

Esther

By

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Esther

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Esther

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Esther

I. Esther was chosen as the queen - 1:1-2:18

A. Ahasuerus made a feast for his princes - 1:1-9

1. the king celebrated his great power - 1:1-4

a. Ahasuerus ruled over 127 provinces - 1:1

Ahasuerus was the king of the Medes and Persians

Ahasuerus ruled from 486 to 465 B.C.

The Greek name for Ahasuerus was Xerxes I

He was the son of Darius the Great

Ahasuerus ruled from India to Ethiopia

The king was later defeated by the Greeks so no mention of Greece

The battles with Greece happened between 481-479 B.C.

Ahasuerus had a total of 127 provinces

b. Ahasuerus had his citadel (fortified palace) in Shushan - 1:2

The king sat on the throne of his kingdom

This was the winter residence of the Persian kings

This was located near the river Ulai

The king had his citadel in Shushan

Shushan (also called Suva) means lily

c. Ahasuerus made a feast for all his leaders - 1:3

The king made a feast in the third year of his rule

This feast would have been in 483 B.C.

History said this feast was to discuss a campaign against Greece

The king invited all his nobles to the feast

The king invited all of his servants to the feast

The king invited all the princes of the provinces

d. Ahasuerus showed the glory of his kingdom - 1:4

The king showed the riches of his glorious kingdom

The king showed the splendor of his excellent majesty

The king held this feast for a total of 180 days

2. the king had a final feast of seven days - 1:5-9

a. Ahasuerus had a final seven day feast - 1:5

This feast happened after the 180 feast for the leaders
This feast lasted seven days
This feast was for the people of the city of Shushan
This may have been to thank the people for their help on the previous banquet
This feast was for all the people important or not
This feast was held in the court of the garden of the palace

b. Ahasuerus had beautiful decorations for this feast - 1:6

The feast area had curtains of white and blue linen
The curtains were fastened with cords of fine linen of purple
The curtains hung on silver rods
The curtains were attached to pillars of marble
The couches were gold and silver in color
The floor was a mosaic pavement of alabaster

c. Ahasuerus served much wine at this feast - 1:7

The drinks were served in golden vessels
The golden vessels were each different from the others
The drinks included an abundance of royal wine
The drinks were according to the generosity of the king

d. Ahasuerus did not require anyone to drink - 1:8

The laws of the kingdom were followed
The laws said that drinking was not compulsory
The king had given orders to all the officers of his household
The king said each person could do as he wished

e. Ahasuerus had Vashti hold a feast for the women - 1:9

The queen was named Vashti
She was the mother of Artaxerxes, the next king
The queen made a feast for the women
The queen held this feast in the royal palace
The queen held this feast in the palace of the king

B. Ahasuerus removed Vashti as queen - 1:10-22

1. the king was angry when Vashti refused to come as his command - 1:10-12

a. The king celebrated for seven days - 1:10

**The king celebrated this feast for seven days
The heart of the king were merry with wine by the seventh day
The king commanded his seven eunuchs to bring the queen
The king had these seven eunuchs as his personal attendants**

b. The king ordered the queen to be brought - 1:11

**The king ordered the eunuchs to bring the queen
The king said to have her wear her royal crown
The king wanted to show her beauty to the people and officials
The king knew that she was a very beautiful woman**

c. The king was furious when she refused to come - 1:12

**The queen refused to come to the king
The queen refused to obey the command of the eunuchs
The king became furious when she refused
The king has his anger burn within him**

2. the king asked his counselors what to do to the queen - 1:13-15

a. Ahasuerus conferred with his seven counselors - 1:13-14

**The king spoke to his wise men
The king knew that they understood the times
The king knew that they knew law and justice
The king asked the counselors who were closest to him
The king asked the men who had access to his presence
The king asked the men who ranked highest in the kingdom**

b. Ahasuerus asked what should be done - 1:15

**The king wanted to know what should be done to the queen
The king wanted to know what the law said
The king wanted to know how to handle her disobedience**

3. the king was afraid the men might lose their authority - 1:16-18

a. The king was answered by Memucan - 1:16

Memucan gave an answer to the king

Memucan was controlled by fear - I John 4:18

Memucan caused all of the men to be controlled by fear

Memucan gave an answer to the princes

Memucan wanted to get the princes to agree with him

Memucan said that Vashti had not just wronged the king

The king was also controlled by fear - I John 4:18

Memucan said that the queen had also wronged the princes

The king did not honor his wife - I Peter 3:7

Memucan said that the queen had wronged all the men

Wives were driven by fear instead of led by love - Ephesians 5:25

Memucan said that this affected all of the provinces

This was most of what is called the Middle East today

b. The king was told how the behavior of the queen would affect him - 1:17

Memucan said the behavior of the queen would become known to everyone

Memucan was afraid of a loss of power in his own family

Memucan said this would cause the other women to despise their husbands

Memucan was afraid what could happen with his own wife

Memucan said the women would hear of the command of the king

Memucan knew that all of the women would talk

Memucan said the women would hear of the refusal of the queen

Memucan was afraid they would follow the action of the queen

c. the king was told how the action of the queen would affect the nobles - 1:18

Memucan said the wives of the nobles would hear that very day

Memucan was afraid this news would spread rapidly

Memucan said the wives would tell all of the king's officials

Memucan was afraid the other women would all hear

Memucan said the wives would talk about the action of the queen

Memucan was afraid the women would talk about the queen

Memucan said that this would produce contempt

Memucan was afraid the women would treat their husbands with contempt

Memucan said that this would produce wrath

Memucan was afraid the husbands would respond with anger

4. the king was given a suggestion about what to do - 1:19-20

a. Memucan said that the king should write a decree - 1:19

The king was offered a suggestion if it would please him
The king was encouraged to write a royal decree
The king heard it should be recorded in the laws of the Medes and Persians
The records of the king were all recorded - Esther 6:1
The king was told such a law could not be altered
The laws of the Medes and Persians could not be altered - Daniel 6:8
The king was told to write that Vashti would no longer come to the king
The king later remembered what he had done to Vashti - Esther 2:1
The king was told to give her position to another woman
The king was later given instructions how to choose a new queen - Esther 2:2-4
The king was told to choose someone who was better than Vashti

b. Memucan said the decree should be read throughout the empire - 1:20

The king was told that this decree should be announced throughout the empire
The king was reminded that his empire was a great empire
The king was told the decree would cause wives to honor their husbands
The king heard this would be true of both great and small

5. the king was happy with the suggestion - 1:21-22

a. Ahasuerus took the advice that he had been given - 1:21

The king was pleased with the answer
The king wanted to keep his absolute authority
The king saw the princes were pleased with the answer
The princes also wanted to keep their power
The king followed the advice of Memucan
The king made the decree that was suggested

b. Ahasuerus had the decree delivered to the entire empire - 1:22

The king sent letters to all of the provinces
The kings sent these letters in the language of each province
The king sent the letters in the language of every people
The king said that every man should be the master of his own house
The king said that each man should speak in the language of his own people

C. Ahasuerus heard a plan to choose a new queen - 2:1-4

1. The king heard this plan after he was over his anger - 2:1

There was a period of time before the king chose a new queen

It is possible the king fought against Greece during this period

There was time for the anger of the king to go away

The king had great anger that lasted a period of time - Ephesians 4:26

There was time when the king thought again of Vashti

However, he could not legally restore her - Esther 1:19-22

There was a time when the king remembered the decree that he made

Many people make lasting decisions when they are controlled by anger

2. The king was encouraged to look for beautiful virgins - 2:2

The servants of the king made a suggestion

The servants based their choice on looks rather than character

The servants of the king told him to look for young virgins

The king based his choice on his physical desires

3. The king was encouraged to gather these virgins to Shushan - 2:3

The king was told to appoint officers in all of the provinces

The king was to have the officers gather all of the beautiful young virgins

The king was to have the virgins brought to Shushan

The king was to have them put in the women's quarters

The king was to place them under the supervision of Hegai

Hegai was a eunuch of the king

Hegai was the custodian of the women

Hegai was to give the virgins beauty preparations

4. The king was told how to choose a new queen - 2:4

The king was to choose the virgin that pleased him

Esther was a woman of godly character - Esther 2:15

The king was to appoint her as the new queen

Esther was loved more than the other women - Esther 2:17

The king was to replace Vashti with this woman

Esther was appointed the new queen - Esther 2:17

The king was pleased with the suggestion

The king carried out the suggestion

D. Ahasuerus gathered many young women - 2:5-11

1. Mordecai was a Jew living in Shushan - 2:5

**Mordecai lived in the city of Shushan
Mordecai was a Jew
Mordecai was the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish
Mordecai was from the tribe of Benjamin**

2. Mordecai had grown up in Shushan - 2:6

**Kish had been taken as a captive from Jerusalem
The captives were taken to Babylon - II Kings 24:14
Kish had been captured when Jeconiah was the king of Judah
God caused Jeconiah to be taken because he did evil - II Chronicles 36:9-10
This deportation happened in 597 B.C.
Kish was taken away by Nebuchadnezzar**

3. Mordecai had raised Esther after her parents died - 2:7

**Esther (Hadassah) had been brought up by Mordecai
Esther was the daughter of Mordecai's uncle
Esther did not have either a father or mother
Esther was a lovely and beautiful young woman
Esther became a daughter to Mordecai when her parents died**

4. Esther taken to the palace because of her beauty - 2:8

**The king's command spread through the empire
The king's command caused many young women to be brought to Shushan
These young women were placed under the custody of Hegai
Esther was one of the young women that was taken
Esther was placed under the custody of Hegai**

5. Esther was highly respected by Hegai - 2:9

**Esther pleased Hegai and obtained his favor
Esther received additional beauty aids from Hegai
Esther also received the normal allowance
Esther was given seven young maidservants to be with her
Esther and the maidservants were given the best place**

6. Esther had been told not to reveal her background - 2:10

Esther did not reveal the fact that she was a Jew

The Jews had earlier been taken as captives - II Chronicles 36:20

Esther did not reveal the family from which she came

Esther obeyed the instructions of Mordecai

Mordecai was protecting Esther from anti-Semitism

(there was a strong anti Jewish feeling in the empire) - Esther 4:6

7. Esther caused Mordecai to have a great concern - 2:11

Mordecai paced in front of the women's court every day

Mordecai had the concern of a loving parent - Esther 2:7

Mordecai did this to learn of the welfare of Esther

Mordecai wanted to know what was happening to her

Mordecai later saved the life of the king - Esther 2:21-23

E. Ahasuerus had a plan to select a queen - 2:12-14

1. Each young woman was given a year to prepare - 2:12

Each young woman received her day to go to the king

Each young woman was given a year to prepare

Each young woman had to follow certain regulations

Each young woman was prepared with oil of myrrh for six months

Each young woman was prepared with perfumes for six months

2. Each young woman could take whatever she wanted - 2:13

Each young woman went to the king after this preparation

Each young woman could take whatever she desired with her

Each young woman was taken from the women's palace to the king's palace

3. Each young woman had one night to please the king - 2:14

Each young woman would be taken to the king in the evening

Each young woman was returned to a second house in the morning

There each woman would be in the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch

Each young woman was kept in the house of the concubines

Each woman went only once unless the king delighted in her

Each young woman could only go again if the king called for her by name

F. Ahasuerus chose Esther as the new queen - 2:15-18

1. Esther did not ask for anything as she went to the king - 2:15

Esther had her turn come to go to the king
Esther was actually the daughter of Abihail
He was the uncle of Mordecai
Esther asked for nothing but what Hegai advised
Esther did not trust in the things of this world
Esther was a woman of prayer - Esther 4:16
Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her
Esther was a woman of godly character - Esther 4:16

2. Esther was taken to the king in the seventh year of his rule - 2:16

Esther was taken to Ahasuerus in his royal palace
Esther was taken to the king in the month Tebeth
Esther was taken to the king in the seventh year of his reign
This was four years after Vashti was deposed - Esther 1:3; 1:19

3. Esther was chosen as the new queen by the king - 2:17

Esther was loved by the king more than all the other women
Esther obtained grace and favor in the sight of the king
Esther was chosen over all of the other virgins
Esther had the royal crown placed on her head
Esther became the queen instead of Vashti
Vashti had been removed from her royal position - Esther 1:19

4. Esther had a feast proclaimed in her honor - 2:18

The king made a great feast
The king called this feast the Feast of Esther
The king wanted everyone to know of his love for Esther
The king had this feast for all of his officials
The king included all his servants in this feast
The king proclaimed the day a holiday
The king made this a holiday in all the provinces
This may have meant a remission of taxes
The king also gave gifts to celebrate
This was a common practice

II. Esther delivered her people - 2:19-7:10

A. The king had his life saved by Mordecai - 2:19-23

1. Mordecai waited at the gate of the king - 2:19

The virgins were gathered together for a second time

The king may have wanted to have the second best become a concubine

Mordecai now sat within the king's gate

This meant he now sat with the king's servants - Esther 3:2

This was a place that often gave real influence

2. Mordecai had told Esther not to tell her background - 2:20

Esther had not revealed her people or family

Esther had been given this instruction by Mordecai

Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai

Esther had been brought up by Mordecai

This was the result of the death of her parents - Esther 2:7

3. Mordecai heard a plot to kill the king - 2:21

Mordecai sat within the king's gate in those days

Mordecai knew two of the king's eunuchs who were doorkeepers

Mordecai saw that they became furious at the king

They planned to lay hands on the king

4. Mordecai told Esther who told the king - 2:22

Mordecai heard that they planned to lay hands on the king

Mordecai reported their plot to Esther

Esther reported the plot in the name of Mordecai

5. Mordecai was mentioned in the chronicles of the king - 2:23

The king made inquiry into the report of Mordecai

The Lord placed Mordecai in the right place to hear

The king had the plot confirmed that it was true

The king had both men hanged on the gallows

The king had the event written in the chronicles

The king had this written in his presence

B. The king promoted Haman to power - 3:1-7

1. Mordecai did not bow to Haman - 3:1-3

a. Haman was promoted to a position of high authority

Haman was promoted by the king

This happened after the seventh year of the king's reign - Esther 2:16

This happened before the twelfth year of the king's reign - Esther 3:7

Haman was the son of Hammedatha

Haman was an Agagite

God had pronounced judgment on the Amalekites - Exodus 17:8-16

God instructed Saul to carry out this judgment - I Samuel 15:2-3

Saul spared Agag the king, father of the Agagites - I Samuel 15:9

Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin - I Samuel 10:17-24

Mordecai was also from the tribe of Benjamin - Esther 2:5

Haman was given a seat above others

Haman was placed over all of the princes

b. Haman received honor from the servants of the king

The servants in the king's gate bowed to Haman

The servants in the king's gate fell in worship before Haman

The servants had been commanded to do this by the king

Mordecai did not bow down to Haman

Mordecai did not fall down in worship before Haman

c. Haman did not receive honor from Mordecai

The servants of the king saw that Mordecai did not bow down

The servants asked Mordecai why he disobeyed the king

2. Mordecai had a plan developed by Haman to destroy him - 3:4-7

a. Haman heard that Mordecai did not bow to him - 3:4

The servants spoke to Mordecai every day about this

The servants saw that Mordecai would not listen to them

The servants told Haman that Mordecai did not bow down

The servants wanted to see if the words of Mordecai would stand

The servants had heard from Mordecai that he was a Jew

b. Haman was filled with great anger - 3:5

Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down to him

He had not noticed before the servants of the king told him - Esther 3:2

Haman quickly began to notice that the servants were right

Haman saw that Mordecai did not worship before him

He did notice as soon as the king's servants told him - Esther 3:4

Haman was filled with wrath at Mordecai

Haman was a very proud man - Esther 5:11-12; 6:6

Haman wanted respect and worship

c. Haman decided to kill all of the Jews - 3:6

Haman decided to kill more than just Mordecai

The family of Agag had hatred for the tribe of Benjamin - I Samuel 15:9

Bitterness will destroy many people - Hebrews 12:15

Haman was told that Mordecai was a Jew

Haman had expanded this hatred to all the Jews

Haman decided to kill all of the Jews

Many nations have tried to destroy the Jews through the years

God warned Israel about this judgment for sin - Deuteronomy 28:65-66

Haman wanted to kill all the Jews in the entire kingdom of Ahasuerus

Haman got the law to kill the Jews written and signed - Esther 3:8-10

Haman wanted to get rid of all of the people of Mordecai

There was much opposition to the Jews at this time

Haman expected to collect a large amount of plunder from the Jews

Haman promised to put this in the treasury of the king - Esther 3:9

d. Haman determined the day he would kill the Jews - 3:7

Haman made this decision in the first month of the year

Haman made this decision in the month Nisan

This was the first month of the year

Haman made this decision in the twelfth year of the rule of Ahasuerus

Haman cast Pur (this is the casting of lots)

This later became the basis for the Feast of Purim - Esther 9:21

Haman used this lot to decide when to kill the Jews

Haman wanted to determine both the day and the month

Haman determined to kill the Jews in the month Adar

This was the twelfth month of the year

This allowed nearly twelve months to get out the news

C. the king gave Haman authority to destroy the Jews - 3:8-15

1. Haman requested permission to destroy a certain people - 3:8-11

a. The king heard that a certain people had peculiar laws - 3:8

Haman brought his request to the king
Haman said that a certain people was scattered in the empire
Haman did not say that the people were the Jews
Haman said that they were in all of the provinces
Haman was implying that these people were a threat to the empire
Haman said their laws were different from all other people
Haman said that they did not obey the king's laws
Mordecai would not bow down or worship Haman - Esther 3:2
Haman said that they should not be allowed to live
Haman showed that his real plan was to destroy the Jews

b. The king was promised their money would come into the king's treasury - 3:9

Haman said that he wanted to please the king
Haman asked that a decree be written to destroy this people
Haman said he would pay 10,000 talents of silver
This is about 375 tons of silver (750,000 pounds)
This was equal to 75% of the empire's annual income
Haman planned to take the possessions of the Jews when he killed them
This shows the amount of business the Jews had developed in the empire
Haman said this money would be brought into the king's treasuries

c. The king gave his signet ring to Haman - 3:10

Haman saw the king take off his signet ring
Haman was given the ring by the king
Haman was the son of Hammedatha
Haman was an Agagite
Haman was the enemy of the Jews

d. The king gave Haman permission to do what he thought best - 3:11

The king gave Haman authority to carry out his plan
The king said the money and the people were given to Haman
The king said Haman could do as seemed good to him

2. Haman sent out the decree to destroy all of the Jews - 3:12-15

The decree was signed with the signet ring of the king - 3:12

**Haman called the scribes to come and write the decree
Haman did this on the thirteenth day of the first month
Haman gave command about exactly what to write
Haman sent the decree to the satraps, governors and officials
Haman had this decree written in the language of every province
Haman wrote this decree in the name of King Ahasuerus
Haman sealed the decree with the signet ring
This meant that the law could not be changed - Daniel 6:8**

The decree said that all of the Jews should be destroyed - 3:13

**The decree was sent out to all of the king's provinces
The decree said to destroy all of the Jews
The decree said to kill all of the Jews
The decree said to annihilate all of the Jews
The decree said to kill both the young and the old
The decree said to kill little children and women
The decree set the date as the thirteenth day of the twelfth month
This date was chosen by the casting of lots - Esther 3:7
The decree specified that was the month of Adar
The decree said to plunder the possessions of the Jews
This was how Haman planned to get the money**

The decree was to be published in every province - 3:14

**The decree was to become the law of every province
The decree was to be published for all of the people
The decree was so people would get ready for that day**

The decree was sent out and also published in Shushan - 3:15

**The messengers went out to deliver this decree
The messengers hurried because of the command of the king
The messengers also proclaimed the decree in Shushan
The message of the messengers produced two different responses
The king and Haman sat down to drink
The people in the city of Shushan were perplexed**

D. The king's commandment was published - 4:1-9

1. Mordecai showed his mourning about the decree - 4:1-3

a. Mordecai put on sackcloth and ashes - 4:1

Mordecai learned about the decree that had been signed
Mordecai immediately tore his clothes
Mordecai put on sackcloth and ashes
Mordecai went out into the middle of the city
Mordecai cried with a loud and bitter cry

b. Mordecai went in front of the king's gate - 4:2

Mordecai went as far as the front of the king's gate
Mordecai could not enter the king's gate in sackcloth

c. Mordecai was not the only Jew in mourning - 4:3

The decree soon arrived in every province
The decree caused great mourning among the Jews
The decree caused fasting, weeping and wailing
The decree caused many to lay in sackcloth

2. Mordecai refused to accept the clothing sent to him by Esther - 4:4-6

a. Esther sent different clothes to Mordecai - 4:4

Esther heard from the maid and eunuchs about Mordecai
Esther was deeply distressed when she heard about him
Esther sent new garments to cloth Mordecai
Esther said the clothes were to replace the sackcloth
Esther did not have her clothes accepted by Mordecai

b. Esther sent Hathach to find out what the problem was - 4:5

Esther had eunuchs appointed by the king to attend her
Esther called one of those attendants named Hathach
Esther gave him a command to find out about Mordecai
Esther wanted to know what was bothering him
Esther wanted to know why he was wearing sackcloth

c. Esther had Hathach go to where Mordecai was - 4:6

Hathach went out to Mordecai
Hathach went to Mordecai in the city square
Hathach went to Mordecai in front of the king's gate

3. Mordecai sent Esther a copy of the decree - 4:7-9

a. Hathach heard about the decree regarding the Jews - 4:7

Mordecai told Hathach all that had happened to him
He explained the reason for the sackcloth - Esther 4:2
Mordecai told Hathach the amount of money Haman promised
This was a very large amount of silver - Esther 3:9
Mordecai said that money would be paid into the treasury of the king
Haman had actually offered a bribe to the king to get the Jews killed
Mordecai said that Haman would pay it to destroy the Jews
This showed the tremendous hatred of Haman for the Jews

b. Hathach was given a copy of the decree for Esther - 4:8

Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the written decree
The fact Mordecai had a written copy showed he had influence
Mordecai showed Hathach that the decree was to destroy the Jews
Haman was not satisfied just to destroy Mordecai - Esther 3:6
Mordecai said the decree had been published in Shushan
This decree had also been taken to the entire empire - Esther 3:14
Mordecai told Hathach to show the decree to Esther
Mordecai told Hathach to explain the decree to Esther
For us a key part of ministry is explaining the Word of God
Mordecai told Hathach to have Esther speak to the king
Mordecai told Hathach to have Esther make supplication for her people
Mordecai told Hathach to have Esther plead with the king for her people

c. Hathach told Esther what Mordecai had said - 4:9

Hathach returned and spoke to Esther
Hathach told Esther what Mordecai had said
Esther was able to see the decree
Esther was able to hear the decree explained
Esther was able to hear what Mordecai said to do

E. the king's decree was reported to Esther - 4:10-17

1. Esther said that she could not go into the king - 4:10-12

a. Hathach was sent by Esther with a message to Mordecai - 4:10

**Esther then spoke to Hathach
Esther told Hathach what to tell Mordecai**

b. Hathach was told that Esther could be put to death - 4:11

Esther said all the servants knew the law of the king
The king had absolute authority over his servants
Esther said all of the people knew the law of the king
The king had absolute authority over all the people
Esther said no man could go into the court that had not been called
Esther said no woman could go into the court that had not been called
The book has already shown that women had few rights in that time
Esther said that the penalty for going into the inner court was death
The word of the king was a death sentence - Esther 7:8
Esther said the only exception was if the king held out his golden scepter
The king did hold out his golden scepter to Esther - Esther 5:2
Esther said that was the only way a person could live
Esther said she had not been called to the king for thirty days
Esther did not see the king on a daily basis

c. Hathach told Mordecai the words of Esther - 4:12

**Hathach went to Mordecai and spoke to him
Hathach told Mordecai the answer that Esther had given**

2. Esther was reminded that her position may be the purpose of God - 4:13-14

a. Mordecai warned Esther that she would not escape the law - 4:13

Mordecai told Hathach what to tell Esther
Mordecai told Esther to think things through in her heart
Mordecai asked her to think about whether she would escape
The hatred of Haman was against all of the Jews
Mordecai asked if it made any difference if she was in the palace
Mordecai asked if she was any safer than the other Jews

b. Mordecai said that deliverance would come to the Jews - 4:14

Mordecai said Esther could choose to be quiet at that time

We all have to choose if we will serve the Lord - Joshua 24:15

Mordecai said that relief would come to the Jews

Mordecai said that deliverance would come to the Jews

Mordecai knew the promise of God to Abraham - Genesis 12:1-3

Mordecai knew the covenant of God with Abraham - Genesis 15:7-17

Mordecai said that help would come from some other place if Esther was quiet

Mordecai said that she and her father's house would perish

Mordecai asked if this might be the reason she had come to the kingdom

We need to ask ourselves what our purpose is in life

Mordecai said that this might be the purpose for her life

God also has a purpose for each of our lives - Ephesians 2:10

3. Esther gave Mordecai instructions for the other Jews - 4:15-17

a. Esther gave instructions for Mordecai - 4:15

Esther sent Hathach back to Mordecai

Esther gave Hathach a message for Mordecai

b. Esther asked all of the Jews to pray and fast - 4:16

Esther asked Mordecai to gather all the Jews in Shushan

Esther understood the power of fasting and prayer

Esther asked Mordecai to have the Jews fast with her

Fasting was a time for special prayer

Esther asked them not to eat or drink for three days

Esther asked them to do this both night and day

Esther said that she and her maids would do the same

Esther said she would then go to the king

Esther said that she knew that was against the law

Esther had reminded Mordecai of the law - Esther 4:11

Esther added, "If I perish, I perish!"

Esther was willing to die to save her people

c. Esther saw that Mordecai did all that she had said - 4:17

Mordecai went and gathered the Jews

Mordecai carried out all of the instructions of Esther

F. The king was invited to a banquet by Esther - 5:1-8

1. Esther found favor in the sight of the king - 5:1-3

a. The king saw Esther come into the inner court - 5:1

Esther waited until the third day
The Jews were all fasting during this time - Esther 4:16
Esther put on her royal robes
Esther came and stood in the inner court of the king's palace
Esther stood across from the king's house
Esther saw the king sitting on his throne in the king's house
Esther was facing the entrance of the house

b. The king held out his golden scepter to Esther - 5:2

Esther was seen by the king
Esther was seen as she stood in the court
Esther found favor in the sight of the king
Esther knew that she faced life or death - Esther 4:16
Esther saw the king hold out the golden scepter to her
Esther knew her only hope was to have the scepter held out - Esther 4:11
Esther then went near the king
Esther touched the top of the scepter

c. The king asked Esther her request - 5:3

Esther heard the king speak to her
Esther heard the king ask what she wished
Esther was asked for her request
Esther was told she would be given up to half of the kingdom
This was the way kings often answered requests - Matthew 14:7

2. Esther invited the king to a banquet that day - 5:4-5

a. The king and Haman were invited to the banquet - 5:4

Esther asked that her request might please the king
Esther asked the king to come to a banquet that she had prepared for him
Esther chose to serve instead of request immediately
Esther asked that Haman come to the banquet with the king

b. The king and Haman came to the banquet - 5:5

The king immediately sent for Haman
This invitation filled Haman with pride - Esther 5:12
The king told Haman to come quickly
The king and Haman went together to the banquet
The king and Haman saw the banquet prepared by Esther

3. Esther was asked her request at the banquet - 5:6-8

a. The king promised to honor the request of Esther - 5:6

Esther served a banquet with wine
Esther heard the king ask again for her request
Esther promised to tell the king the next day - Esther 5:8
Esther heard the king promise to grant her request
Esther heard the king offer up to half of the kingdom

b. The king heard that Esther had another request - 5:7

Esther answered a question of the king
Esther said that she would tell him her petition
Esther said that she would tell him her request

c. The king received a request to a second banquet - 5:8

Esther said that if she had found favor in the sight of the king
Esther asked that the king might be pleased to grant her petition
Esther asked that the king might fulfill her request
Esther asked the king to come to another banquet the next day
The king and Haman came the next day - Esther 7:1
Esther asked the king to bring Haman with him the next day
Haman boasted about this invitation - Esther 5:12
Esther said that she would prepare the banquet for them
Esther did reveal her petition the next day - Esther 7:2-6
Esther said she would tell the king her petition the next day
Esther was asked by the king to tell her petition—Esther 7:2
Esther said the petition was for her people - Esther 7:3
Esther said that her people had been sold to be destroyed - Esther 7:4
Esther was asked who had done this thing - Esther 7:5
Esther said that Haman was the wicked person - Esther 7:6

G. The king did not know of the plot of Haman - 5:9-14

1. Haman was angry when he saw Mordecai outside the court - 5:9-10

a. Haman was angry when Mordecai did not bow to him - 5:9

**Haman went out with a glad and joyful heart
Haman then saw Mordecai in the king's gate
Haman saw that Mordecai did not reverence him
Haman was filled with indignation against Mordecai**

b. Haman restrained his anger for the moment - 5:10

**Haman restrained himself for the moment
Haman then went to his own home
Haman called for his friends and his wife**

2. Haman boasted about his glory and power - 5:11-12

a. Haman told of his riches and power - 5:11

**Haman told his wife and friends of his great riches
Haman was very self-centered and boastful
Haman told them about the multitude of his children
Haman had at least ten sons - Esther 9:7-10
Haman told about the way that the king had promoted him
Haman wanted the whole focus to be on himself
Haman said he had been advanced above the officials
Haman said he had been advanced above the servants**

b. Haman told of his banquet with the queen - 5:12

**Haman said that Queen Esther invited him to a banquet
Haman boasted about his invitation from Queen Esther
Haman said he was the only one invited other than the king
Haman showed that the invitation caused him to be filled with pride
Haman said that the queen had personally prepared the banquet
Haman said the queen had invited him to another banquet
Haman wanted his friends to know of his great honor
Haman said that banquet would be held the next day
Haman said he was invited along with the king**

3. Haman said it meant nothing as long as Mordecai was alive - 5:13-14

a. Haman told about his anger at Mordecai - 5:13

Haman said there was one thing that made the banquet seem worthless

Here we see how pride can make everything seem worthless

Haman said he would not be happy as long as Mordecai was at the king's gate

Here we see one of the consequences of pride is a lack of happiness

Here we see how bitterness will destroy a person - Hebrews 12:15

b. Haman was given a plan to get rid of Mordecai - 5:14

His wife and friends suggested Haman build a gallows

His wife and friends suggested the gallows be 75 feet high

His wife suggested he ask the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows

His wife said that then he could enjoy the banquet with the king

His wife's idea along with his friends pleased Haman

His wife's idea caused him to immediately build the gallows

H. The king could not sleep that night - 6:1-3

1. The king commanded the chronicles to be read - 6:1

The king could not sleep that night

The king commanded one to read the book of records

The king listened as the records were read

2. The king was reminded how Mordecai protected him - 6:2

The reader read the writing about Mordecai in the records

The reader read about the plot of Bigthana and Teresh

The reader read that they were two of the king's eunuchs

The reader read that they were doorkeepers of the king

The reader read of their plot to lay hands on the king

3. The king asked if Mordecai had been honored - 6:3

The king wanted to know what honor had been given to Mordecai

The king wanted to know what greatness had been given to Mordecai

The king was answered by his servants

The king was told nothing had been done for Mordecai

I. The king ordered Haman to honor Mordecai - 6:4-14

1. Haman thought that the king wanted to honor him - 6:4-6

a. The king asked who was in the court - 6:4

**Haman had just come into the outer court
Haman had come to suggest that the king hang Mordecai
Haman wanted to hang him on the gallows he had prepared**

b. The king learned Haman was in the court - 6:5

**The king's servants said Haman was standing in the court
The king's servants were told to let Haman come into the king**

c. The king asked Haman how to honor a person - 6:6

**Haman came into the court of the king
Haman was asked what to do for the man in whom the king delighted
Haman thought that the king wanted to honor him**

2. Haman told what the king could do to honor a person - 6:7-9

a. the king was given an immediate idea to honor a person - 6:7

**Haman gave an immediate answer
Haman gave an immediate suggestion**

b. the king was told the person should be treated almost like a king - 6:8

**Haman said a royal robe that the king had worn should be brought
Haman said a horse that the king had ridden should be brought
Haman said that a royal crest should be placed on its head**

c. the king was told the person should be paraded through the city - 6:9

**Haman said the robe should be delivered to a noble prince
Haman said the horse should be delivered to that prince
Haman said the prince should put the robe on the man to be honored
Haman said the prince should lead the man through the streets
Haman said the man should announce the king wanted to honor the man**

3. Haman was told to hurry and honor Mordecai - 6:10-11

a. The king instructed Haman to honor Mordecai - 6:10

**Haman was told to take the robe and the horse
Haman was told to honor Mordecai the Jew in that way
Haman was told that Mordecai was in the king's gate
Haman was told to be sure he did everything he had said**

b. The king saw that Haman followed instructions - 6:11

**Haman took the robe and the horse
Haman put the robe on Mordecai
Haman led him through the city square
Haman said that the king wanted to honor Mordecai**

4. Haman was warned that he would fall before Mordecai - 6:12-14

a. This honoring caused Haman to mourn - 6:12

**Haman took Mordecai back to the king's gate
Haman hurried home to his house
Haman was filled with mourning
Haman had his head covered**

b. This honoring caused Haman to complain to his wife and friends - 6:13

**Haman told his wife and friends what had happened to him
Haman was given a message by his wife and friends
Haman heard that he had begun to fall before Mordecai
Haman was reminded Mordecai was of Jewish descent
Haman was told that he would not prevail
Haman was told that he would surely fall before him
We reap what we sow - Galatians 5:7-8**

c. This honoring was immediately followed by the banquet of the queen - 6:14

**Haman was still talking with his wife and friends
Haman had the king's eunuchs come for him
Haman was taken to the banquet
Haman went to the banquet Esther prepared**

J. The king heard that Haman wanted to kill the Jews - 7:1-6

1. Esther told the king that her people were going to be killed - 7:1-4

a. The king and Haman came to the banquet - 7:1

**They went to the banquet
They dined with the queen**

b. The king asked Esther about her petition - 7:2

**Esther was questioned by the king
Esther was asked what her petition was
Esther was promised her request would be granted
Esther was told that promise was up to half of the kingdom**

c. The king heard Esther ask for her people - 7:3

**Esther then answered the king
Esther asked for favor in the sight of the king
Esther asked for her life to be spared
Esther was warned that she would not be spared - Esther 4:14
Esther asked for her people to be spared
They needed protection from the decree of Haman - Esther 3:8-9**

d. The king heard that her people were going to be destroyed - 7:4

**Esther said that she and her people had been sold
Esther said that were to be destroyed, killed and annihilated
Esther said they were not just being sold as slaves
Esther said she would have been quiet if that were true
Esther said the enemy could never compensate the king's loss**

2. Esther was asked who planned to kill her people - 7:5-6

a. The king asked who was going to destroy the people of Esther - 7:5

**Esther was then questioned by the king
Esther was asked who would do such a thing
Esther was asked where the person was who would do this thing
Esther was asked how a person could presume to do such a thing**

b. The king heard that Haman was the person - 7:6

**Esther said that Haman was the adversary
Esther said that Haman was the enemy
Esther caused Haman to become terrified**

K. The king ordered the death of Haman - 7:7-10

1. Haman pleaded with Esther for his life - 7:7

**Esther saw the anger of the king
Esther saw the king get up from the banquet
Esther saw the king go into the palace garden
Esther saw Haman come and stand in front of her
Esther saw Haman plead for his life
(he saw that evil was determined against him by the king)**

2. Haman fell on the couch where Esther was - 7:8

**The king returned from the palace garden
The king came back to the place of the banquet
The king saw that Haman had fallen on the couch where Esther was
The king asked if Haman would assault the queen
The king asked if he would do it in front of the king
the king saw his guards cover Haman's face**

3. Haman was hanged on the gallows that he had prepared - 7:9

**The king was told about the gallows by Harbonah
The king heard that the gallows was 75 feet high
The king heard Haman had made the gallows for Mordecai
The king knew that Mordecai spoke good on his behalf
The king heard that the gallows was at the house of Haman
The king ordered Haman to be hanged on the gallows**

4. Haman died on his own gallows - 7:10

**The king had Haman hung on the gallows
The king did this on the gallows prepared for Mordecai
Haman learned that we reap what we sow - Galatians 6:7-8
The king then allowed his wrath to subside**

III. Esther saw the enemies of her people judged - 8:1-10:3

A. the king promoted Mordecai to power - 8:1-2

1. Mordecai came before the king - 8:1

**Esther was given the house of Haman that day
Esther saw judgment come on the enemy of the Jews
Esther saw the king promote Mordecai
Esther had told the king how Mordecai was related**

2. Mordecai received the ring of the king - 8:2

**The king took off his signet ring
The king had taken this ring from Haman
The king gave his signet ring to Mordecai
(Esther also appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman)**

B. The king heard of the plot of Haman - 8:3-6

1. Esther asked the king to stop the plot of Haman - 8:3

**The king heard Esther speak to him again
The king saw Esther fall at his feet
The king heard Esther implore him with tears
The king was asked to counteract the evil of Haman
The king heard the scheme Haman had devised against the Jews**

2. Esther had the golden scepter held out to her - 8:4

**The king held out the golden scepter toward Esther
The king saw Esther get up and stand before him**

3. Esther asked the king to write a new decree - 8:5

**The king was asked to show favor to Esther
The king was asked to do the thing that seemed right
The king was asked to do this if Esther was pleasing in his eyes
The king was asked to revoke the letters of Haman
The king was told Haman wrote the letter to annihilate the Jews
The king was told the letter was sent to all of the provinces**

4. Esther said she could not see her people destroyed - 8:6

**The king heard Esther could not endure the evil that would come to her people
The king heard Esther could not endure the destruction of her countrymen**

C. The king gave a new decree - 8:7-14

1. Mordecai and Esther were told to write the decree - 8:7-8

a. the king spoke to Esther and Mordecai - 8:7

**Esther heard what the king had already done
Esther received the house of Haman from the king
Esther heard that Haman had been hanged on the gallows
Esther heard this was his punishment for trying to destroy the Jews**

b. The king told them to write the law - 8:8

**Esther and Mordecai were told to write a decree concerning the Jews
Esther and Mordecai were told to write what they pleased
Esther and Mordecai were told to seal it with the king's signet ring
Laws signed with the signet ring could not be revoked - Daniel 6:8
Esther and Mordecai heard that no one could revoke that law**

2. Mordecai wrote the law that the king had commanded - 8:9

**The decree was written by the scribes of the king
The decree was written on the 23rd day of the third month
The decree was written exactly as Mordecai commanded
The decree was written to all of the Jews
The decree was written to all of the government officials
The decree was sent to all 127 provinces
The decree was written in the language of each province
The decree was written to the Jews in their own language**

3. Mordecai wrote this law in the name of the king - 8:10

**The decree was written in the name of King Ahasuerus
The decree was sealed with the king's signet ring
The decree was sent by couriers on horseback
(these were royal horses bred from swift steeds)**

4. Mordecai wrote that the Jews could protect their lives - 8:11-14

a. The Jews could destroy any who tried to assault them - 8:11

The king permitted the Jews in every city to gather together
The king permitted the Jews in every city to protect their lives
God was keeping his promise that He made to Abraham - Genesis 17:1-8
God was protecting the descendents of Abraham - Deuteronomy 30:1-3
The king permitted the Jews to destroy any who tried to destroy them
God was showing He was faithful to the Jews - Deuteronomy 28:10
The king permitted the Jews to kill any who tried to kill them
The king permitted the Jews to kill any who tried to annihilate them
The king permitted this judgment for any forces that would assault the Jews
The king permitted them to kill the little ones of children of these forces
The king permitted them to plunder the possessions of these forces

b. The Jews could do this on the day Haman planned to kill them - 8:12

The king said this could be done on one day in all the provinces
The king said this was to be done on the 13th day of the twelfth month
This was the day Haman had chosen to destroy the Jews - Esther 3:13
The king said this was to be done in the month Adar

c. The Jews in every province were sent a copy of the letter - 8:13

This decree was to be published in every province
This decree was to be published for all people
This decree said the Jews were to be ready on that day
This decree said the Jews were to avenge themselves
This decree said the Jews were to destroy their enemies

d. The Jews saw the couriers carry out the command of the king - 8:14

The couriers who rode royal horses took the decree
The couriers hurried as they took out the decree
The couriers were hastened by the king's command
The couriers were pressed on by the king's command
The command was also issued in Shushan
Shushan had been perplexed by the law of Haman - Esther 3:15
Shushan was where the king had his throne - Esther 1:2
Shushan was where Mordecai had raised Esther - Esther 2:5-7

D. The king honored Mordecai - 8:15-17

1. The promotion of Mordecai brought joy in Shushan - 8:15

**Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel
Mordecai went out in clothes that were blue and white
These were the official colors of the Persian Empire
Mordecai was given a great crown of gold
Mordecai was given a garment of fine linen and purple
Mordecai's promotion caused the city of Shushan to rejoice
Mordecai's promotion caused the city of Shushan to be glad**

2. The promotion of Mordecai caused joy among the Jews - 8:16

**The Jews were light-hearted when Mordecai was promoted
The Jews were filled with gladness when Mordecai was promoted
The Jews were filled with joy when Mordecai was promoted
The Jews were very honored when Mordecai was promoted**

3. The promotion of Mordecai caused joy throughout the empire - 8:17

**The Jews had joy in every province
The Jews had joy in every city
The Jews had joy when they heard the command of the king
The Jews had joy when they saw the decree of the king
The Jews were filled with gladness
The Jews had a feast when they heard the decree
The Jews had a holiday when they heard the decree
The Jews saw many other people join with them
The Jews saw the fear of the Jews fall on the other people**

E. The king allowed the Jews to defend themselves - 9:1-11

1. The Jews overpowered those who hated them - 9:1

**The day came for the king's order to be carried out
The day was the 13th day of the twelfth month
The day came during the month of Adar
The day was the day the Jews' enemies had hoped to overpower them
The day came and the opposite occurred instead
The day came when the Jews overpowered those who hated them**

2. The Jews defeated their enemies throughout the empire - 9:2-5

a. The Jews were feared by those who wanted to harm them - 9:2

**That day the Jews gathered together in their cities
That day they gathered throughout all of the provinces
That day they gathered to lay hands on all who sought their hurt
That day no one could withstand the Jews
That day the fear of the Jews fell on all of the people**

b. The Jews were helped by all who served the king - 9:3

**All of the officials of the provinces helped the Jews that day
That included the satraps
That included the governors
That included all who did the king's work
All of the officials had the fear of Mordecai fall on them that day**

c. The Jews saw Mordecai grow in importance - 9:4

**Mordecai was great in the king's palace
Mordecai had his fame spread throughout the provinces
Mordecai became increasingly prominent**

d. The Jews defeated all of their enemies - 9:5

**The Jews defeated all of their enemies with the stroke of the sword
The Jews defeated all of their enemies with a great slaughter
The Jews did what they pleased to those who hated them**

3. The Jews defeated their enemies in Shushan - 9:6-11

a, The Jews in Shushan killed five hundred men - 9:6

**In Shushan five hundred men were killed by the Jews
In Shushan five hundred men were destroyed that day**

b. The Jews killed the ten sons of Haman - 9:7-10

**In Shushan the ten sons of Haman were killed that day
In Shushan the Jews did not lay a hand on the plunder**

c. The Jews reported the number killed in Shushan - 9:11

The king received word that day about those killed in Shushan
The king learned that a total of five hundred men had been destroyed
The king reported to Esther what had happened in Shushan - Esther 9:12

F. The king granted the Jews a second day to judge their enemies - 9:12-19

1. The Jews were allowed to kill their enemies a second day in Shushan - 9:12-15

a. The king asked Esther if she had any other requests - 9:12

Esther heard that five hundred men had been killed in Shushan
Esther heard that the ten sons of Haman had been killed
Esther was asked to think what had happened in the provinces
The Jews in the provinces killed a total of 75,000 people - Esther 9:16
The Jews in the provinces did not take the plunder - Esther 9:16
Esther was asked if she had any other petition
Esther was told that her petition would be granted
Esther was asked if she had a further request
Esther heard that her request would be carried out

b. The king heard Esther request a second day of judgment - 9:13

Esther did have another request for the king
Esther asked a request for the Jews living in Shushan
Esther asked if they could destroy their enemies a second day
Esther asked if the ten sons of Haman could be hanged on the gallows

c. The king commanded the ten sons of Haman to be hanged - 9:14

Esther heard the king order that her requests be fulfilled
Esther saw the decree issued in Shushan
Esther learned they hanged the ten sons of Haman

d. The king granted the Jews a second day of judgment in Shushan - 9:15

The Jews gather together on the fourteenth day of the month
The Jews killed three hundred more men in Shushan
The Jews did not lay their hands on any of the plunder
The Jews were only concerned to protect their lives

2. The Jews celebrated their preservation by the Lord - 9:16-19

a. The other Jews killed 75,000 enemies - 9:16

**The Jews in the king's provinces had gathered themselves together
The Jews in the king's provinces protected their lives
The Jews in the king's provinces killed 75,000 people
The Jews in the provinces did not take the plunder**

b. The other Jews rested the next day - 9:17

**The Jews defeated their enemies on the 13th day of the month Adar
The Jews rested on the 14th day of the month Adar
The Jews made that a day of feasting
The Jews made that a day of gladness**

c. The Jews in Shushan rested on the third day - 9:18

**The Jews in Shushan assembled on the 13th day
The Jews in Shushan assembled again on the 14th day
The Jews in Shushan rested on the 15th day
The Jews in Shushan made that day a day of feasting
The Jews in Shushan made that day a day of gladness**

d. The Jews declared the day a holiday - 9:19

**The Jews in the villages also celebrated on the 14th day
A village is a town that did not have walls for protection
The Jews in the villages made that day a day of gladness
The Jews in the villages made that day a day of feasting
The Jews in the villages declared that day a holiday
The Jews in the villages sent presents to one another**

G. The king allowed the Jews to establish the Feast of Purim - 9:20-32

1. Mordecai set aside two days for an annual feast - 9:20-25

a. Mordecai wrote a letter to all of the Jews - 9:20

**This letter was written to all of the Jews
This letter was written to Jews both near and far**

b. Mordecai said to establish those two days as a feast - 9:21

**The Jews were to establish a new celebration
The Jews were to make this a two day event
The Jews were to do this on the 14th and 15th of the month Adar**

c. Mordecai said the would be a time to remember - 9:22

**The Jews were to remember that they were given rest from their enemies
The Jews were to remember how their sorrow was turned to joy
The Jews remembered how their mourning had become a holiday
The Jews were to make them days of feasting and joy
The Jews were to send presents to one another
The Jews were to send gifts to the poor**

d. Mordecai saw the Jews begin a new custom - 9:23

**The Jews accepted the custom they had begun
The Jews did as Mordecai had written them**

e. Mordecai and the Jews remembered the plot of Haman - 9:24

**The Jews remembered the plot of Haman
The Jews remembered that he was the son of Hammedatha
The Jews remembered that he was an Agagite
The Jews remembered he had planned to annihilate them
The Jews remembered that he had cast Pur
That was the lot to choose the day to destroy them
The Jews remembered his plan to consume them
The Jews remembered his plan to destroy them**

f. Mordecai and the Jews remembered the deliverance through Esther - 9:25

**The Jews remembered how Esther came before the king
They remembered that Esther was willing to perish - Esther 4:15
The Jews remembered how the king had written a new letter
The Jews remembered how this letter reversed the wicked plot of Haman
The Jews remembered how his plot returned on his own head
The Jews remembered how he was hanged on his gallows
The Jews remembered that his sons were hanged on his gallows**

2. Mordecai and the Jews called this the Feast of Purim - 9:26-28

a. The Jews called these days the Feast of Purim - 9:26

This two day celebration was called the Feast of Purim

This was named after Pur (the casting of the lot)

This two day celebration was the result of the letter of Mordecai

This two day celebration was due to what happened to the Jews

b. The Jews said that they would keep this feast permanently - 9:27

The Jew established this feast for themselves

The Jews established this feast for their descendents

The Jews established this feast for all who would join them

The Jews said they would celebrate these two days every year

The Jews said that they would follow the written instructions

The Jews said they would remember the prescribed time

c. The Jews did not want their descendents to forget - 9:28

The Jews said this feast should be remembered throughout every generation

The Jews said this feast should be remembered by every family

The Jews said this feast should be remembered in every province

The Jews said this feast should be remembered in every city

The Jews said they should never forget the days of Purim

The Jews said this memory should not be forgotten by their descendents

3. Mordecai and Esther confirmed this day with a second letter - 9:29-32

a. Esther wrote this letter with Mordecai - 9:29

Queen Esther wrote this letter with Mordecai

Queen Esther wrote this letter with full authority

Queen Esther wrote to confirm the letter about Purim

b. Esther had Mordecai send this letter to all of the Jews - 9:30

Mordecai sent letters to all of the Jews

Mordecai sent letters to all 127 provinces

Mordecai wrote words of peace

Mordecai wrote words of truth

c. Esther and Mordecai said this feast was also for their descendents - 9:31

**This letter was to confirm the days of Purim
This letter was to confirm their appointed time
This letter was to confirm the words of Mordecai
This letter was to confirm the words of Esther
This letter confirmed what they had decreed for themselves
This letter confirmed the manner of their fasting and lamenting**

d. Esther caused this to be written in a book - 9:32

**The decree of Esther confirmed the matters of Purim
The decree of Esther was written in a book**

H. The king gave Mordecai greater authority - 10:1-3

a. The king placed an enforced payment on all of the lands he controlled - 10:1

**This enforced payment was placed on all the lands the king controlled
This enforced payment was placed on all the islands the king controlled**

b. The king also advanced Mordecai in the kingdom - 10:2

**The acts of the king were written in the chronicles of the king
The power of the king was written in the chronicles of the king
The might of the king was written in the chronicles of the king
The greatness of Mordecai was written in the chronicles of the king
The advancement of Mordecai was written in the chronicles of the king
The chronicles of the king are the chronicles of Media and Persia**

c. The king made Mordecai second to himself - 10:3

**Mordecai was made the second to King Ahasuerus
This gave him tremendous influence in the 127 provinces
Mordecai was great among the Jews
The Jews realized he had preserved their lives
Mordecai was well received by the multitude of his brethren
Mordecai was seeking the good of his people
Mordecai focused on what was best for others
Mordecai spoke peace to all of his countrymen
Mordecai wanted his people to have peace**