**Esther 8:1-17 May 30, 2021**

**Saved from Death**

Haman’s Demise: **Mordecai’s Rise** Esther 8:1-2

* Haman is exposed as the enemy of the Jews
	+ His property is confiscated and given to Esther
	+ Esther turns Haman’s property over to Mordecai to be managed
* Mordecai is given the privilege once assigned to Haman
	+ He possessed the king’s signet ring which is like being power of attorney today

Esther’s Second Request Esther 8:3-6

* She approaches Xerxes to beg for **deliverance** for the Jews
* Xerxes receives his Queen
* Esther is not left to grovel on the floor
	+ She stands before Xerxes to plead for her people

Xerxes’ Decree **Saves the Jews** Esther 8:7-14

* Xerxes gives permission for Esther & Mordecai to issue a second law
	+ This law would mean that all Jews were permitted to defend themselves against anyone who would try to harm them
	+ They would be permitted to build their own army to defend themselves and to protect their families from death
* The decree was sent across the whole Persian Empire, just as Haman’s decree was
	+ It was written in the language of all the local people across all of the provinces in Persia

The City of Susa **Rejoices** Esther 8:15-17

* Mordecai is recognized as the 2nd in command (Prime Minister) of Persia
	+ His clothes and appearance now show his authority and power
	+ Contrast this with the sackcloth / ashes of chapter 4
* The transition from death to life for the Jews caused them to lead glad celebration
	+ A holiday and feast were observed by many to share in the joy of their deliverance
	+ Many became Jews as part of the king’s edict

**What does this mean for me?**

* Haman wrote a decree of death while Mordecai gave the Jews life
	+ A sentence of death is over all of us because we have sinned and do sin
	+ God grants life to all who trust in His Son and removes the penalty of death
	+ Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
	+ John 5:24, “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”
* God heard the prayers of Esther and her people and delivered them from death
	+ He always does hear our prayers and often grant our requests from those prayers
	+ Yet not everyone gets relief from tribulations & troubles in our lifetime
* Esther fell before the king for her request to save the Jews
	+ Let all of us fall before our King Jesus to pray for God to save those who are far from Him
	+ It is our mission as a church to Prepare People for Eternity
* The Jews turned their mourning into a time of great joy
	+ Is the joy of your life contagious and winsome?

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