

Purim / Esther Fast

3-Day Devotional & Prayer Handout

Day 2 — Deliverance Is the Lord's Work

Theme: God delivers people who cannot deliver themselves; He works even when unseen.

Read

- **Esther 5:1–8** — Esther steps forward; God opens a door
- **Psalm 124** — “If the Lord had not been on our side...”
- **Exodus 14:10–14, 21–31** — “Stand still”; the Lord fights
- **2 Corinthians 10:3–5** — Pulling down strongholds

Devotional Thought

Many of us are exhausted because we're trying to manage what only God can break. Deliverance isn't willpower; it is warfare with worship, truth, surrender, and steadfast prayer. Purim celebrates a God who can reverse decrees. He still does. Faith is not reckless; faith is obedient—taking the step He assigns while trusting Him for what we cannot do.

Reflect

- What stronghold keeps trying to rename my identity (shame, lust, bitterness, hopelessness, fear)?
- Where do I need to “stand still” (stop striving) and where do I need to “step forward” (obey)?

God reversed one thing in my life, what would it be?

Pray (guided)

- **Personal deliverance:** Lord, tear down every stronghold. Free me from patterns I cannot break.
- **Clarity & courage:** Give me Esther's boldness and Joseph's wisdom.
- **Hidden providence:** Even when I can't see You, I trust You are working.

Act of Obedience (today)

Begin intercession for Iran: pray mercy for the suffering, restraint on violence, and protection for detainees and families.

Day 3 — Fast for Justice, Cry for Iran

Theme: Isaiah-style fasting: deliverance that confronts oppression; praying for a national “reversal.”

Read

- **Esther 8:3–8, 15–17** — The reversal; joy after deliverance
- **Isaiah 58:6–12** — The fast God chooses; break oppression
- **Acts 12:1–11** — Prayer for the persecuted; prison doors open
- **Psalm 82:3–4** — Defend the weak; rescue the oppressed

Devotional Thought

Isaiah 58 refuses a private spirituality that ignores injustice. God welcomes fasting that turns into mercy, advocacy, generosity, and courage. Today we pray for Iran with sobriety and hope—asking God to protect the vulnerable, strengthen the persecuted, restrain violence, and bring a Purim-style reversal.

Reflect

- Is my fasting producing greater love, courage, and generosity—or only religious routine? •

Where is God calling me to stand with the oppressed (prayer, giving, speaking wisely, serving)? •

What would a “reversal” look like in my family, city, and nation?

Pray (guided)

- **For the suffering:** Comfort the grieving; heal the wounded; protect the threatened.
- **For prisoners:** Strengthen detainees; stop torture and abuse; grant just outcomes and release for the unjustly held.
- **For Christians:** Protect believers and house churches; grant boldness with wisdom; provide for families of the imprisoned.
- **For leaders/security forces:** Convict and restrain; bring salvation encounters; raise just officials and peacemakers.
- **For a national reversal:** Turn fear into joy, mourning into celebration, and oppression into justice.

Act of Obedience (today)

As a church, choose one: (1) give to reputable relief/advocacy ministries serving Iranians and refugees; (2) pray Psalm 82 weekly for 4 weeks; (3) hold a 30-minute prayer gathering focused only on Iran and persecuted believers.

Closing Declaration (read aloud)

- “The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed.” (Psalm 9:9)
- “We do not wrestle against flesh and blood...” (Ephesians 6:12)
- “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)