

1. On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews; and Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her.
2. Then the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. So Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.
3. Then Esther spoke again to the king; she fell at his feet, weeping and pleading with him to avert the evil design of Haman the Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews.
4. The king held out the golden sceptre to Esther.
5. and Esther rose and stood before the king. She said,
If it pleases the king, and if I have won his favour,
and if ~~the king~~ the thing seems right before the king,
and I have his approval, let an order be written to
revoke the letters devised by Haman son of Hammedatha

the Agagite, which he wrote giving orders to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king.

6. For how can I bear to see the calamity that is coming on my people? Or how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?

7. Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to the Jew Mordecai, 'See, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows, because he plotted to lay hands on the Jews.'

8. You may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring; for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked.

9. The king's secretaries were summoned at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day; and an edict was written, according to all

that Mordecai commanded, to the Jews and to the satraps and the governors and the officials of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, to every province in its own script and to every people in its own language, and also to the Jews in their script and their language.

10 - He wrote letters in the name of King Ahasuerus,

Sealed them with the king's ring, and sent them by mounted couriers riding on fast steeds bred from the royal herd.

11. By these letters the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to assemble and defend their lives, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, with their children and women, and to plunder their goods on a single day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

13 A copy of the writ was to be issued as a decree in every province and published to all peoples, and the Jews were to be ready on that day to take revenge on their enemies.

14. So the couriers, mounted on their swift royal steeds, hurried out, ^{urged} ~~urged~~ by the king's command. The decree was issued in the citadel of Susa.

15 Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the King, wearing royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a mantle of fine linen and purple, while the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced.

16 For the Jews there was light and gladness, joy and honour.

17. In every province and in every city, wherever the King's command and his edict came, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a festival and a holiday.

Furthermore, many of the peoples of the

Esther 8

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American High Street
Methodist Church
Coffee Morning.

country professed to be Jews, because
the fear of the Jews had fallen
upon them.

Destruction of the Enemies of the Jews.

1 Now in the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, when the king's command and edict were about to be executed, on the very day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain power over them, but which had been changed to a day when the Jews would gain power over their foes, 2 the Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who had sought their ruin, and no one could withstand them because the fear of them had fallen upon all peoples. All the officials of the provinces, the satraps and the governors, and the royal officials were supporting the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai had fallen upon them. 4 For Mordecai was powerful in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces as the man Mordecai grew more and more powerful.

⁵ So the Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword, slaughtering and destroying them, and did as they pleased to those who hated them.

⁶ In the citadel of Susa the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred people.⁷⁻⁹ They killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, Vaizatha,¹⁰ the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemies of the Jews; but they did not touch the plunder. That very day the number of those killed in the citadel of Susa was reported to the king.

¹¹ The king said to Queen Esther, 'In the citadel of Susa the Jews have killed five hundred people and also the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what is your petition? It shall be granted you. And what further is your request? It shall be fulfilled.'¹² Esther said, 'If it pleases the King, let the Jews who are in Susa be allowed tomorrow also to do according to this day's edict, and let the ten sons of Haman

be hanged on the gallows.'

¹⁴ So the king commanded this to be done; a decree was issued in Susa, and the ten sons of Haman were hanged. The Jews who were in Susa gathered also on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and they killed three hundred people in Susa; but they did not touch the plunder.

¹⁵ Now the other Jews who were in the king's provinces also gathered to defend their lives, and gained relief from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of those who hated them; but they laid no hands on the plunder.

¹⁶ This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth day they rested and made that a day of feasting and gladness.

THE FEAST OF PURIM INAUGURATED

¹⁷ But the Jews who were in Susa gathered on the thirteenth day and on the fourteenth, and rested on the fifteenth day, making that a day of feasting and gladness

¹⁸ Therefore the Jews of the villages, who live in the open towns, hold the fourteenth day of the

month of Adar as a day for gladness and feasting,
a holiday on which they send gifts of food to
one another.



¹⁹ Therefore the Jews of the villages, who live in the open towns, hold the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a day for gladness and feasting, a holiday on which they send gifts of food to one another.

²⁰ Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both far and near;

²¹ enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year,

²² as the days on which the Jews gained from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of

food to one another and presents to the poor.

²³ So the Jews adopted as a custom what they had begun to do, as Mordecai had written to them.

²⁴ Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur - that is, 'the lot' - to crush and destroy them; ²⁵ but when Esther came before the King, he gave orders in writing that the wicked plot that he had devised against the Jews should come upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

²⁶ Therefore these days are called Purim, from the word Pur. Thus because of all that was written in this letter, and of what they had faced in this matter, and of what had happened to them, ²⁷ The Jews established & accepted as a custom for themselves & their descendants & all who joined them without fail they would continue to observe those two days every year, as it was written and at the time appointed.

²⁸ These days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation in every family province, and city;

and these days of Purim should never fall into disuse among the Jews, nor should the commemoration of these days cease among their descendants.

29

Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with the Jew Mordecai, gave full written authority, confirming this

30 Second letter about Purim. Letters were sent wishing peace and security to all the Jews, to the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus,
31 and giving orders that these days of Purim should be observed at their appointed seasons, as the Jew Mordecai and Queen Esther enjoined on the Jews, just as they had laid down for themselves and for their descendants regulations concerning their feasts and their lamentations.

32

The command of Queen Esther fixed these practices of Purim, and it was recorded in writing.



1. King Ahasuerus laid tribute on the land and on the islands of the sea.
2. All the acts of his power and might, and the full account of the high honor of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the annals of the kings of Media and Persia?
3. For Mordecai the Jew was next in rank to King Ahasuerus, and he was powerful among the Jews and popular with his many kindred, for he sought the good of his people and interceded for the welfare of all his descendants.