

12 May 24

Lesson 9 Esther 9:1 to 10:3

Esther 9:1-32 (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> Now in the twelfth month (that is, the month Adar), on the thirteenth day when the king's command and edict were about to be executed, on the day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, it was turned to the contrary so that the Jews themselves gained the mastery over those who hated them.

<sup>2</sup> The Jews assembled in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm; and no one could stand before them, for the dread of them had fallen on all the peoples.

<sup>3</sup> Even all the princes of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and those who were doing the king's business assisted the Jews, because the dread of Mordecai had fallen on them.

<sup>4</sup> Indeed, Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for the man Mordecai became greater and greater.

<sup>5</sup> Thus the Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying; and they did what they pleased to those who hated them.

<sup>6</sup> At the citadel in Susa the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men,

<sup>7</sup> and Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha,

<sup>8</sup> Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha,

<sup>9</sup> Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Vaizatha,

<sup>10</sup> the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Jews' enemy; but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

<sup>11</sup> On that day the number of those who were killed at the citadel in Susa was reported to the king.

<sup>12</sup> The king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman at the citadel in Susa. What then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces! Now what is your petition? It shall even be granted you. And what is your further request? It shall also be done."

<sup>13</sup> Then said Esther, "If it pleases the king, let tomorrow also be granted to the Jews who are in Susa to do according to the edict of today; and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows."

<sup>14</sup> So the king commanded that it should be done so; and an edict was issued in Susa, and Haman's ten sons were hanged.

<sup>15</sup> The Jews who were in Susa assembled also on the fourteenth day of the month Adar and killed three hundred men in Susa, but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

<sup>16</sup> Now the rest of the Jews who were in the king's provinces assembled, to defend their lives and rid themselves of their enemies, and kill 75,000 of those who hated them; but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

<sup>17</sup> This was done on the thirteenth day of the month Adar, and on the fourteenth day they rested and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.

<sup>18</sup> But the Jews who were in Susa assembled on the thirteenth and the fourteenth of the same month, and they rested on the fifteenth day and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore the Jews of the rural areas, who live in the rural towns, make the fourteenth day of the month Adar a holiday for rejoicing and feasting and sending portions of food to one another.

<sup>20</sup> Then Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,

<sup>21</sup> obliging them to celebrate the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same month, annually,

Beautiful weather  
Bills need to be better  
Javone SQL Company  
Bought out & \$20K  
Children School Ballot

Heather removed at school

— ?

?

<sup>22</sup> because on those days the Jews rid themselves of their enemies, and *it was a month* which was turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and sending portions *of food* to one another and gifts to the poor.

<sup>23</sup> Thus the Jews undertook what they had started to do, and what Mordecai had written to them.

<sup>24</sup> For Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the adversary of all the Jews, had schemed against the Jews to destroy them and had cast Pur, that is the lot, to disturb them and destroy them.

<sup>25</sup> But when it came to the king's attention, he commanded by letter that his wicked scheme which he had devised against the Jews, should return on his own head and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. And because of the instructions in this letter, both what they had seen in this regard and what had happened to them,

<sup>27</sup> the Jews established and made a custom for themselves and for their descendants and for all those who allied themselves with them, so that **they would not fail** to celebrate these two days according to their regulation and according to their appointed time annually.

<sup>28</sup> So these days were to be remembered and celebrated throughout **every generation, every family, every province and every city**; and these days of Purim were **not to fail** from among the Jews, or their memory fade from their descendants.

<sup>29</sup> Then Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, **wrote with full authority** to confirm this second letter about Purim.

<sup>30</sup> He sent letters to all the Jews, to the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, **namely, words of peace and truth**,

<sup>31</sup> to establish these days of Purim at their appointed times, just as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had established for them, and just as they had established for themselves and for their descendants with instructions for their times of fasting and their lamentations.

<sup>32</sup> The command of Esther established these customs for Purim, and it was written in the book.

### **Esther 10:1-3 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> Now King Ahasuerus laid a tribute on the land and on the coastlands of the sea.

<sup>2</sup> And all the accomplishments of his authority and strength, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia?

<sup>3</sup> For Mordecai the Jew **was second only** to King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews and in favor with his many kinsmen, one who sought the good of his people and one who spoke for the welfare of his whole nation.

## **4. JEWS TOOK REVENGE ([9:1-19](#))**

[9:1-4](#). When the appointed **day** of the battle came, **the tables were turned on the enemies of the Jews**. As **the Jews assembled** in various **cities** to face their attackers, the Gentiles became **afraid of them**. In fact even the government authorities **helped the Jews**. The people who attacked the Jews may have seen this as an opportunity to get rich at someone else's expense. However, since they had no backing from others they were in a cause which they could not win.

Only by God's sovereign intervention was **Mordecai** now in a position of authority. **He became more... powerful** and enjoyed a good **reputation**.

[9:5-15](#). On the day of the battle (13th day of the 12th month, i.e., in March 473) **in the citadel of Susa the Jews killed... 500 men** plus Haman's **10 sons**. When **the king** asked **Esther** what she wanted, she requested that **the Jews in Susa** be given one more day to carry out the task of rooting out the ones who were trying to destroy them and that **Haman's 10 slain sons be hanged on gallows** (i.e., impaled; cf. [2:23](#); [7:10](#)). On the second day the Jews killed an additional **300 men**. **The Jews** were not doing this for money, as Haman had hoped to do (cf. [3:13](#)), for three times it is stated that the Jews **did not lay their hands on the plunder** ([9:10](#), [15-16](#)). Many have questioned why the Jews wanted to impale the already dead bodies of Haman's 10 sons. This was not an unusual practice in the ancient Near East. It was a visual warning that others better not commit the same crime as the punished ones.

[9:16-19](#). In the outlying **provinces... 75,000** individuals were **killed by the Jews** in one day, but there, as well as in Susa, **they did not** take any **plunder** from the victims. Only in Susa did the fighting last for two days. For that reason **Jews in Susa** celebrated **on the 15th** day of the 12th month (after the slaughters on **the 13th and 14th**), whereas Jews in the villages celebrated **on the 14th** (after the slaughter on **the 13th**).

#### **IV. FEAST OF PURIM ESTABLISHED ([9:20-32](#))**

[9:20-22](#). The Feast of Purim was not established by the Mosaic Law. It was commanded by **Mordecai** ([vv. 20-28](#)) and by Esther ([vv. 29-32](#)). The two-day feast was for remembering the goodness of God working through a number of circumstances to protect His people from extinction. Mordecai wrote a proclamation that **the Jews** were to **celebrate** the event **annually** with eating, rejoicing (cf. [8:17](#)), **giving... food**, and sharing with **the poor**.

[9:23-32](#). The feast was **called Purim** ([v. 26](#)) **because of** Haman's use of **the pur... the lot** to determine the time of the execution ([3:7](#)). **The pur** became a symbol of God's using circumstances to deliver His own.

**Esther... along with Mordecai**, wrote a **second letter** confirming that **the Jews** were to celebrate the feast ([9:29-32](#)). Unlike Haman's decree her **words**, sent to the Jews (her "people") throughout the vast empire, were for **good will and assurance**. A copy of her letter was also included in the royal archives (cf. [2:23](#); [6:1](#); [10:2](#)).

#### **V. GREATNESS OF MORDECAI DESCRIBED ([CHAP. 10](#))**

[10:1-3](#). The book closes by speaking of **King Xerxes'** power; but more importantly the closing verses extol **Mordecai**, once a hated Jew in the Persian **Empire**. He was promoted by **Xerxes** and revered by **the Jews**. He was their great patriot **because he worked** hard for them **and spoke up** on their behalf to Xerxes. However, it is noteworthy that the Book of Esther nowhere states that Mordecai was a righteous individual or that he was careful to follow the Law. Many have doubted that a Jew could have such a high rank in the Persian Empire. However, it is

known that many foreign people were fully assimilated into the mainstream of life in the empire (e.g., Daniel; [Dan. 5:29](#); [6:1-2, 28](#)).

As the original Jewish readers read this account they would have been struck by the way God was sovereignly protecting them, often when they did not even know it. Many things in the Book of Esther happened that were beyond anyone's control except that of God, who oversees history. And the Book of Esther is filled with irony, with ways in which events turned out unexpectedly and in favor of God's people. Queen Vashti, a Persian, was deposed so that Esther, a Jewess, could become queen and save her people. Haman, once exalted, was brought low, and **Mordecai** and **the Jews**, once hated, were exalted and honored. A decree that would have wiped out the Jews was overruled by one which led to the destruction of nearly 76,000 enemies of the Jews. No wonder Purim was celebrated yearly with such rejoicing: to help the Jews remember that God is in control and that people should faithfully worship and serve their great God.

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

### Open it

1. What family traditions are most important to you?

**We used to have family dinners on Sundays and Holidays, too many are gone or too far away**

2. Why do people establish traditions?

**As Humans we enjoy things that are the same, and hold fast to them**

### Explore it

3. What did the Jews' enemies plan to do when they heard about the king's first edict? ([9:1](#))

**The enemies of the Jews hoped to gain mastery over them**

4. How were the Jews protected from annihilation? ([9:1-3](#))

**A second edict was sent out to allow the Jews to protect themselves from their enemies and to take their property as their own**

5. In what way was Mordecai affected by these events? ([9:4](#))

**Mordecai grew in fame and it became greater and greater**

6. What happened on the day the king's edict was to be carried out? ([9:5-10](#))

**The Jews attacked all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying those who hated them. BUT they took no plunder. Over 500 killed in Susa**

7. How did the king demonstrate his generosity to Esther above what he had already done?

([9:12](#))

**He asked her what is your petition, it shall even be granted to you, a further request. It shall be done also.**

8. How did the Jews get relief from their enemies? ([9:16](#))

**Now the rest of the Jews who were in the king's provinces assembled, to defend their lives and rid themselves of their enemies, and kill 75,000 of those who hated them; but they did not lay their hands on the plunder. *This was done* on the thirteenth day of the month Adar, and on the fourteenth day they rested and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.**

9. Why did Mordecai tell the Jews to celebrate? ([9:20-22](#))

**Then Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, obliging them to celebrate the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same month, annually, because on those days the Jews rid themselves of their enemies, and *it was a month* which was turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and sending portions *of food* to one another and gifts to the poor.**

10. How did Queen Esther confirm the celebration of Purim? ([9:29-32](#))

**Then Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim. He sent letters to all the Jews, to the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, *namely*, words of peace and truth, to establish these days of Purim at their appointed times, just as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had established for them, and just as they had established for themselves and for their descendants with instructions for their times of fasting and their lamentations. The command of Esther established these customs for Purim, and it was written in the book.**

### **Get it**

11. What character traits do you see in Esther or Mordecai that you would like to have?

**Honesty and a sense of fair**

12. What did the Jews do after God had delivered them from their enemies?

**Celebrated the victory as a holiday forever**

13. What should motivate us to give gifts to the poor?

**They cannot get what we have, and we should share to the best of our ability**

### **Apply it**

14. What good deed could you do this week to thank God for His goodness to you?

**Try and help those in need.**

15. What is one new tradition you could start in your family that would benefit others?

**Sharing with those who don't have.**