

Esther Chapter 9

The prophet Jeremiah instructed the children of Israel as they were about to be taken captive:

Jeremiah 29:7 “And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.”

- For the most part they obeyed that counsel from the Lord, they lived their lives, built their houses, raised their families and lived peaceably amongst their captors.
- It wasn't the Jews who declared war on the Gentiles, but it was the Gentiles who had declared war on the Jews and tried to wipe them out.
- But we see that the tables have been turned:

V: 1 The day has arrived for Haman's decree to be fulfilled, the 13th day of Adar.

- The first decree was designed to annihilate the Jewish race, the people were encourage to kill the Jews and take all their property - they had been declared enemies of the state in every province of the king.
- Naturally as the proclamation was sent into every city and province, the Jews were greatly distressed and grieved.
- Even though the first decree is in effect; it is superseded by the 2nd decree which allows the Jews to defend themselves.
- The Lord would completely turn the table on those that hated the Jews and turn their sorrow into joy. A lot has changed, literally overnight.

Isaiah 61:1-3 “¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; ²To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; ³To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.”

V: 2 In accordance to the 2nd decree, the Jews gathered themselves together and prepared to defend themselves against those that would attack them.

- They weren't authorized to initiate or be the aggressors in this battle, they were instructed to defend themselves.
- At the same time God gave them incredible favor and put the fear of the Jews into all those who would attack them.
- This is reminiscent of what God has done in the past for His people:

As Jacob travelled from Shechem to Bethel:

Genesis 35:5 "And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob."

The same thing happened when they entered into the promised land:

Deuteronomy 2:25 "This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee."

God assures those who are called by His name:

Deuteronomy 28:10 "10And all the people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee."

- One of the problems in our world today is that there is no fear of God.

Romans 3:18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil."

Like Pharaoh most people are saying:

Exodus 5:2 "And Pharaoh said, who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord..."

- The fear of God protects those who fear God and believe His promises. Because the Jews believed Mordecai's decree, they had new courage and were not afraid of the enemy; and their courage put fear into the hearts of the enemy.

V: 3-4 There is another aspect to this fear that God had brought: all the officers of the king helped the Jews because the fear of Mordecai had fallen upon them.

- Those that were enemies were afraid, and those that were either neutral or with the Jews were also afraid - of Mordecai. God had given Mordecai this high position and favor in planting in their hearts to both fear Mordecai and to help the Jews.

Exodus 23:27 "I will send My fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee."

- Mordecai waxed, he became greater and greater - God had given him incredible favor.

V: 5 The Jews smote their enemies with a great slaughter - God gave them victory.

Deuteronomy 28:7 “⁷The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face:...”

- They were given the victory by “... *the stroke of the sword*...”

2 Corinthians 10:4 “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;”

- We just need to know how to wield the sword:

Ephesians 5:17 “... the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

V: 6-10 500 men were slain in Shushan the palace including Haman’s ten sons.

- Haman’s ten sons are named. They weren’t just killed because they were Haman’s sons, nor were they killed for the sins of their father.

Ezekiel 18:20 “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

- Haman’s sons were killed because they, like their father hated the Jews, and they like their father made the mistake of attacking the Jews who slew them in self defense. If they’d stayed on the porch they would not have been harmed.
- Side note: they, the Jews didn’t touch the spoil.

[They were authorized to take the spoil if they wanted:](#)

Esther 8:11 “Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.”

- They didn't take the spoil of those that they killed in self defense - this eliminates the spoil and riches as their motive, their motive was solely self defense, not to take advantage of those that hated them.

V: 11-12 The king is informed as to how many have been slain in the palace, it is at this point the the king seems to demonstrate some awareness or concern for his people, prior to this he seems pretty aloof and disconnected.

- The king rightly assumes that if they've killed 500 just in the palace that many more must have been killed in the other provinces.
- The king then informs Queen Esther of the 500 slain, which include the sons of Haman and asks her if she wants anything else done.

V: 13-14 Esther asks two things.

1. That the Jews be given one more day to defend themselves.
2. That Haman's 10 sons be publicly hung, or displayed, presumably as an example and deterrent that seek to harm the Jews.

V: 15-17 All of this carried over to the next day, the 14th day of Adar and another 300 men were slain in Shushan, but they still didn't touch the prey or the spoil.

- In the other provinces the Jews killed 75,000 in self defense, but didn't touch the spoil.
- The 800 who were killed in Shushan, and the 75,000 killed in the other provinces had aligned themselves with Haman the Agagite, at the least they were Agagite sympathizers. As they were slain, the Jews were really fulfilling the command given to king Saul to which he had been disobedient. Part of Saul's downfall had been not only in not eliminating all the Amalekites, but also in the taking of the spoil - the Jews in Persia were not about to make that same mistake - they left the spoil alone.
- After all that, they rested and had a day of feasting and gladness. The threat of Haman's decree was now over and things would get back to normal.

V: 18-19 The Jews in the outlying areas also began to celebrate their deliverance with feasting and the giving of gifts one to another.

- They developed a kind of pattern that is still followed to this day:
- On the 13th of Adar or about the 13th of March the Jews fast in commemoration of the battle that would take place. Then on the 14th of Adar / March the Jews in the

villages and outlying areas celebrate Purim, then on the 15th the Jews in walled cities celebrate the feast.

V: 20-22 Mordecai writes out another proclamation; this time it is to formalize this feast which they are to celebrate on the 14th and 15th of Adar to commemorate their deliverance.

- The Jews still celebrate Purim to this day, particularly in Israel. The girls dress up in Esther costumes & gowns, the boys dress up like Mordecai and Haman, they wear their masks, and they have a special cookie with a poppy seed filling that they bake for the occasion called “Hamantasch.”
- “Haman-tasch” is a compound word Haman, then “tasch”, or ear - Haman’s ears and they shape the cookie kind of like an ear.
- They give gifts and hand out candy, they go to synagogue to hear the story of Esther read aloud. Whenever Haman’s name is read they stomp their feet and yell out “May he be accursed!” The kids all have special rattles called “gregar” which they use to make noise at the same time.

V: 23-28 So the Jews undertook to do what Mordecai had written.

- “**Pur**” is the Persian word for “lot” as in casting lots, so **Purim** became the name of the feast which was celebrated each year in remembrance of the Jews deliverance from destruction.
- They instituted this feast as a remembrance, because we are so prone to forgetting. It has been said that we are only one generation away from extinction. These feasts and celebrations are meaningful and intended to teach the next generation not to forget.

Psalm 34:11 “Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.”

V: 29-32 Esther wrote out another proclamation affirming Mordecai’s proclamation regarding the feast of Purim.

- Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews in the various provinces “*with words of peace and truth...*”
- It’s almost like and they lived happily ever after...

Esther Chapter 10

V: 1-2 The mention of taxation implies that the kingdom expanded and thrived under Mordecai's leadership as Prime Minister. He used his office to serve the king and to help the Jews.

- Ahasuerus' acts were recorded in the Chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia. Mordecai and his status was also recorded.

V: 3 It would appear that one of the things that made Mordecai so special and great in men's eyes was that he sought out the good for the benefit of his people, and spoke peace to his descendants.

- We can do the same thing, seeking the "wealth" or benefit to our children by teaching them the Word of God, by instructing them in the ways of God and being good example of both to them.
- Speaking peace, of making peace with God, surrendering to Him on His terms.

Esther 9:30 "... with words of peace and truth,..."

- Mordecai, is a type of the Spirit, he sought prosperity and peace for the people of God.
- Haman, was a type of the flesh, ended up being killed, just as the flesh should be.
- God is always on the scene, watching over, blessing, protecting, and providing for His people. This is a testimony of God's faithfulness.
- The story ends with the people of God experiencing peace and prosperity, with Mordecai in the place of prominence and power and with Haman and his sons hung out.
- The path to peace and Spiritual prosperity remains the same today: allowing the Spirit to lead and direct as He will. And as with Haman, dealing with the flesh, crucifying it.

Romans 6:11 "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 8:6 "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."