

1. Opening Prayer

2. Let Us Read Chs. 9 and 10

3. Discussion

- a. Christian views on this story have been controversial. Some say, “Their (Jews) way to kill people was not different from that of heathens,” and others say, “Their (Jews) way to kill was solely defensive.” What do you think? If you would support the latter, what would be the reason?
- b. How would the officials, satraps, and governors “support” the Jews, according to 9:3?
- c. Why do you think that the Jews, who killed their enemies, didn’t take their properties? Read 8:11, 1 Sam. 15:17-23. (also 9:12 and 15-16)
- d. In chapter 9, differently from the previous chapters, Esther didn’t come to the king to ask, but the king came to her and asked if she needed anything more. What do you think changed the scene?
- e. Can you tell anything similar or different between the Jews’ feast in chapter 9 and other chapters? Especially, compare it with Ch. 2:1-18.
- f. If your perspective on Esther is changed from the early part of this book, what is it?
- g. Is there any way for us to understand this story theologically?

4. Closing Prayer