

DIVINE REVERSALS

1. Weeping to Rejoicing

When Mordecai learned all that had occurred, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, went into the middle of the city, and cried loudly and bitterly. Esther 4:1

Mordecai went from the king's presence clothed in royal blue and white, with a great gold crown and a purple robe of fine linen. The city of Susa shouted and rejoiced, and the Jews celebrated with gladness, joy, and honor. Esther 8:15-16

That was the month when their sorrow was turned into rejoicing and their mourning into a holiday. They were to be days of feasting, rejoicing, and of sending gifts to one another and to the poor. Esther 9:22

“These two festivals both dramatically reenact Israel’s deliverance (from death and annihilation at Egypt’s hands; from death and annihilation at Persia’s hands)...The appropriate response when God intervenes on behalf of his people includes the holiness that goes with Passover and the hilarity that goes with Purim. It encompasses the sobering, reflective mood on Passover, and the less-than-sober Purim, on which, according to the Babylonian Talmud ‘a man is obligated to drink until he is unable to distinguish between “Blessed is Mordecai” and “cursed is Haman.” ... The two festivals unite piety and partying, raising one’s voice to God and raising the roof.” Victor Hamilton

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away. Revelation 21:4

2. Overpowered to empowered

That same day King Ahasuerus awarded Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. Mordecai entered the king's presence because Esther had revealed her relationship to Mordecai. The king removed his signet ring he had recovered from Haman and gave it to Mordecai, and Esther put him in charge of Haman's estate. Esther 8:1-2

On the day when the Jews' enemies had hoped to overpower them, just the opposite happened. The Jews overpowered those who hated them. Esther 9:1

3. Hiding to Proclaiming

Esther did not reveal her ethnicity or her family background, because Mordecai had ordered her not to make them known. Esther 2:10

In every province and every city where the king's command and edict reached, gladness and joy took place among the Jews. There was a celebration and a holiday. And many of the ethnic groups of the land professed themselves to be Jews because fear of the Jews had overcome them. Esther 8:17

Reflection Question:

Where are you longing to see God's redemption working in your life?

Scripture from the CSB unless noted.