

March 20, 2024 – Sermon Notes

“D-Day in Persia: 473 B.C.” **Esther 9:1-17**

Prel Rmks

Text ~ Title

INTRO

Sometimes we look ahead to dates on the calendar with great anticipation or maybe even with a degree of anxiety or trepidation.

Weddings ~ Christmas ~

Election Day this year ... landmark day in our history

Back in 1944 there was a date on the calendar that everyone knew was coming ... the military terminology for it was D-Day

Originally scheduled for June 5th

Designated Day = military terminology ... alliteration

March 7, 473 B.C. This was D-Day throughout all of Persia ...

Two edicts had been issued with the Kings approval

1 - that the enemies of the Jews could kill them on the 13th day of the 12th month – the month Adar: 11 months ahead

3:13 - “destroy, kill, annihilate ... plunder their possessions”
– an act of genocide

2 - that the Jews could gather to defend themselves: 8 mos. ahead

“destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces of any people or province that would assault them ... plunder their possessions” not an act of genocide, but of resistance and defense

A greatly anticipated day throughout those months to say the least! What would happen?

It was D-Day in the Persian Empire – a day never to be forgotten!

Outline:

The Description of That Day 1-5

The Death and Destruction of That Day (subpoints) 6-17

I. The Description of That Day 1-5

(1)

Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, **the time came** for the king's command and his **decree decrees** to be executed. **On the day** that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, **the opposite occurred**, in that the Jews themselves overpowered **those who hated them**.

Total reversal from what had been expected

(2)

The Jews gathered together in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus **to lay hands on to kill 2:21; 3:6; 6:2**

those who sought their harm. Those who were planning to carry out Haman's edict.

John Whitcomb Esther and the Destiny of Israel – “It is easy to underestimate the hatred that multitudes of people throughout the empire sustained toward the Jews and thus to misunderstand the response of the Jews to their potential tormentors ... Haman's letter (3:13) had either created or fanned the flames of anti-Semitism throughout the empire and that, whether motivated by Haman's propaganda or their own greed,, thousands of 'enemies of the Jews' (cf. 16) were eagerly awaiting the appointed day.”

And **no one could withstand them, because fear of them fell upon all people**.

(3)

And **all the officials** of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and all those doing the king's work, **helped the Jews**, because **the fear of Mordecai fell upon them**.

The word was out that the King favored the Jews ... politicians ...

(4)

For **Mordecai was great** in the king's palace, and **his fame spread** throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai **became increasingly prominent**.

The very fact that Mordecai had been promoted to 2nd in command indicated which side less powerful rulers needed to be on to survive.

(5)

Thus **the Jews defeated all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, with slaughter and destruction**, and **did what they pleased** with those who hated them. **Offensive to some – especially if women and children are involved**

The Description of That Day – A great reversal took place!

II. The Death and Destruction of That Day 6-18

The Initial Casualty Report 6-11

(6)

And in Shushan the **citadel capital** the Jews killed and destroyed **five hundred men**.

(7-10) The 500 included the ten sons of Haman

(7) Also Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, (8) Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha,

(9) Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vajezatha— (10) **the ten sons of Haman** s the son of Hammedatha, **the enemy of the Jews**—they killed;

As long as they were alive ... they would be a threat ...

but **they did not lay a hand on the plunder repeated 15, 16. (11) On that day** the number of those who were killed in Shushan the citadel was brought to the king.

Abraham in Gen 14

(12) The King's Offer to Esther

And the king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the citadel, and the ten sons of Haman. **What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces?** Now what is your petition? It shall be granted to you. Or what is your further request? It shall be done."

4th occasion = 5:3 ~ 5:5 ~ 7:2

(13) Esther's Additional Request

Then Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who *are* in Shushan to do again tomorrow according to today's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows."

vengeful or a deterrent? They may have heard of some plot for the next day

(14-15) Ahasuerus Grants Her Request

(14) So the king commanded this to be done; the decree was issued in Shushan, and they hanged Haman's ten sons.

This was customary to do this at that time as a warning

2 Samuel 21 – David gave the 7 sons of Saul to the Gibeonites – to be hanged.

(15) And **the Jews** who *were* in Shushan gathered together again on the **fourteenth day of the month** of Adar and **killed three hundred men** at Shushan; but **they did not lay a hand on the plunder**.

(16-17) The Casualty Reports from the Rest of the Empire

(16) The remainder of the Jews in the king's provinces gathered together and protected their lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of their enemies; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.

(17) This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. And on the fourteenth of *the month* they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness. **Next week feast of "Purim" (poo-REEM) still celebrated**

Implications and Applications

1. **Psalms 121:4** Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.
2. **Genesis 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

{Chuck Schumer on dangerous ground.}

3. The hatred of the Jews today. (The Jews understand it.)
4. Israel has had a number of "never to be forgotten" days of "reversal" in their history. Some in our lifetimes:

1948 – After they were declared to be a nation

1967 – Six day war

1973 – Yom Kippur war

{Time magazine article about the 6 day war ...}

We are witnessing a great reversal right now Haman Hamas

5. Reversal Days

Resurrection Day ...

Christ's Return ...