

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

ESTHER 8:3-8, 9:18-23

THE DELIVERANCE OF THE JEWS— July 21, 2024

INTRODUCTION:

8:1 On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her. *"On that day"* meant the same day the king had hung Haman on the gallows. On that day ¹King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) had given Queen Esther all the property and possessions of Haman. This is hilarious because Haman had been the enemy of the Jews. Then that day Mordecai came to see the king, for Esther had now told people that Mordecai was her relative. Truth always finds a way to get out! Haman thought he was going to get the last laugh, but Mordecai has gotten the last laugh. I'm reminded of a line in a song: *"When you dig one ditch, you better dig two, cause the ditch you dig just might be for you."*

8:2 And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman. The king took the property of Haman and he gave it to Esther, and then the king took off his ring of authority, which he had taken back from Haman and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther gave Mordecai responsibility over the property and possessions of Haman. (My, My, My!) *"The wealth of the wicked is stored up for the righteous"* Prov.13:22. Mordecai is exalted, receiving both fame and fortune! People are holding onto possessions while they're alive, but worried about whose going to get stuff when they're dead. Haman died on the gallows that he had built for Mordecai. And Mordecai and Esther got all his stuff. Again hilarious! Mordecai and Esther were willing to give up everything, including their lives for the sake of a nation of people to be saved, and have the truth revealed. God is in it when you're willing!

LESSON:

I. ESTHER 8:3-8

8:3 And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews. Esther is **Appealing with humility**, for she came to speak to the king again, but at a distance, falling at his feet sobbing with tears, begging him to put away, meaning stop the plot in which Haman had devised against the Jews. The king would certainly protect Esther, but the other Jews were still in danger. So Esther appealed to the king with humility to protect them, and to stop this evil plan of Haman. She could not come in anger, or come speaking blame, especially not to the king. She was still interceding for her people. James 4:6b (NLT) says God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. She had to come cautiously! In **chapter 4** Esther had fasted and prayed for 3 days and 3 nights for her people, and said *"If I perish I perish."* In **chapter 5** God gave her the strategy to set up a banquet for Haman and the king, and in **chapter 7** Haman's plot was found out, and he was hung. Now she's going before the king again to speak to him which brings her into danger again, for a king will do what a king wants to do. But, when you're on a roll, you're on a roll! *"If I perish I perish"* is still in play! You have the *"Greater One"* inside you, so come in humility!

¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/esther-lbw.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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8:4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,— Queen Esther could not approach the king unless he held out the golden scepter, and that also goes for the queen. There is a protocol, just like there is a protocol when coming before God. She learned this from Hatach, the one (man servant) appointed to look after her in the beginning of coming into the palace. When we come before God, sin can't approach Him. You must have an humble heart, not a prideful one. We should want Him before we want things, no matter how urgent it is. God already knows the urgency of whatever we need, but He wants our heart first, our undivided attention upon Him, an intimacy with Him! So, at this time she came in the right posture: she fell down at his feet, and with tears.

This reminds me of our next lesson in **Luke 7:36-38** where an uninvited woman comes to Simon, a Pharisee's house for dinner because Jesus was there. She didn't come empty handed. She brought with her an alabaster box of ointment. She stood at Jesus' feet behind him weeping just by being in His presence, and surrendered in utter humility to the Lord as she began to wash his feet with her tears, and wipe them with the hairs of her head. At the Lord's feet is a supreme act of humility, love, and surrender.

Esther came in the right posture of humility, love and surrender, and got the king's attention, and so he held out his golden scepter for Queen Esther to approach him. Now she's able to get up and stand before the king. You can't fight an enemy with the wrong posture before God!

8:5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces:— Haman was dead and Mordecai has been promoted in the kingdom, but there was still a problem; the decree that had been made to destroy the Jewish nation of people in all the king's provinces was still in play; it still remained. Nobody could ever change the laws of Persia and Media, not after once the king had signed it. There would have to be a specific plan devised to avert the previous decree that Haman the Agagite devised.

Esther is **Appealing to his emotions**. It's better to be kind and gentle than to be harsh and aggressive (*'you catch more bees with honey than vinegar'*). "If I please the king, and if I find favor in your sight." Favor is not that we're so good, but it's that God is so gracious! Don't we think this at times about a lot of people we want to impress at times? (*'I hope that I am important... I hope that he is pleased with me... I hope they listen to my request'*). When God is on your side, follow His lead! She goes on to say "And if the thing seems right before the king?" She is stroking his emotional ego with her words. She is really saying, *"I know that the king will do the right thing, and I have won your approval, let an order be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman."*

Now, Esther is **Appealing with diplomacy**; she gets down to the business at hand. *"...Please write a declaration to stop the plot that Haman made. *(Haman was the son of Hammedatha, the descendant of Agag)." You know Haman, the one that wrote letters that ordered the officials to kill all the Jews in all the king's districts! She's putting all the blame upon Haman and not upon the king, for this evil law. She spoke in such a way that put the king at ease, so it would become the plan of the king.*

*Haman was a descendant of Agag, the king of the Amalekites. It reaches all the way back to being born of a descendant of Esau. However, because of an unprovoked attack against the Israelites after crossing the Red Sea, in Exodus 17:14 God told Moses to announce to Joshua that He would utterly blot out every trace of Amalek. As long as Moses held up the rod assisted by Aaron and Hur, Israel won. In Saul's time the Amalekites

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were defeated again, but Saul disobeyed God and kept king Agag of the Amalekites alive along with the best of sheep and cattle, etc. Samuel had to do what Saul would not do. He cut king Agag into pieces in front of the altar at Gilgal (1 Samuel 15). God had rejected Saul from reigning over Israel and had Samuel anoint David.

8:6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?— Esther reminds the king that this would be hard for her to endure; to see such an evil plan go forth upon her people or watch such terrible events that would destroy the Jews, her family.

8:7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews. King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) lays it all out saying to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew of what he has already done: Given Esther all the property and possessions of Haman, and had him hung on the gallows, because Haman wanted to kill the Jews.

8:8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse. Do you see how bold the king got? He's telling them to write whatever they want with regard to the Jews. Write it in the king's name, and give it the mark of the king's ring of authority. It was just that simple? Nobody could change a law that has the king's name and seal with the king's ring of authority on it, then that law written would be law. Therefore, write another law and it will not be revoked because it will be in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring. Now remember in verse 5, Esther had said to the king: **let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman.** He just told them to write another law with his name and signature, and it became his idea! While we're trying to figure it out, God don already worked it out! Praise God!

II. ESTHER 9:18-23

INTRODUCTION:

²As this chapter opens, we find two opposing parties ready to leap at each other's throats. Haman's decree had stated that on a certain day (13th day of the 12th month) anyone could kill the Jews and take their property (9:1). This was the very day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to do away with them, but now the Jews came together to attack their enemies, and no one could oppose them (9:2). The leaders were afraid of Mordecai and took sides with the Jews (9:3). Everyone knew the king had given him a lot of power (9:4). The Jews killed 500 people, but they did not take their enemies' possessions (9:5-10) (9:1-10).

Later that day, someone told the king how many people had been killed (9:11). The king told Esther how many had been killed in Susa, including Haman's sons (9:12). After a day of fierce fighting Esther asks for a one-day extension to hunt out and destroy any further enemies. She also requested that the ten sons of Haman, who were already dead, be publicly hanged on the gallows (9:13). Her request was granted (9:14). Gentle Esther, who wept and pled for her people, now wanted bitter humiliation for their enemies (9:15). When it was all over the Jews killed 75 thousand enemies (9:16-17). The fact that the Jews killed so many aggressors indicates that the threat of hostility against them had been increasing since the edict (the law) against them had been issued. It could be argued that

² <https://www.family-times.net/commentary/jews-took-revenge/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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Esther knew of enemies who would kill the Jews if she did not have them killed first, but it would appear that her real motivation was revenge (9:11-17).

9:18 But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. This verse explains why there are two different dates for celebrating the deliverance of the Jews. **The Jews in Shushan (Susa)** had gathered and killed their enemies on the 13th and 14th days; two days, then rested and celebrated on the 15th day. So they chose that day to feast; eat and be happy.

9:19 Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another. *The Jews of the village* were called village Jews, rural Jews living in remote areas, separated towns, or unprotected towns. Therefore, **the Jews of the villages** that lived in the unwalled towns the fighting was completed on the 13th day; one day, but celebrated on the 14th day of the month of Adar, and then feasted on the next day showing a day of gladness and feasting; happiness and eating, being a good day to give presents to one another.

The king allowed the Jews in the villages; the rural areas to kill their enemies in one day, and feast the next day—the 14th day. And the king allowed the Jews in Susa to kill their enemies for two days and rested from their enemies the next day—the 15th day. therefore, two different dates for celebrating the deliverance of the Jews.

9:20 And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far,— Mordecai recorded an account of these things in a book and sent letters to all the Jews in the districts of King Ahasuerus (Xerxes), both near and far. The Jews must always remember how God had saved them.

9:21 To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,— Mordecai told the Jews to have two special days every year. And to establish these special days each year on the 14th and 15th days of the month called Adar.

9:22 As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor. God had worked this thing out. These were the days when the Jews got relief from their enemies. This was the month when they had been sad; sorrowful, but they became happy in that month. This was the month when bad days from mourning became good days. Mordecai told them that these dates were days to feast: eat and to be happy, and give each other gifts of food, and even give gifts to poor. Then the poor could also eat and be happy on these special days.

9:23 And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them;— The Jews agreed to continue to do such things as they had already done. And they agreed to obey what Mordecai had written to them.

SUMMARY:

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3Esther came to speak to the king again, falling at his feet sobbing with tears, begging him to stop the plot in which Haman had devised against the Jews. **4**She came in the right posture of humility, love and surrender, and got the king's attention, and so he held out his golden scepter for Queen Esther to approach him. **5**It's better to be kind and gentle than to be harsh and aggressive. She's putting all the blame upon Haman and not upon the king, for this evil law, that had been put into play. She says, *"let an order be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman."* **6**Esther reminds the king that this would be hard for her to endure; to see her family destroyed. **7**King Ahasuerus tells Queen Esther and Mordecai that he has already given Esther all the property and possessions of Haman, and had him hung on the gallows, because he wanted to kill the Jews. **8** The king then tells them to write whatever they want with regard to the Jews. Write it in the king's name, and put the seal of the king's ring of authority on it, then that law written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked (**8:3-8**).

18This verse explains why there are two different dates for celebrating the deliverance of the Jews. The Jews in Shushan (Susa) had gathered and killed their enemies on the 13th and 14th days; two days, then rested and celebrated on the 15th day. **19**However, the Jews of the villages and unwalled towns only killed their enemies for one day, on the 13th day, but celebrated and feasted the next day on the 14th day of the month of Adar. **20**Mordecai recorded an account of these things in a book and sent letters to all the Jews in the districts of King Ahasuerus both near and far. **21**Mordecai told the Jews to have two special days every year. And to establish these special days each year on the 14th and 15th days of the month called Adar. **22**These were the days when the Jews got relief from their enemies. It was a month that was sorrowful, yet became joyous, and from mourning into a good day. They made those days of feasting and joy, and of sending gifts one to another, and gifts to the poor. **23**The Jews agreed to continue to do such things as they had already done. And they agreed to obey what Mordecai had written to them (**9:18-23**).