

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

Providential Deliverance

Chapters 8:9 - 9:15

We have come to the apex of our narrative: the miraculous deliverance of the Jewish people through a seemingly series of 'coincidences' and 'happenstances'. But as God's children, we know there is no such thing as 'luck', but only the invisible hand of an almighty, infinitely powerful, wise, and merciful God who works through circumstances and people to fulfill His will for the good of His people and for *His* ultimate glory.

Begin with prayer – asking God to lead and guide you into all truth.

Prayerfully read through Esther Chapters 8:9-9:15

Suggestion: print out the passage on a separate piece of paper. This may be helpful as you observe, mark, and take notes.

Observation:

1. Who are the key people involved in this passage?
2. Are there any repeated words or phrases? (if any)
3. What events are taking place in these verses?
4. When do these series of events take place? (Is there a time gap between when the 2nd edict is written and when it takes effect?)
5. What does the 2nd edict say?
6. How do the Jews respond to the 2nd edict? How is their response the same/different in comparison to the 1st edict in chapter 3?
7. Describe Mordecai's dress upon leaving the presence of the king in 8:15.

8. According to the text, how do the Jews carry out the 2nd edict?

Interpretation:

1. Like the Jews who no longer face retribution but instead now have hope, how do we as believers respond to the fact that we are no longer facing condemnation because of God's gift of salvation through Christ (Romans 8:1-4)? (See Luke 2:10, Psalm 16:11, Romans 15:13)
2. Aside from God's providence and sovereignty, do you see other characteristics and attributes of God in these verses? Cite Scripture references
3. Is there a significance to Mordecai wearing royal garments of blue & white, a large gold crown, and a purple robe of fine linen? What does this show?
4. The text says that princes, satraps, and governors helped the Jews (9:3). Additionally, many people also became Jews. Based on the text, what do you think are possible reasons non-Jews would not only find favor in the Jews but also convert?
5. How would you describe the manner in which the Jews carried out the 2nd edict? Would you say it is significant that they "didn't lay their hands on the plunder?"

Applying the Text:

1. God promised the Jewish people through Abraham that He would make them a great nation, and He would go before them. In Esther, we see His providence in protecting them from annihilation and preserving them in and through adversity. What is the promise and purpose for us in Romans 8:28?
2. What provisions has God given us to fight our battles in Ephesians 6:11-18?

3. We can only trust God to the depth that we know His character. What attributes do you see at work in the Book of Esther? How does knowing His character help you in times of adversity?
4. What is the most valuable way we profit through adversity? Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4
5. Make a list of promises that have strengthened, comforted, and encouraged you to push through and stand in trials?
6. The Jews expressed “gladness, joy, and honor” upon receiving earthly salvation. Does your life show genuine gladness and joy for the gift of salvation you have received through Christ? How? If not, how can you begin to express joy and gladness?

God has promised in Hebrews 13:5 that “He would never desert you or forsake you” and in Psalm 118:6 that “The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid, What shall man do to me?” God has not left us orphans. C. H. Spurgeon said, “When you can’t trace His hand, you can always see His heart.”