**Esther 9:1-32 June 6, 2021**

**Celebrate Good Times**

Jews Have **Power Over Enemies** Esther 9:1-4

* Haman had cast lots “the pur” to determine the date for the genocide of the Jews
  + He then sent out an edict, with the king’s signet ring, to kill all the Jews on the twelfth month, the thirteenth day
* Haman was dead, not Mordecai
* The enemies of the Jews were about to receive justice for their hatred and evil acts
* **Fear** swept over the enemies of the Jews to keep them at bay
* Because of Mordecai’s position in the Persian Kingdom, all the royal officials and other citizens respected Mordecai
  + Mordecai was 2nd in charge over all of Persia
  + Mordecai’s power continued to grow

Jews Successfully **Defend Themselves** Esther 9:5-15

* Xerxes’ edict permitted the Jews to act when they were attacked
  + Apparently some enemies were not afraid and attacked the Jews anyway
  + 500 enemies were killed in Susa alone
  + Xerxes granted a 2nd day for the Jews to defend themselves
  + An additional 300 men were killed on the 2nd day
* When the Jews defeated their enemies, **they did not take money**
  + Haman’s plot was to destroy the Jews and to take all their money as well to pay for the bribe he was willing to pay Xerxes

Jews Defend Themselves **and Rest** Esther 9:16-19

* 75,000 people in Persia die because they hated the Jews
  + The enemies of the Jews were eliminated
* After the enemies were dead, the Jews **celebrated** with feasting and rest

Feast of Purim **Begins** Esther 9:20-28

* All the Jews began to annually celebrate this feast to commemorate God’s deliverance
  + It was a 2 day feast to rejoice
  + It is important to celebrate and remember God’s deliverance from evil and oppression
  + It is important to retell the story of what God has done and is doing for us
* Sorrow was turned to **joy**
* Mourning was turned into celebration
* There ought to be days to feast and rejoice with much thanksgiving
  + Not just on the 4th Thursday of November

The Feast of Purim is **Celebrated Now** Esther 9:39-32

* Remembering is such a vital part of worship
  + Esther and Mordecai knew fasting, mourning, and seeking God
  + They also knew how to draw all the Jews to powerfully worship God
  + The Feast of Purim reminds us to **pause and remember and rejoice**

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