**ESTHER 7-8**

**So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified. (7:10)**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Chapter 7 Second Banquet (7:1-2)**

So the king and Haman **came to banquet** with Esther the queen.**2**And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, **What is thy petition, queen Esther?** and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.

**Esther’s Request (7:3-4)**

**3**Then **Esther the queen answered** and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let **my life be given me** at my petition, and my people at my request:**4For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish.** But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

**The King Asks “Who is he…” and Esther’s Reply (7:5-6)**

**5**Then the **king Ahasuerus** answered and said unto Esther the queen, **Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so**?**6**And **Esther said**, The adversary and enemy is this **wicked Haman**. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

**Haman’s Request to Queen Esther (7:7)**

**7**And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and **Haman stood up to make request for his life** to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

**Haman Sentenced to Die on the Gallows Built for Mordecai (7:8-10)**

**8**Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and **Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther** was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.**9**And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, **Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman.** Then the king said, Hang him thereon.**10**So **they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai.** Then was the king's wrath pacified.

**Chapter 8 New Letter**

**House of Hamam to Esther, Mordecai takes Haman’s Position (8:1-2)**

On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the **house of Haman** the Jews' enemy **unto Esther** the queen. And **Mordecai came before the king**; for Esther had told what he was unto her.**2**And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And **Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.**

**Esther’s Request to the King (8:3-6)**

**3**And **Esther spake** yet again before the **king**, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears **to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite**, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.**4**Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king, **5**And said, If it please the king, and if I have favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, **let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman** the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces:**6**For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?

**Kings Response (8:7-8)**

**7**Then the king **Ahasuerus said** unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews. **8Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring:** for **the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.**

**New Letter Written and Sent (8:9-14)**

**9**Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the **third month**, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.**10**And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries:**11Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey,12Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.13**The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.**14**So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace.

**Mordecai Honored and the People Rejoice (8:15)**

**15**And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

**Jews Rejoice (8:16-17)**

**16**The **Jews** had **light**, and **gladness**, and **joy**, and **honour**.**17**And in every province, and in every city, **whithersoever the king's commandment** and his decree came, the Jews had **joy** and **gladness**, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land **became Jews**; for the **fear of the Jews** fell upon them.

**THINGS TO THINK ABOUT**

Queen Esther puts Mordecai over the house of Haman. Mordecai now rules over the very people who were out to destroy him. When we honor God, obey His word, and fulfill His will, God blesses us. Mordecai obeyed God. He did not bow down to Haman or worship the God’s of Babylon. He followed God. God honored him.

The letter Mordecai drafted, in the Kings name, was a letter that allowed the Jews to defend themselves. It was also for the same day as the original. He could have sent a letter saying that the Jews could “…gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey,…”. The date could have been earlier, so they would have the advantage. Mordecai did not do that. Why?

Haman was a wicked Prince who demanded people to bow down to him. The people of Shushan were not glad. When Mordecai rode through the streets of Shushan the people rejoiced and were glad. When the provinces received the King’s letter, the Jews were glad. The rest of the people feared the God of the Jews.

We need to thank God for His watch care over us, our nation, and our world.

**NEXT WEEK**

**Are the Jews able to defend themselves?**

**What is Purim?**

**Mordecai promoted**