

Lesson 11

The New Decree of the King and the New Demeanor of Jews (Esther 8)

Questions

1. What was given to Esther and to Mordecai (8:1-2, see also verse 7)?
2. What did Esther request of the king (8:3-6)?
3. What was the king's response to Esther's request (8:7-8)?
4. What were the Jews now authorized to do regarding their up-coming day of destruction (8:9-14)?
5. What was the new demeanor of Mordecai and the Jews compared with earlier in the book of Esther (8:15-17; see 4:1-3)?
6. What did some of the people of the land (the Persians) do (8:17)?

Digging Deeper

1. What was the "house of Haman" that was given to Esther and Mordecai (8:1-2)?
2. When was "the third month, which is the month of Silvan" and how much time was left until the Jews' day of destruction (8:9; see 9:1; compare with 3:7, 13)? How much time had passed since Haman first planned to kill the Jews (see 3:7, 12)?
3. Was the order allowing the Jews to defend themselves the same in content as the previous order of Haman to kill the Jews (compare 8:11 with 3:13)? In other words,

were the Jews now allowed to do to the Persians what the Persians were allowed to do to the Jews?

4. What did it mean for the Persians to become Jews (8:17)?

Applications for Today

1. God will take away from those who don't deserve what they have and give it to others more worthy (8:1-2; Mt. 13:12; 25:28).
2. Pray to God that he will "reverse" the misfortunes of life that are caused by wicked men (8:3-8; Psa. 12:5; 37:12ff; Prov. 15:25; 21:1; 29:13).
3. Life is precious, so take a stand for your life and the lives of others (8:11; Neh. 4:14).
4. The ability to save a life should cause great gladness, joy, and "a good day" (8:17; Psa. 82:4; Prov. 24:11).