

Message #17**Esther 9:11-19**

Whenever we conquer anything there is a sense of elation and joy. This is certainly true physically and it ought to be true spiritually.

But when God's people take seriously their responsibilities to get rid of the enemies, there will be great elation and great joy.

WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE DESTROY THEIR ENEMIES, THEY WILL HAVE GREAT REJOICING.

When God sovereignly works and issues a new decree that changes the whole status of a nation or individual, He expects those He sovereignly does this for to do their part to get rid of the enemies and when they do, they will have great joy.

PART #1 – The king gets a report of how many were killed in Susa on the 13th. **9:11**

There was no suppression of evidence in this case. An accurate report was given to the king concerning those who had been killed in Susa—500 men were killed, including the ten sons of Haman.

His own Persian people are dying and God's people are destroying them and he is not angry; in fact, he is supportive. These people had been his friends. They had come to his parties. Now they were being destroyed. Once God's judgment comes, nothing and no one can stop it.

PART #2 – The king responds to the report and grants Esther another request. **9:12**

I agree with the commentators who suggest that this response not only proves the king is not upset by what is happening, but is in full support of what is happening. Josephus claims this support was because the king wanted to please Esther so she wouldn't be depressed. There is no doubt the king knew of the Jews loyalty to him (Josephus, p. 240). God has sovereignly intervened in this king's mind to the extent that he actually supports a plan that includes executing thousands of his own.

PART #3 – The queen makes two very unusual requests which are granted by the king.
9:13-14

Esther was sensing God's hand of blessing on her. At one point she had been so afraid of asking the king anything that Mordecai had to threaten her (Esther 4:13-14). At one point she had been so unsure of herself that she put on two banquets just to inform the king of the fact that Haman wanted her dead. But at this point Esther is no longer intimidated; she has a confidence that is secure enough to make two more incredible requests:

Request #1 - Esther asks the king to give the Susa Jews one more day. **9:13a**

The 13th day was not enough time for the Jews in Susa to root out and destroy all of the enemies.

It does please the king to get rid of enemies. It does please the king to make certain subtractions and eliminations. God is not a God of total toleration and He is pleased when His enemies and the enemies of his people are discovered and destroyed.

I wonder when Christ returns how many people will be saying, "I wish I had one more day."

Request #2 - Esther asks the king to publically hang Haman's sons. **9:13b**

Haman's sons had been killed on the first day. But now Esther is requesting that their bodies be publically hanged on the gallows. Dr. John Martin says this was a relatively common practice in the ancient near east. It was a way of saying if you tamper with the controlling power, here is what happens to you (John Martin, *Esther, Bible Knowledge Commentary*, p. 712).

Saul's dead body and his son's dead body were publically displayed by the Philistines (I Sam. 31:7-13), and perhaps it is poetic justice that what once happened to Saul and his sons was now happening to the sons of Haman, who had been in the bloodline of the Amalekites, who was Saul's enemy.

This idea of publically exposing enemies is not something solely for Israel, but, at times, it is to also be done in the context of the N.T. church:

Romans 16:17 says, "Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned and turn away from them."

I Corinthians 5:4-5 says, "In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh..."

II Thessalonians 3:14 says, "And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter take special note of that man and do not associate with him so that he may be put to shame."

There are times in this Church Age when enemies of God, His Word and work are to be fully exposed and eliminated in a public way so that others will see and fear.

PART #4 – The Susa Jews destroy more enemies on the 14th. **9:15**

Three hundred more men were killed the next day, bringing the total of Susa to 800 plus the ten sons of Haman. Notice carefully the last part of the verse "they did not lay their hands on the plunder." This important point is emphasized three times in this context (9:10, **15, 16**). Mordecai's decree gave Israel the right to take the plunder (i.e. 8:11), but the Jews didn't do it.

The Jews were not in this thing for the money. They were not involved in destroying these people because they wanted their possessions. Perhaps the Jews were thinking of how Saul kept the plunder of the Amalekites (I Sam. 15:3, 8-9), which was a clear violation of God's Word which cost him many blessings.

For the first time in many years, the Jews sensed God was sovereignly at work and they did not want to do anything that would hinder that powerful work so they did not touch the spoils of the Persian people.

PART #5 – The province Jews destroyed all their enemies on the 13th. **9:16**

The rest of the Jews in the kingdom were able to defeat all their enemies in one day. Seventy-five thousand enemies were killed and again we read the province Jews “did not lay their hands on the plunder.”

Israel was finally beginning to function as the nation of God. They were a united team. Enemies were being destroyed and they had a right perspective of both the eternal and of the temporal. One faithful man whose name was Mordecai had influenced the entire world for God.

PART #6 – The province Jews celebrate on the 14th. **9:17**

The province Jews finished a day earlier than the Susa Jews.

PART #7 – The Susa Jews celebrate on the 15th. **9:18-19**

The Susa Jews had one more extra day of trial, and then they were able to celebrate. The destruction of the enemies brought every Jew to a place of joy.

There will eventually be great rejoicing among all God's people because eventually all of God's enemies will be destroyed.

If you are an enemy of God's, now is the time for you to change. Invite Christ into your life.

If you are a child of God, now is the time to deal with enemies. Get rid of them.

Those who do will have a day of great rejoicing; those who don't will have eternal regrets.