



Bible Reading Guide March 2016

Esther 以斯帖記

Esther is one of two books in the bible which is named after a women. It reflects the life of diaspora Jews under threat. As an alien living in the Persian winter capital, Susa, Esther becomes the Queen. Mordecai highlights to her the ascent to the throne is God' provision for the salvation of her people. There is a reversal of fortune for individuals and communities as the story unfolds.

以斯帖記是聖經中以女性命名的兩本書之一。它反映了散居在異地的猶太人，他們生活在威脅之下。作為一個異國人，以斯帖生活在波斯的冬季首都、書珊城，她成為了王后。末底改告訴以斯帖，她之所以成為王后，是神為她的族人將得救贖的預備。這故事逐漸的發展，見證了幾個人和社群的生命逆轉。

Day 1	<p>Read Esther 1. How wide is the rule of King Xerxes? Who are the King's 7 days banquets for after his 180 days celebration with the nobility? What does the King wish to show from these two banquets? What is Queen Vashti's punishment as suggested by the King's nobles? Why does the King agree with them?</p> <p>閱讀以斯帖記第一章。 亞哈隨魯王的版圖有多大？國王與貴族們慶祝了一百八十日後，他為誰設筵席七日？國王想從這兩個筵席表明什麼？ 貴族們建議王后瓦實提應受的懲罰是什麼？為什麼國王同意他們的看法？</p>
Day 2	<p>Read Esther 2. Who is Hadassah? Why has she been taken into the palace? Why is Esther popular? Why does she hide her family background? What has Mordecai reported? Who is at work at the removal and the installation of the Queen?</p> <p>閱讀以斯帖記第二章。 誰是哈大沙？為什麼她被帶進宮中裡？ 為什麼以斯帖得別人喜悅？為什麼她要隱瞞她的家庭背景？ 末底改告發了什麼？ 其實，誰在作廢除和設立王后的工作？</p>
Day 3	<p>Read Esther 3. Why does Mordecai disobey the King's command by not kneeling down before Haman? What drives Haman to seek his vendetta and how does he try to achieve it? What is the King's edict about?</p>

	<p>How do I deal with the dislike of others if it may drive me to seek revenge?</p> <p>閱讀以斯帖記第三章。 為什麼末底改違抗國王的命令而不向哈曼下跪呢？ 什麼驅使哈曼去報仇？他用什麼方法想去實現它呢？ 國王的諭旨提到什麼？ 如果對別人的反感可以驅使我去尋求報復，我應如何處理它呢？</p>
Day 4	<p>Read Esther 4. What does Mordecai request Queen Esther to do? What are the reasons which Mordecai gives to Queen Esther to persuade her? What would be my basis when giving advice to my children? What has Queen Esther requested Mordecai and her people to do and Why? Have I been used by God for an opportunity like Queen Esther?</p> <p>閱讀以斯帖記第四章。 末底改要求王后以斯帖作什麼？ 末底改對王后以斯帖的勸告是根據什麼原因？ 我對孩子的建議是以什麼為基礎的？</p> <p>王后以斯帖要求末底改和她的族人作什麼？為什麼？ 我曾被神使用過如王后以斯帖一樣的情景嗎？</p>
Day 5	<p>Read Esther 5. What has Queen Esther overcome by coming to see the King? (1:10-12, 4:9-11) How has Queen Esther outwitted Haman with her plan? Why has Haman followed the advice of his wife and friends?</p> <p>閱讀以斯帖記第五章。 王后以斯帖要克服什麼才來見國王？（1：10-12，4：9-11） 王后以斯帖如何以她的計劃而智勝哈曼呢？ 哈曼為什麼聽取他妻子和朋友的建議？</p>
Day 6	<p>Read Esther 6. What does the King find out which seems to be a coincidence that night? What drives Haman to fall into the trap which God is at work behind the scene? What does Haman need to do for Mordecai and how does Haman feel about it? Do I believe God is in control of world history and politics as suggested here?</p> <p>閱讀以斯帖記第六章。 那天晚上，似乎是一個巧合，國王找到了什麼？ 哈曼被什麼推動而掉進了神在幕後佈置的陷阱？ 哈曼要為末底改作什麼？哈曼的感受如何？ 這裡提出神在控制世界的歷史和政治的改變，我相信嗎？</p>
Day 7	<p>Read Esther 7. How does Queen Esther plead to the King? What is Haman's last downfall? How does the King's fury making the reversal of fortunate for Haman?</p>

	<p>閱讀以斯帖記第七章。 王后以斯帖如何向王懇求？ 哈曼最後垮台的原因是什麼？ 國王的憤怒如何使哈曼的命運逆轉？</p>
Day 8	<p>Read Esther 8. How does Queen Esther use Persian Law to save her own people? (8:8) What is this new edict about which will take place on that day as the previous edict? How I do use my worldly knowledge for a godly gain?</p> <p>閱讀以斯帖記第八章。 王后以斯帖如何使用波斯的法律去救她自己的族人？（8：8） 這新的諭旨將與舊的諭旨同一天執行，它的內容是什麼？ 我如何用世界的智慧爭取屬靈上的收穫？</p>
Day 9	<p>Read Esther 9 & 10 How many enemies of Jews are killed in Susa and in other provinces? What does this tell us about the state of the Jews before? How do Jews celebrate and remember these turn of events? What has Mordecai achieved and how? How we celebrate as God delivers us from our troubles and perils? Think of a case when God is at work in the life of myself, my family, my bible study group or my church. Praise God for it.</p> <p>閱讀以斯帖記第九、十章。 在書珊城和其他省被殺的猶太人的敵人有多少？這反映猶太人之前的情況是如何？ 猶太人如何慶祝並牢記住這些改變？ 末底改取得了什麼？是如何得到的？</p> <p>神從困難和危險中將我們拯救出來，我們應如何慶祝？ 思想神在我的生命中、在我的家庭、在我的查經小組或是在我的教會中所行的一件事。 為這事感謝神。</p>

Ezra 以斯拉記

The founder of the Persian Empire, King Cyrus adopts a different political policy by allowing exiles to return home and to rebuild. That is the provision of God for his people to return.

The temple of Jerusalem is rebuilt after opposition and the religious life of the exiles is reignited by Ezra. This depicts the life of exile in Jerusalem which is in contrast with Esther, the life of Jews living as aliens in the Persian Empire. Regardless the locations, God is in control of the political affairs in order to save and to preserve his people.

波斯帝國的創始人、波斯王古列採用一個不同的政治策略。他允許流亡者返回家園，並重建。這是神為祂的子民歸回的預備。

耶路撒冷的聖殿經過反對後得重建，被擄歸回者的信仰生活被以斯拉重新點燃。這顯示了歸回的猶太人在耶路撒冷的生活；這與以斯帖記裡在波斯帝國猶太人的生活成為對比。不管地點在那裡，神都掌控著政治事務以致拯救和保護祂的子民。

<p>Day 10</p>	<p>Read Ezra 1. Whose hearts have been moved by God? How do King Cyrus, the Jews and their neighbors responded to it? In what areas have I observed God moving in the heart of non-believers? How has God moved me or my family in the past?</p> <p>閱讀以斯拉記第一章。 神激動了誰的心？ 波斯王古列、猶太人和他們的鄰居如何回應呢？ 我觀察到在那些地方，神也感動不信人的心？ 神以往如何感動我或我的家人？</p>
<p>Day 11</p>	<p>Read Ezra 2. How do the exiles vary in township and status? How many people in total? Why are some people not allowed to eat the sacred food? This highlights the importance of genealogy.</p> <p>閱讀以斯拉記第二章。 被擄歸回者所屬的鄉鎮和地位是如何不同？總共有多少人？ 為什麼有些人不能吃至聖的物？這突出了家譜的重要性。</p>
<p>Day 12</p>	<p>Read Ezra 3. What do the Jews do regularly once the altar is built? Is that a popular decision? Is our worship of God popular with the people around us? When the foundation of the temple is laid, what are the reactions and why?</p> <p>閱讀以斯拉記第三章。 當壇建好後，猶太人定期作什麼？那是一個受歡迎的決定嗎？ 我們敬拜神是否受周圍的人所歡迎？ 當聖殿奠定了根基，猶太人有什麼反應？為什麼？</p>
<p>Day 13</p>	<p>Read Ezra 4. Why do Jews refuse others' help to build the temple? What do the people who are in opposition write to King Xerxes (who is actually after King Darius) in order to delay the rebuilding? How are they being smart in their accusations? What tactics have we observed from the enemy to delay or stop our service to God today?</p> <p>閱讀以斯拉記第四章。 為什麼猶太人拒絕其他人幫助他們建造聖殿呢？ 反對的人們怎樣寫信給亞達薛西王（他在大利烏王之後）去拖延之後的重建呢？他們的指控是如何的聰明？ 我們觀察到，敵人現在用什麼方法來延遲或停止我們向神的事奉？</p>
<p>Day 14</p>	<p>Read Ezra 5. How does God encourage his people?</p>

	<p>King Darius is after King Cyrus. What do the Jews include in the explanation to King Darius? How has God encouraged me or my family?</p> <p>閱讀以斯拉記第五章。 神怎樣鼓勵祂的子民？ 大利烏王是在古列王之後。猶太人怎樣向大利烏王解釋？ 神怎樣鼓勵我或我的家人？</p>
Day 15	<p>Read Ezra 6. How does King Darius's edict enable the rebuilding of the temple? What is the purpose of the Jews' celebration after the rebuilding of the temple? What is the link with their ancestors? How do we seek God in our modern day life?</p> <p>閱讀以斯拉記第六章。 大利烏王的諭旨如何使聖殿可以繼續重建？ 聖殿重建後，猶太人慶祝的目的是什麼？怎樣與他們的祖先連接呢？ 我們如何在現在的生活中去尋求神？</p>
Day 16	<p>Read Ezra 7. Ezra comes back to Jerusalem after the rebuilding of the temple. Why is Ezra's background important for what God has called him to do later? Is Ezra up for the task (7:27-28)? What has King Artaxerxes appointed Ezra to do? Why are Ezra's duties so important after the rebuilding of the temple? How does Ezra's example remind us on preparing or following what God has called us to do?</p> <p>閱讀以斯拉記第七章。 以斯拉在聖殿重建之後回到耶路撒冷。 以斯拉的家譜和受到的訓練是怎樣呢？這些為什麼對神召他以後做的工作很重要？以斯拉可以勝任嗎（7：27-28）？ 亞達薛西王任命以斯拉辦什麼？在聖殿重建之後，為什麼以斯拉的職務如此重要？ 以斯拉的例子如何提醒我們，在我們準備或跟隨神呼召我們的工作上去作工？</p>
Day 17	<p>Read Ezra 8. What does Ezra look for and do before returning to Jerusalem? Why? What kind of qualities/gifts does Ezra have as a spiritual leader from Ezra 8? Pray for your own and another person to have a certain quality/gift as a spiritual leader for your family.</p> <p>閱讀以斯拉記第八章。 在返回耶路撒冷之前，以斯拉在找尋並在作什麼？為什麼？ 在這章中，以斯拉擁有怎樣的屬靈領袖的素質或恩賜？ 求神為我的家人或我的小組，而令我自己和另一個人有一樣屬靈領袖的素質或恩賜。</p>
Day 18	<p>Read Ezra 9:1-2. What is the confession of the exiles to Ezra? Are the leaders good examples for the exiles? Why is it so severe? (Deuteronomy 7:1-6) From the ministry of Ezra in the later time, how is the confession of the people</p>

	<p>possible (Nehemiah 8:1-3, 9-12)? What is my response when reading the word leads to confession and understanding of God's word?</p> <p>閱讀以斯拉記第九章第一、二節。 被擄歸回者向以斯拉承認了什麼罪？領袖是好的榜樣嗎？ 為什麼這是如此嚴重？（申命記 7：1-6） 從以斯拉之後的工作中看，人怎樣才認罪（尼希米記 8：1-3， 9-12）？ 閱讀神的話語能令人領悟並認罪，所以我應該怎樣作？</p>
Day 19	<p>Read Ezra 9. How does Ezra confess to God for the sins of his people? Why does he see the unfaithfulness of the exiles as very severe? Confess to God the sins of others, on behalf your family, church and nation.</p> <p>閱讀以斯拉記第九章。 以斯拉怎樣為他的族人向神認罪？他為什麼認為被擄歸回者的不忠是極其嚴重的？ 代表我的家人、我的小組、我的教會、或我們的國家向神認罪。</p>
Day 20	<p>Read Ezra 10. What has the confession of Ezra led to? How serious are the repentant actions for the exiles? Would you agree with their repentance actions? Repentance is a sign of genuine confession. Confess to God one of your sins and think of an action to show your repentance.</p> <p>閱讀以斯拉記第十章。 以斯拉的認罪促使到什麼？ 被擄歸回者的悔改行動是何等嚴重？我同意他們的行動嗎？ 悔改是真誠認罪的標誌。向神承認我犯的一個罪，並想出一個悔改的行動。</p>

Next month:
1 Peter