

Character Study: Esther
Part 4 – Esther Saves the Jews
Esther 8-10

What's happening?

- Haman, who had masterminded the plan to kill the Jews, had been put to death, but Esther was still fearful for the Jews because of the decree that had been sent out. Esther pleaded with the king, and he granted her and Mordecai permission to write a new decree. (8:1-8)
- A new decree was sent out to all the provinces giving the Jews permission to defend themselves if anyone should attack them, and even use deadly force if need be. The Jews celebrated this victory with a feast and a holiday. (8:9-17)
- When the day came that was originally set aside to destroy the Jews, a fear came upon the people as the Jews, along with the government officials, were prepared to fight back. Though a few attacks occurred and some people were killed, the massacre that Haman had planned never came to pass. (9:1-17)
- Their deliverance and victory became a national holiday for the Jewish people. A time of celebration, called the Feast of Purim, was held every 14th and 15th day of the twelfth month from that day forward. It was a time of rejoicing, feasting and giving gifts to each other. (9:18-31)

What's God doing?

> The Jewish people were in a situation that seemed hopeless. However, God showed the care and protection He had over His people by delivering them, and a bad situation was turned into a time of rejoicing. Seen in all of the details, God had orchestrated His plan perfectly.

What's to learn?

→ The Jews responded to God's goodness by establishing a national holiday. How do you respond to God's goodness in your life? Do you take it for granted, or do you gladly acknowledge what He has done for you?

→ Sometimes in life God delivers us from difficult situations, and other times He leads us through them. Regardless of what He has in store for us, we can see that He is always in control. Through the good and the bad, we can rejoice knowing that our lives are always in God's hands.