



'My Response' Sermon Series

Divine Lessons from the Restoration Era – Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Celebrating Purim:

Mourning *into* Dancing

| Mount Zion Church | Sunday Service | 29 August 2021 |

INTRO (5-6 Lines):

Who else in this earth that able to completely turn mourning into dancing? Who else in this universe that mighty to turn sorrow into joy? God, it is You alone!

The book of Esther was concluded with a big winning, even double blessings! So many people turned their eyes from a dead and false god, committing their life in the only true and living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Israel.

Believers must not be stumbled with the days of mourning as we have a living hope in God who is more than able to put off our sackcloth and cloth us with gladness. Let's get ready to experience the joy of the Holy Spirit.

A Great Awakening

ESTHER 8

¹⁵ So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan **rejoiced** and was **glad**. ¹⁶ The Jews had **light** and **gladness**, **joy** and **honour**. ¹⁷ And in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews had **joy** and **gladness**, a **feast** and a **holiday**. Then many of the people of the land **became Jews**, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.

JEWS | Judah

GENESIS 29 ³⁵ And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "**Now I will praise the Lord.**" Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

JUDAH = praised

How **miraculous** it is to see a day of doom that turned into a great joy, even a **great awakening**! The message of joy and gladness was really strong in those Bible verses, and indeed that was the true thing that happened there.

And on top of all that, the Bible clearly showed us that so many of the people of the land **become Jews**! And truly that was **the greatest joy** that must be celebrated! What does it mean with become Jews?

The meaning of Jews actually Judah, 1 of the 12 tribes in Israel, but then it is became **an identity** for all Israel people in the exile. Jesus is called as **the King of the Jews** *Mat.2:2*.

And the meaning of Judah is **praised**! So, how wonderful is that when we understood how the people of Israel was actually identified as **the people of praise** when they were in the exile. We understood that at first the exile happened because of sins, disobedience, rebellion, and stiffed-neck

of the people of Israel. But then for the upcoming generation (Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther), actually they could go back to the right track by understanding the identity that attached to them as **the people of praise!**

The situation and condition may try to destroy our praise. The devil may try to steal it from us *Jn.10:10*. The thief does not come except to **steal**, and to **kill**, and to **destroy**. But again, our praise is not happened because of the trigger from outside, but praise is us, we are the people of praise. No matter what happens outside, we are the people of praise. And the life story of Esther had declared a strong evidence how the people of praise would always able to praise God because He always work mightily behind the scene!

Can we say it together! **We are the people of praise!**

An Everlasting Covenant

GENESIS 17 ¹⁰ This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be **circumcised**; ¹¹ and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a **sign of the covenant between Me and you**. ¹² He who is **8 days old** among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant. ¹³ He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money **must be circumcised**, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for **an everlasting covenant**.

ROMANS 2

PHILIPPIANS 3

³ For **we are the circumcision**, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

Becoming Jews simply means that everyone must be circumcised. It was the rule that given by God since the day of Abraham, even before the Law of Moses took effect. Becoming Jews is **not only** happen by **birth**, but it also possible for anyone to become Jews if they wish to give themselves into that everlasting covenant, a covenant that must be happen in the flesh, **the circumcision!**

Back to the story of Esther, so when so many people of the land became Jews, it would mean that they must gave themselves into the same covenant, they must become the circumcised people.

In the New Testament, we receive the true meaning of that covenant, the circumcision that is not outwardly but **inwardly!** Paul called as the circumcision of the heart, **in the Spirit Rm.2:29!**

We are called the circumcision as we worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no more confidence

in the flesh but our **confidence of salvation** is in **Christ alone** as the only Saviour in our life *Phl.3:3*.

Paul always referred the circumcision with the work of the Holy Spirit. And truly Holy Spirit is the key of everlasting joy. He also mentioned that the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness** and **peace** and **joy in the Holy Spirit** *Rom.14:17*.

EPHESIANS 1 ¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise**, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

The True Joy

LUKE 15

⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'

⁷ I say to you that likewise there will be **more** joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.



DANIEL 6 ²⁶ I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom *men must tremble and fear* before **the God of Daniel**. For He *is the living God*, and **steadfast forever**; His kingdom *is the one* which shall not be destroyed, and **His dominion shall endure to the end**. ²⁷ He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who has **delivered Daniel** from **the power of the lions**.

The true and greatest joy is all about **the joy of salvation!** It is not only about the deliverance that received by the Jews in the days of Esther. But it also about the greatness of God that celebrated by the Jews and even all new believers!

It was happened that people turned from admiring the power of the kingdom of Persia and Media into **worshipping the true and living God**, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of the Israel!

The same thing also happened in the days of Daniel when King Darius made a decree so that all people must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. People acknowledged the God of Daniel as the living God!

The true joy happened after the day of doom first declared. The true joy also happened after the calamity was set upon Daniel inside the lion's den. Problems may

come into our life, but please rest assured that God is always **more than able** to turn all the mourning into dancing, even into a true joy, the joy of salvation!

The Big Day

ESTHER 9

¹ Now in the 12th month, that *is*, the month of Adar, on the 13th day, *the time* came for the king's command and his decree to be executed. On the day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, **the opposite occurred**, in that the Jews themselves **overpowered** those who hated them. ²The Jews gathered together in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could withstand them, because fear of them fell upon all people. ³And all the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and all those doing the king's work, **helped the Jews**, because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.

THE MILESTONE

13th of month 1:

day of doom was set

70 days of mourning

23rd of month 3:

the good news

260 days of new & living hope

13th of month 12:

the big day

The big day which is the 13th day of the 12th month that supposed to be the day of doom then turned into the big day of victory. And this all reminds us to the victory that Jesus had upon the cross!

Truly the cross is the curse! Paul wrote in **Galatians 3:13** Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree").

Deuteronomy 21:23 For he who is hanged is accursed of God. / NIV: anyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse.

But then the cross become **the symbol of victory**. What had happened is the opposite! Christ is risen!

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You.
You silenced the boast, of sin and grave.

The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory.
For You are raised to life again.

THE MILESTONE

Do not get stuck with the problems! Do not stumbled with the days of mourning! All this problems that we may have in this life just for a short moment, it just a while! The BIG DAY will come, the glorious day will come!

JOHN 16 ²⁰ Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but **your sorrow will be turned into joy.** ²¹ A woman, when **she is in labour**, has sorrow because her hour has come; but **as soon as she has given birth to the child**, she **no longer remembers** the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² Therefore you now have sorrow; but **I will see you again** and **your heart will rejoice**, and **your joy no one will take from you.**

Purim: Double Blessings!

ESTHER 9

¹⁷ *This was* on the 13th day of the month of Adar. And on the 14th of *the month* they **rested** and made it a **day of feasting** and **gladness**.

¹⁸ But the Jews who *were* at Shushan assembled together on the 13th *day*, as well as on the 14th; and on the 15th of *the month* they **rested**, and made it a **day of feasting** and **gladness**. ¹⁹ Therefore the Jews of the villages who dwelt in the unwalled towns celebrated the 14th day of the month of Adar *with* **gladness** and **feasting**, as a **holiday**, and for **sending presents** to one another.

²⁰ And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews, near and far, who *were* in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, ²¹ to establish among them that they **should celebrate yearly** the 14th and 15th days of the month of Adar, ²² as the days on which the Jews had **rest** from their enemies, as the month which **was turned from sorrow to joy** for them, and **from mourning to a holiday**; that they should make them **days of feasting and joy**, of **sending presents** to one another and gifts to the poor.

Psalm 30:11-12

¹¹ You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with
gladness,

¹² To the end that *my* glory may sing praise to You and not
be silent.

O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

At first, the enemy of the Jews was happy for **the only one full day** that they wished to destroy their enemy. But what happened was the opposite, even the Jews got instead of 1 day, they got **2 full days** to overpower their enemy.
What a double blessings!

It is truly the work of the Mighty God that always work behind the scene, so that all mourning turned into dancing, all sorrows to joy!

The day of Purim then became the annual celebration. We

found no record in the New Testament about this celebration. The feast is not mentioned in the New Testament, although scholars believe the unnamed feast of [John 5:1](#) could be Purim.

A Man Healed at the Pool of Bethesda

5 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

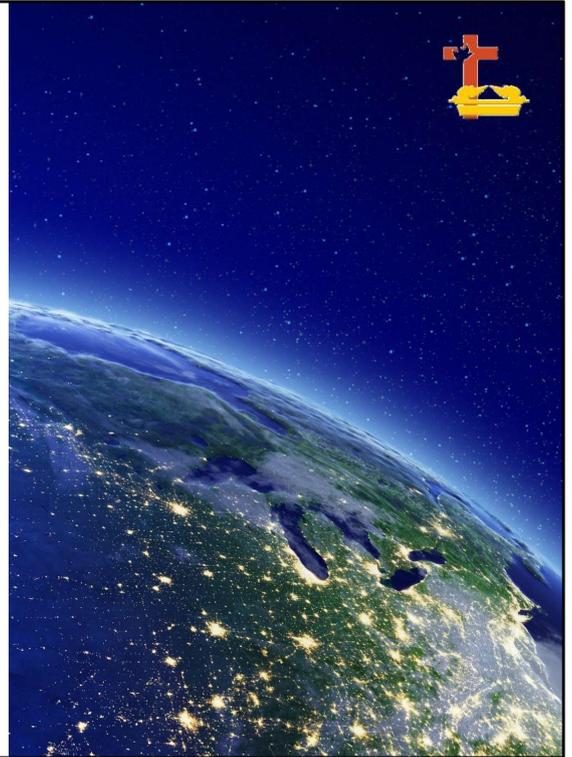
The Glorious Day

REVELATION 19

⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thundering, saying, "Alleluia! For **the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!**

⁷ Let us be **glad and rejoice and give Him glory**, for **the marriage of the Lamb** has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

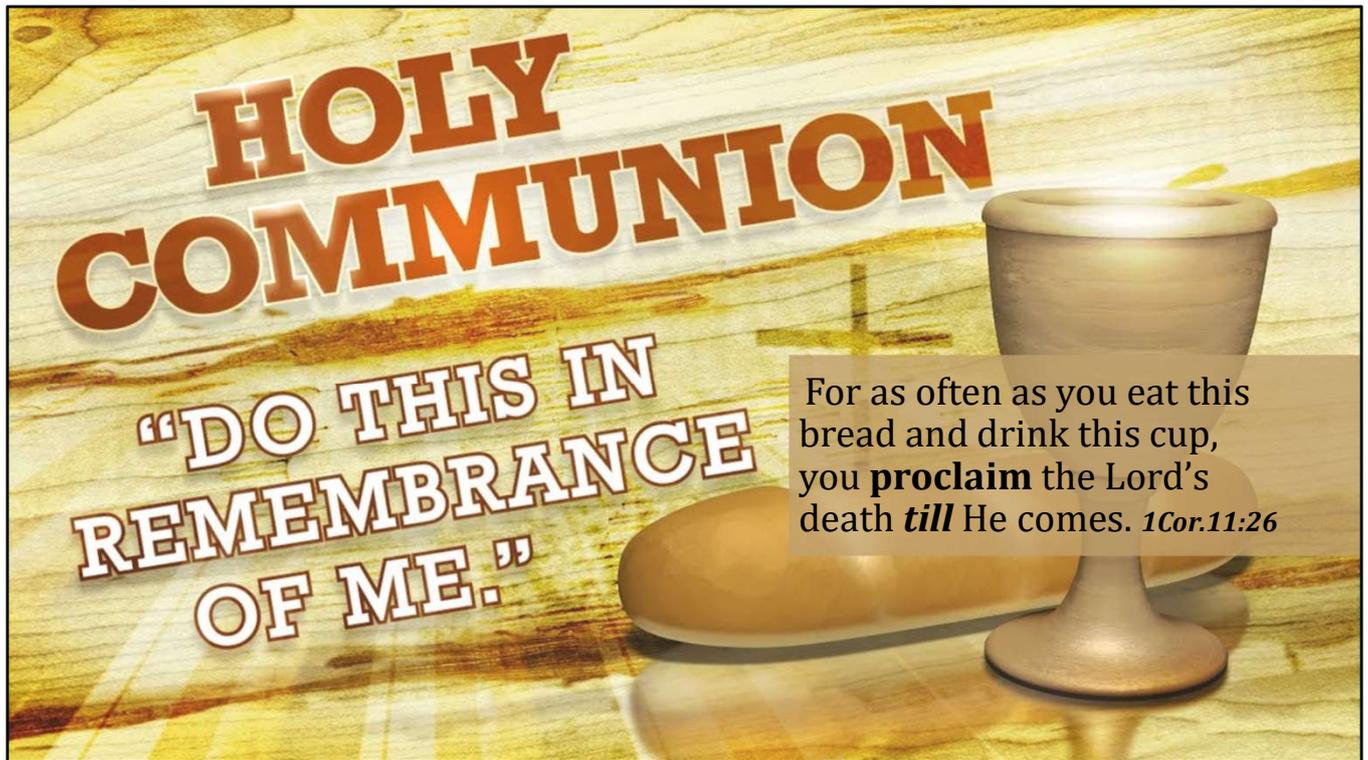
⁹ Then he said to me, "Write: '**Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!**' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."



As believers, we do not celebrate the day of Purim as the way people celebrate in the Old Testament. However, we acknowledge that there will be a big day, the glorious one, even the biggest one, that will be a true rest and will be a day of feasting and gladness. And it is called **the marriage of the Lamb**, that will be happen not only in 2 days, but for the whole 3 years and half, 42 months, 1,260 days!

When the Antichrist reigned in the earth, the believers who have themselves always ready for the second coming of Jesus Christ will have a big and global gathering in the rapture, **the glorious day**, where we will have a **total rest** from all struggle in this world, and then enjoy together **the marriage of the Lamb!**

Let's pray together and get ready for the Holy Communion.



Holy Communion is only for those who already baptised in the water. If there is anyone want to commit their life in Jesus, receiving Jesus as the Saviour in their life, please feel free to call us the pastoral team so that we can help you with that commitment and go together with you in that journey of faith and prepare for the water baptism.

1CORINTHIANS 11:23-25

The Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, **“Take, eat; This is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”**

In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, **“This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”**

John 15:4-5, 1Corinthians 11:23-25, 1Corinthians 10:16-17

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

... The Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; This is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?



GOD BLESS YOU!

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