

HADASSAH

#9, Purim – Esther 9:1-10:3

It was the hammering! Heard across all 127 provinces it began to grate on the nerves of Haman’s mercenaries. What had started as a rumor, became a decree from the palace at Susa. The Jews had been given permission to defend themselves! The killers had never bargained on this! Hadassah’s people could be heard beating their plowshares into swords and their pruning hooks into spears. And with hearts filled with a terrible resolve, the Jews waited, intent upon their purpose.

473 BC

Mar/ Apr	Apr/ May	May/ Jun	Jun/ Jul	Jul/ Aug	Aug/ Sep	Sep/ Oct	Oct/ Nov	Nov/ Dec	Dec/ Jan	Jan/ Feb	Feb/ Mar
Nissan	Lyyar	Silvan	Tammuz	Ab	Elul	Tishri	eshvan	Chislev	Tebeth	Shebat	Adar

MacArthur Study Bible

1 Now in the twelfth month (that is, the month Adar), on the thirteenth day when the king’s command and edict were about to be executed, on the day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, it was turned to the contrary so that the Jews themselves gained the mastery over those who hated them.

[1.] v:1, in the twelfth month (that is, the month Adar), on the thirteenth, **From Est 8:11-12, identify which day were the Jews given permission to defend themselves?**

[2.] Est 8:11-12 again, How long was the duration of this permission?

[3.] Back to Est 9:1 again, mastery, Why isn’t it just mastery we are talking about here?

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2 The Jews assembled in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm; and no one could stand before them, for the dread of them had fallen on all the peoples.

3 Even all the princes of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and those who were doing the king's business assisted the Jews, because the dread of Mordecai had fallen on them. 4 Indeed, Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for the man Mordecai became greater and greater.

5 Thus the Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying; and they did what they pleased to those who hated them.

6 At the citadel in Susa the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men, 7 and Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, 8 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, 9 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Vaizatha, 10 the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Jews' enemy; but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

[4.] v:2, the dread of them had fallen on all the peoples, **The mercenaries and all the people had never closed with the Jews in battle. Confidently they signed on but now things have changed. Why would they have this dread?**

[5.] v:2 again, **We live in a world where everyone, even Christians, fear the unknown. Why is that?**

[6.] v:3-4, dread of Mordecai **Why was Mordecai someone to be dreaded?**

[7.] v:5-10, the ten sons of Haman, **For some reason the sons felt secure. What could they have been thinking?**

- a) they had political asylum.
- b) the Jews were just kidding.
- c) pop was gone and it ended there.
- d) we need to coexist.
- e) they didn't think.

[8.] question [7.], **Can you think of any examples where Christians tend to feel secure with the world system?**

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11 On that day the number of those who were killed at the citadel in Susa was reported to the king. 12 The king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman at the citadel in Susa. What then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces! Now what is your petition? It shall even be granted you. And what is your further request? It shall also be done." 13 Then said Esther, "If it pleases the king, let tomorrow also be granted to the Jews who are in Susa to do according to the edict of today; and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows." 14 So the king commanded that it should be done so; and an edict was issued in Susa, and Haman's ten sons were hanged.

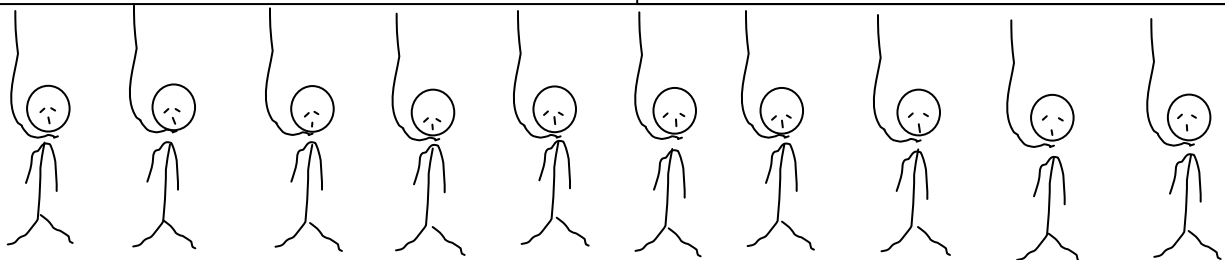
[9.] Since we were talking about "world", take a look at Jn 16:33 & I Jn 3:13 and jot down your reactions.

[10.] Back to Est 9:6-10 again, they did not lay their hands on the plunder, Review I Sam 15:2-3 & 7-9. Describe Saul's incomplete obedience?

[11.] question [8.], Why or why don't you think Hadassah's people were aware of Saul's incomplete obedience?

[12.] v:13, If it pleases the king, **Rather than seek permission, Why didn't Hadassah just keep striking while the iron was hot?**

[13.] v:13, ten sons be hanged on the gallows, **OK, these guys are already dead. What would this "public display" accomplish?**



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15 The Jews who were in Susa assembled also on the fourteenth day of the month Adar and killed three hundred men in Susa, but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

16 Now the rest of the Jews who were in the king's provinces assembled, to defend their lives and rid themselves of their enemies, and kill 75,000 of those who hated them; but they did not lay their hands on the plunder. 17 This was done on the thirteenth day of the month Adar, and on the fourteenth day they rested and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.

18 But the Jews who were in Susa assembled on the thirteenth and the fourteenth of the same month, and they rested on the fifteenth day and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.

19 Therefore the Jews of the rural areas, who live in the rural towns, make the fourteenth day of the month Adar a holiday for rejoicing and feasting and sending portions of food to one another.

20 Then Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, 21 obliging them to celebrate the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same month, annually, 22 because on those days the Jews rid themselves of their enemies, and it was a month which was turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and sending portions of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

[14.] v:16-17, the king's provinces, Sum up the events of the 13th day of the month of Adar in the rest of the provinces.

[15.] v:16-17, made it a day, On the 14th day of the month of Adar, what happened in the provinces?

[16.] When Christians celebrate the 1st day of the week, what are they celebrating?

[17.] v:18-19, Let's see now, remind me again, why did the Jews who were in Susa need an extra day?

[18.] v:20-22, So far, we have been talking about three days but Mordecai passed the word that, annually, two days would be celebrated. Which two days were they?

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23 Thus the Jews undertook what they had started to do, and what Mordecai had written to them. 24 For Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the adversary of all the Jews, had schemed against the Jews to destroy them and had cast Pur, that is the lot, to disturb them and destroy them. 25 But when it came to the king's attention, he commanded by letter that his wicked scheme which he had devised against the Jews, should return on his own head and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. 26 Therefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. And because of the instructions in this letter, both what they had seen in this regard and what had happened to them, 27 the Jews established and made a custom for themselves and for their descendants and for all those who allied themselves with them, so that they would not fail to celebrate these two days according to their regulation and according to their appointed time annually. 28 So these days were to be remembered and celebrated throughout every generation, every family, every province and every city; and these days of Purim were not to fail from among the Jews, or their memory fade from their descendants.

29 Then Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim. 30 He sent letters to all the Jews, to the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, namely, words of peace and truth, 31 to establish these days of Purim at their appointed times, just as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had established for them, and just as they had established for themselves and for their descendants with instructions for their times of fasting and their lamentations. 32 The command of Esther established these customs for Purim, and it was written in the book.

[19.] v:26, Purim after the name of Pur, And what does "Pur" describe?

[20.] v:27-28, According to v:28, why was this non-Mosaic festival established?

[21.] By Christ's command, "This do in remembrance of Me" (kjb), Christians are to remember what event?

[22.] back to v:27-28 again, What was the true power that brought about this victory?

[23.] v:29-32, The second letter prescribed two more things. What were they?

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Est 10:1 Now King Ahasuerus laid a tribute on the land and on the coastlands of the sea. 2 And all the accomplishments of his authority and strength, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia? 3 For Mordecai the Jew was second only to King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews and in favor with his many kinsmen, one who sought the good of his people and one who spoke for the welfare of his whole nation.

[24.] Est 10:1-3, second only to King Ahasuerus, Can you think of any other Jews, from scripture, who were second to the head of a foreign power?

[25.] v:1-3 again, sought the good of his people and one who spoke for the welfare of his whole nation. Why or why isn't this not always easy to accomplish?

A parting thought. We have just completed an account of how God used one faithful girl to preserve the Jews in the provinces of Media and Persia. Before we leave the study of Hadassah we should ask ourselves the question, why that group of Jews? Historically, we know that God allowed, from Judges to our time, untold numbers of Jews to be horribly killed. So, why did He preserve this group? In order to answer the question we need to meditate on what we know.

From Esther 2:5-6, Now there was at the citadel in Susa a Jew whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite, 6 who had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the captives who had been exiled with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had exiled. Exiles from Judah (Southern kingdom - Judah and Benjamin) that went first into Babylon. When Babylon fell some of the exiles were transferred to the empire of Media and Persia. We know that Hadassah was not of tribe of Judah but of Benjamin. None the less, there probably were those of the tribe of Judah living in the provinces.

Another fact! We know 500-years into the future the Messiah would come. The greatest event since creation called, Eph 3:11, “the eternal purpose which He (God) carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,”

We know the seed of the Messiah was carried into Egypt when the sons of Israel went there. We know the seed would be from the tribe of Judah. What we don't know was, who was carrying the seed of the Messiah during the time of Hadassah. The Jews of Hadassah's time were preserved. Was it because one unknown Jew carried the seed of the Messiah. I'll let you answer the question for yourself.