

5 May 24

Lesson 8 Esther 8:1-17

Esther 8:1-17 (NASB)

¹ On that day King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther; and Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had disclosed what he was to her.

² The king took off his signet ring which he had taken away from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

³ Then Esther spoke again to the king, fell at his feet, wept and implored him to avert the evil scheme of Haman the Agagite and his plot which he had devised against the Jews.

⁴ The king extended the golden scepter to Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king.

⁵ Then she said, "If it pleases the king and if I have found favor before him and the matter seems proper to the king and I am pleasing in his sight, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king's provinces.

⁶ "For how can I endure to see the calamity which will befall my people, and how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?"

⁷ So King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, I have given the house of Haman to Esther, and him they have hanged on the gallows because he had stretched out his hands against the Jews.

⁸ "Now you write to the Jews as you see fit, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring; for a decree which is written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's signet ring may not be revoked."

⁹ So the king's scribes were called at that time in the third month (that is, the month Sivan), on the twenty-third day; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews, the satraps, the governors and the princes of the provinces which extended from India to Ethiopia, 127 provinces, to every province according to its script, and to every people according to their language as well as to the Jews according to their script and their language.

¹⁰ He wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, and sealed it with the king's signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on horses, riding on steeds sired by the royal stud.

¹¹ In them the king granted the Jews who were in each and every city the right to assemble and to defend their lives, to destroy, to kill and to annihilate the entire army of any people or province which might attack them, including children and women, and to plunder their spoil,

¹² on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month (that is, the month Adar).

¹³ A copy of the edict to be issued as law in each and every province was published to all the peoples, so that the Jews would be ready for this day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

¹⁴ The couriers, hastened and impelled by the king's command, went out, riding on the royal steeds; and the decree was given out at the citadel in Susa.

¹⁵ Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a large crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced.

¹⁶ For the Jews there was light and gladness and joy and honor.

¹⁷ In each and every province and in each and every city, wherever the king's commandment and his decree arrived, there was gladness and joy for the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many among the peoples of the land became Jews, for the dread of the Jews had fallen on them.

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C. Jews delivered, and took revenge ([8:1-9:19](#))

God had sovereignly worked in various circumstances so that the Jews could be delivered. Now it was the Jews' turn. **They would have to fight to retain what was theirs.** They had to take part actively in their own deliverance. The Jewish people back in the land would also be encouraged to work hard and carry out their responsibilities before God in His sovereign plan.

1. MORDECAI RECEIVED ROYAL POSITION ([8:1-2](#))

[8:1-2](#). Apparently **Haman** was considered a criminal, for his property was confiscated. The king's **signet ring**, which had been given **Haman** to authorize the edict against the Jews ([3:10](#)), was now given to **Mordecai**. **Again the tables turned against Haman, even after his death.** For one thing **Mordecai** now had the power that Haman previously had. For another, Haman, who had hoped to confiscate the Jews' property ([3:13](#)), now had his own property removed and given to, of all people, **Esther**, who in turn **appointed** Mordecai to oversee it.

2. SECOND PROCLAMATION SENT OUT ([8:3-14](#))

[8:3-6](#). Since the edict to exterminate the Jews ([3:13](#)) was still in effect, something had to be done. So **Esther** appeared before **the king** a second time without an invitation (cf. [5:1-2](#)). This time **she begged him to put an end to the evil plan** which was in effect because of **Haman**. **The king** was favorable toward her and once again held out **the gold scepter to her** (cf. [4:11](#); [5:2](#)).

Esther's request was simple. She wanted a second decree written and sent out which would override the first decree. **Again she was willing to be known as a Jewess for she spoke of my people and my family** (cf. [7:3](#)).

[8:7-8](#). The **king** noted that **Esther** and **Mordecai** now had **the power and resources** that previously belonged to **Haman** and therefore they should use that power to their advantage. Though Haman's decree could not be revoked, a second one could supersede it. Xerxes even gave Mordecai authority to **write the decree** any way he wished and to stamp it with **the king's** authority by using his **signet ring** (cf. [3:10](#), [12](#); [8:2](#)).

[8:9-14](#). The decree Mordecai wrote was **sent out in the third month... Sivan** (June-July) 474. Since this was a little over two months after Haman's decree ([3:12](#)) the Jews had about nine months to prepare themselves for the conflict (up to the 13th day of the 12th month, the date Haman had chosen by lot; cf. [3:7](#), [13](#); [9:1](#)). As was the case with the previous decree (cf. [3:12](#)), this one too was dispatched (cf. [1:22](#); [3:15](#)) by horsemen throughout the whole empire **from India to Cush** (cf. [1:1](#)) and was **written in the** appropriate languages for **each province**. The edict gave **the Jews... the right to protect themselves and the right to annihilate** (cf. [3:13](#); [7:4](#)) **and plunder any group that fought against them**. **The Jews** could take away the property of **their enemies** as Mordecai had "taken away" the property of Haman.

3. JEWS REJOICED ([8:15-17](#))

*How many
just to
avoid death*

8:15-17. Mordecai wore clothes which told of his royal position—**royal garments... a large crown, and a purple linen robe. Blue and white** were the Persian royal colors (cf. [1:6](#)). **He now held the position and status Haman had held (3:1)**. Previously under Haman's edict the city of Susa had been "bewildered" ([3:15](#)). Now under the edict of Mordecai **the city of Susa held a joyous celebration**. And obviously **the Jews** were elated. **Their rise to power caused many Gentiles to become Jewish proselytes**. God's good hand was then becoming obvious to the world at large. No longer were these events being viewed simply as happenstance; now people were beginning to realize that the God of **the Jews** was protecting them.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

Open it

1. What sacrifices would you be willing to make for the people you love?
Everything, up to and including my life.

Explore it

2. What did Esther gain from risking her life to stand up for her people? ([8:1](#))
The estate of Haman and its wealth and power.
3. How was Mordecai honored by the king? ([8:2](#), [15](#))
He was presented with the King's signet ring and Esther appointed him over Haman's Estate. The king gave him royal garments of blue and white and a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen.
4. How did the king respond to Esther's request? ([8:4](#))
He extended the gold scepter to her, and she arose and stood before him.
5. Why did Esther want the king to overrule Haman's edict? ([8:5-6](#))
So that the Jews would be spared, Mordecai and Esther included
6. How was Mordecai involved in saving the Jewish people? ([8:9-10](#))
He was placed in charge of the new decree about the Jews, delivered to all the satraps, governors and nobles of the 127 provinces. Written to each area in their own language.
7. How did Mordecai insure that all Jews would be able to protect themselves? ([8:12-14](#))
On that day the Jews would be able to defend themselves against all those who might attack them. And take their goods for themselves.
8. How did the Jews react to the king's edict? ([8:16-17](#))
For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honor. ¹⁷ In every province and in every city to which the edict of the king came, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them.

Get it

9. How did Esther risk her life for the second time?

She fell to the kings' feet and pleaded with him to put an end to Hamans plan.

10. What value is there in taking a risk to do what is right?

Right is right no matter what you have to do.

11. What blessings has the Lord given to you?

Family, grandkids, great-grandkids and good friends,.

Apply it

12. How can you thank the Lord today for the blessings He has given you?

With prayer and trying to follow his will

13. Who is one person you could tell this week about God's desire to help and guide him or her?

A close friend of mine