A servant mentioned the gallows which Haman had set up for Mordecai. The king said, “Hang him thereon.”

There are no miracles recorded in the Book of Esther. Yet we see throughout the book how ordinary people and ordinary events work together in a miraculous way, fulfilling God’s plans to bring good out of evil. In a way which only God could orchestrate, the seemingly invincible Haman was suddenly put to death, and his wicked plans to destroy the Jews were actually used by the Lord to bless his people. This is usually how God saves his people. Jonah was saved by being swallowed by a large whale. The disciples lost all hope when Christ died, but that death was precisely what saved them, and that is only what can save us.

God’s Providence

It is easy to see God’s Providence when good things are happening, but what about when bad things happen to us? Are these things necessary to humble our pride? Do we need such things to happen in order to learn to depend on God alone? After the fall of Jerusalem, Jeremiah said “But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For He does not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men...Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord” (Lamentations 3:32–40).

Review Questions

Esther chapter 6 and 7

1. Which of these did Haman not suggest to the King?
 - a. Let him wear the king’s robe and crown.
 - b. Let him dine with the king and queen.

- c. Let him ride the king's horse.
- d. Let him be led around by the most noble prince.

2. Haman's friends and his wife told Haman that he would surely fall, because

- a. Haman was out of favour.
- b. Mordecai was Esther's cousin.
- c. Mordecai was of the seed of the Jews.
- d. The king knew of Haman's gallows.

3. Who said this and to whom was it said?

"What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour?"

_____ said this to _____
"Let the royal apparel be brought, which the king useth to wear, and... array the man withal, whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city."

_____ said this to _____
"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."

_____ said this to _____

Esther chapter 8 and 9

4. Who became president instead of Haman? _____

5. A law sealed with the king's ring could not be reversed. How were the Jews saved from destruction on the 13th day of the 12th month? (Esther 8:11)

6. Which other law was written by Mordecai? (Esther 9:20–22) What was the new feast day called? What does this name refer to?

Discussion Questions

1. Haman was filled with self-love and wanted to be lifted up above everyone else. This led to his downfall. Has your pride ever blinded you or tripped you up? What does Paul teach us in Philippians 2:3, 4?

2. Persian laws could not be revoked once they were sealed. God’s law is that “the soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:20). Is this law also irrevocable? What “other law” did God establish so that sinners can be spared? See Romans 8:2, 3.
