

[How would you describe Haman's arrogance? What do you think Mordecai's thoughts were as he was led through the city?](#)

II. EVIL EXPOSED – Esther 7:1 – 8:2 (GWT)

¹So the king and Haman came to have dinner with Queen Esther. ²On the second day, while they were drinking wine, the king asked Esther, “What is your request, Queen Esther? It will be granted to you. And what would you like? Even if it is up to half of the kingdom, it will be granted.” ³Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, Your Majesty, spare my life. That is my request. And spare the life of my people. That is what I ask for. ⁴You see, we—my people and I—have been sold so that we can be wiped out, killed, and destroyed. If our men and women had only been sold as slaves, I would have kept silent because the enemy is not worth troubling you about, Your Majesty.” ⁵Then King Xerxes interrupted Queen Esther and said, “Who is this person? Where is the person who has dared to do this?” ⁶Esther answered, “Our vicious enemy is this wicked man Haman!” Then Haman became panic-stricken in the presence of the king and queen. ⁷The king was furious as he got up from dinner and went into the palace garden. But Haman stayed to beg Queen Esther for his life, because he saw that the king had a terrible end in mind for him. ⁸When the king returned from the palace garden to the palace dining room, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was lying. The king thought, “Is he even going to rape the queen while I'm in the palace?” Then the king passed sentence on him, and servants covered Haman's face. ⁹Harbona, one of the eunuchs present with the king, said, “What a coincidence! The 75-foot pole Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke up for the well-being of the king, is still standing at Haman's house.” The king responded, “Hang him on it!” ¹⁰So servants *hung Haman on the very pole* he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king got over his raging anger. ¹On that same day King Xerxes gave the property of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther. Also, Mordecai came to the king because Esther had told him how Mordecai was related to her. ²Then the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther put Mordecai in charge of Haman's property.

[Describe what the king's surprise when he discovered that Esther was doomed to die.](#)

III. DELIVERED FROM EVIL – Esther 8:9-12; 9:1-5, 20-22, 26-28 (GWT)

⁹At that time on the twenty-third day of Sivan, the third month, the king's scribes were summoned. What Mordecai had ordered was written to the Jews and to the satraps, governors, and officers of the 127 provinces from India to Sudan.

It was written to each province in its own script, to each people in their own language, and to the Jews in their own script and their own language.¹⁰Mordecai wrote in King Xerxes' name and sealed the official documents with the king's signet ring. Then he sent them by messengers who rode special horses bred for speed. He wrote ¹¹that the king had given permission for the Jews in every city to assemble, to defend themselves, to wipe out, to kill, and to destroy every armed force of the people and province that is hostile to them, even women and children, and to seize their goods. ¹²[This was permitted] on one day in all the provinces of King Xerxes, on the thirteenth day of Adar, the twelfth month.

9:1-5¹On the thirteenth day of Adar, the twelfth month, the king's command and decree were to be carried out. On that very day, when the enemies of the Jews expected to overpower them, the exact opposite happened: The Jews overpowered those who hated them. ²The Jews assembled in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Xerxes to kill those who were planning to harm them. No one could stand up against them, because all the people were terrified of them. ³All the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and the king's treasurers assisted the Jews because they were terrified of Mordecai. ⁴Mordecai was an important man in the king's palace. Moreover, his reputation was spreading to all the provinces, since Mordecai was becoming more and more powerful. ⁵Then with their swords, the Jews attacked all their enemies, killing them, destroying them, and doing whatever they pleased to those who hated them.

9:20-22 ²⁰Now, Mordecai wrote these things down and sent official letters to all the Jews in all the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far. ²¹He established the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as days they must observe every year. ²²They were to observe them just like the days when the Jews freed themselves from their enemies. In that month their grief turned to joy and their mourning into a holiday. He declared that these days are to be days for feasting and celebrating and for sending gifts of food to one another, especially gifts to the poor.

9:26-28 ²⁶So the Jews called these days Purim, based on the word *Pur*. Therefore, because of everything that was said in this letter—both what they had seen and what had happened to them—²⁷the Jews established a tradition for themselves and their descendants and for anyone who would join them. The tradition was that a person should never fail to observe these two days every year, as they were described and at their appointed time. ²⁸So these days must be remembered and observed in every age, family, province, and city. These days of Purim must not be ignored among the Jews, and the importance of these days must never be forgotten by the generations to come.

[Read 2 Timothy 4:18 and briefly discuss.](#)