



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

“Defending the Vulnerable”

Esther 8:3-8, 9:1-19

December 29, 2024

Observations of Haman’s Edict on the Jews in Persian Society:

1. The Jews were in a helpless position before the second edict where they were to be destroyed with no ability to defend themselves.
2. Haman’s death is not enough to stop the edict to destroy the Jews or a portion of the population’s desire to destroy the Jews.
3. The shift in Mordecai’s new position made the government that was to administer the original edict now administer the second edict to help the Jews.
4. The Jews response was not to become an aggressor for gaining dominion but an aggressor to defend their lives.
5. The Jews celebrated the deliverance and initiated a holiday.

How the Jewish Response should challenge Christians today:

1. Stand up for the helpless.
2. Policy can not fix evil.
3. Aggression towards evil could be the only way to push back evil.
4. Celebrate God’s deliverance.

RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

1. How does the reversal of the first decree demonstrate God’s ability to bring hope and redemption even in dire circumstances? (*Esther 8:11–14*)
2. How does the Jews’ victory over their enemies reflect God’s faithfulness to protect His people? (*Esther 9:1–5*)
3. Why was it significant that the Jews refrained from taking the plunder, and what does this teach us about integrity in victory? (*Esther 9:10, 15–16*)
4. How does the establishment of Purim as a celebration of deliverance encourage us to remember God’s acts of faithfulness in our lives? (*Esther 9:20–22*)