

## ONLY GOD CAN BRING GLORY TO HIMSELF

### THE DAY OF DESTRUCTION ARRIVES

“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 determined to destroy them. 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>6</sup> In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. <sup>7</sup> They also killed 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 son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. But they did not lay their hands on the plunder. <sup>11</sup> The number of those killed in the citadel of Susa was reported to the king that same day. <sup>12</sup> The king said to Queen Esther, “The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman in the citadel of Susa. What have they done in the rest of the king’s provinces? Now what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? It will also be granted.” <sup>13</sup> “If it pleases the king,” Esther answered, “give the Jews in Susa permission to carry out this day’s edict tomorrow also, and let Haman’s ten sons be impaled on poles.”

<sup>14</sup> So the king commanded that this be done. An edict was issued in Susa, and they impaled the ten sons of Haman. <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. <sup>17</sup> This happened on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth they rested and made it a day of feasting and joy.”

- Esther 9:1-17

- On the appointed day, the enemies of the Jews tested the first edict and their ability to kill the Jews and take their property.
- But the second edict gave the Jews the right to fight back and the people of all nationalities feared them.
- The government officials fought *with* the Jews because they feared the authority of Mordecai.
- The Jews kill 500 attackers and the ten sons of Haman.
- King Xerxes again asked Esther what she wanted, and she requested another day for fighting and Haman’s sons hanged.
  - *What is the purpose of hanging them?*
- The Jews were victorious all over the empire, but they did not take the property of those who were slain.
- That day became a day of celebration.

### THE DAY IS REMEMBERED AS A HOLIDAY

“The Jews in Susa, however, had assembled on the thirteenth and fourteenth, and then on the fifteenth they rested and made it a day of feasting and joy. <sup>19</sup> That is why rural Jews—those living in villages—observe the fourteenth of the month of Adar as a day of joy and feasting, a day for giving presents to each other.

<sup>20</sup> Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, <sup>21</sup> to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar <sup>22</sup> as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor... <sup>28</sup> These days should be remembered and observed in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city. And these days of Purim should never fail to be celebrated by the Jews—nor should the memory of these days die out among their descendants.”

- Esther 9:18-22,28

- Mordecai recorded these events. (*Is he the book’s author?*)
- He declared that this holiday would be a two-day holiday.
- He also declared that two things should be done on this day.
  - The giving of food to one another.
  - The giving of gifts to the poor. (*Jesus and Purim?*)
- Purim would be celebrated annually by every generation.

### MORDECAI IS HONOURED

“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, whom the king had promoted, 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.”

- Esther 10:1-3

- Mordecai became great in the eyes of the people and was second in command of the entire empire of Persia. (*Joseph, Daniel*)
- He worked for the good of the people and spoke up for the Jews. (*What about Esther?*)

### LESSONS LEARNED:

1. A principle of Scripture is that we do our part and God will do His part. We are not to be passive!
2. We are reminded that God is able to honour those who honour Him but also to see that His enemies are cursed.
3. God wants us to remember and celebrate His greatness!

### OUR KEY THOUGHT

- Only God holds in His hands every moment of every life — for His own glory!

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