

## The SOVEREIGN yet UNSEEN God ~ Esther 9-10

→Scripture Reading Esther 9:1-4. 24-26

### INTRODUCTION

#### How to CELEBRATE Purim

- FAST the night before Purim
- Listen as Esther is READ Out Loud
- Give GIFTS to the poor
- Give FOOD to friends
- Cook TRADITIONAL foods
- Host a CELEBRATION

The Festival of Purim is the only O.T. Festival NOT established by Moses. NLT

### REVIEW of the Two Decrees...

**Esther 3:13** (NIV) Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate ALL the Jews - young and old, women and little children - on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to PLUNDER their goods.

**Esther 8:11** (NIV) The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate any ARMED FORCE of any nationality or province that might attack them and their women and children; AND to plunder the property of their enemies.

**Mordecai's** decree could **NOT REVERSE** Haman's because no LAW signed by the king could be REPEALED. Instead, Mordecai had the king sign a new law **giving Jews the RIGHT to FIGHT BACK**. LASB

### The ATTACKS Begin ~ Esther 9:1-16

<sup>1</sup> On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the ENEMIES of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were TURNED and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them. <sup>2</sup> The Jews assembled in their cities in ALL the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those seeking their destruction. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them. <sup>3</sup> And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king's administrators helped the Jews, because fear of Mordecai had seized them. <sup>4</sup> Mordecai was prominent in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and he became more and more powerful. <sup>5</sup> The Jews struck down ALL their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and they did what they pleased to those who hated them. <sup>10</sup> the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. But they did NOT lay their hands on the PLUNDER.

<sup>15</sup> The Jews in Susa came together on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and they put to death in Susa three hundred men, but they did NOT lay their hands on the PLUNDER.

<sup>16</sup> Meanwhile, the remainder of the Jews who were in the king's provinces also assembled to PROTECT themselves and get relief from their enemies. They killed seventy-five thousand of them but DID NOT lay their hands on the PLUNDER.

### IMPLICATION

#### →Took NO PROFIT from DEFENDING Themselves

**Esther 8:11** (NIV) The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and PROTECT themselves; ...AND to plunder the property of their enemies.

The deliberate decision NOT to ENRICH themselves at the expense of their enemies would not go unnoticed in a culture where victors were expected to take the spoil. The very novelty of such SELF-DENIAL would be remarked upon and remembered, and taken as proof of the upright motives of the Jewish communities. Constable

### The Start of PURIM ~ Esther 9:17-32

<sup>23</sup> So the Jews agreed to continue the celebration they had begun, doing what Mordecai had WRITTEN to them. <sup>24</sup> For Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of ALL the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them and had cast the *PUR* (that is, the lot) for their ruin and destruction. <sup>25</sup> But when the plot came to the king's attention, he issued written orders that the evil scheme Haman had devised against the Jews should come back onto his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

<sup>30</sup> And Mordecai sent letters to ALL the Jews in the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Xerxes - words of goodwill and assurance - <sup>31</sup> to establish these days of Purim at their designated times, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had decreed for them, and as they had established for themselves and their descendants in regard to their times of fasting and lamentation. <sup>32</sup> Esther's DECREE CONFIRMED these regulations about Purim, and it was written down in the records.

Esther's command was written down in the RECORDS - making it an OFFICIAL requirement for ALL Jewish people. HCSB

## IMPLICATION

### →God Specializes in turning SORROW into JOY

<sup>22</sup> ...the Jews got RELIEF from their enemies...their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration

**Isaiah 35:10** (NLT) Those who have been ransomed by the LORD will return. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be FILLED with joy and gladness.

**John 16:20** (NLT) I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your GRIEF will suddenly turn to wonderful JOY.

### →We Must REMEMBER God is FAITHFUL

<sup>30</sup> ...words of goodwill and assurance - <sup>31</sup> ...to ESTABLISH these days of Purim

Remembrance declares people and events are WORTHY of HONOR. HOTC

Salvation should be CELEBRATED with JOY. HOTC

## The GREATNESS of Mordecai ~ Esther 10.:1-3

<sup>1</sup> King Xerxes imposed tribute throughout the empire, to its distant shores. <sup>2</sup> And all his acts of power and might, together with a full account of the greatness of Mordecai to which the king had raised him, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Media and Persia? <sup>3</sup> Mordecai the Jew was SECOND in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the WELFARE of ALL the Jews.

## IMPLICATION

### →Contrasting Haman and Mordecai

**Esther 8:15** (NIV) Mordecai left the king's presence wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa held a JOYOUS celebration.

**Proverbs 11:10** (HCS) When the righteous thrive, a city rejoices, and when the wicked die, there is joyful shouting.

**Purim forever** holds out HOPE to the Jewish people that their enemies' plans will be overturned, that **God controls the dice**, and that the Jews will never be exterminated from the earth. Hayford

## TAKE AWAY ??

Although God is not mentioned in the book of Esther, HE is everywhere apparent as the ONE who opposed and foiled Satan's diabolical schemes by Sovereign intervention. MacArthur

The Sovereignty of God is clearly seen in ALL the DETAILS