

Saved to See Others Saved

Esther 8

1. God Displayed His Sovereignty and Power in a Great Reversal (vvs. 1-2)

a. The House of Haman was Overturned

- All of his belongings and even his family (**1a-b**)
- His power and authority were given over to Mordecai (**1c-2**)

2. A Plea for Mercy (vvs. 3-8)

An Example in Diplomacy

- Esther Prefaced her Plea with Four Conditions (vvs. 4-5)
- Esther asked for an Edict to Revoke the Original Order by Haman (last half of vs. 5)

3. A Plan for the People's Defense (vvs. 9-11)

- It was sent out everywhere in all languages (vvs. 9-10a)
- It mirrored the language of the original edict (vvs. 10b-11)

The Jews who were in every city were allowed to gather and defend their lives, *to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate*. The king did not revoke the genocide edict. He did give the Jews permission however to arm themselves, assemble, and kill anyone that attacked them, and to take all of their stuff.

4. God's Power Displayed in a Transformation (vvs. 15-17)

Mordecai Appeared as a New Man (vs. 15)

- The people celebrated (vs. 15c-16)
- There was a feast and a celebration—the festival observed still to this day as Purim (vs. 17a-d)
- And many came to believe (vs. 17e-f)

Another Great Reversal from **Esther 4:1-3** to **Esther 8:15-17**

Read Esther 4:1-3, Read Isaiah 61:1-3

5. A Great Example in Living out the Gospel

- **Esther's Salvation was not Enough**

Esther was saved. Her uncle was saved too. But that was not enough for her. *If you don't share in Esther's plight, that your salvation is not enough, pray to God that He would give you that same burning burden.*

- **The King Would Not Retract His Law; God will Never Change His Law**

God's word tells us that the wages of sin is death (**Romans 6:23**). God's law is that justice must be done for sin, and that justice is death and the wrath of God. There is no retraction of that law because it is a part of who He is. He is holy and He is just. God's word also tells us that everyone has sinned (**Romans 3:23**). This means that in a sense, all of mankind from Adam to eternity future are set for death and eternal damnation by the wrath of God because we are all guilty, and God's irrevocable law has declared that sin must be paid for.

But God made a way that without that law being revoked, it could be satisfied. That way is Jesus.

- **The Jews had to Defend Themselves, we have to Fight Daily to Live in Victory**

Jesus has secured our salvation if we are in Christ, but the Christian life requires daily battle. John Owen famously wrote, *"Do you mortify? Do you make it your daily work? Be always at it whilst you live; cease not a day from this work; be killing sin or it will be killing you."* The Apostle Peter calls us to do this in his second epistle (2 Peter 1:3-7). **Read 2 Peter 1:3-7**