

## Lesson 12

### The Fear of the Jews and the Feast of Purim ( Esther 9 )

#### Questions

1. Why were the Jews successful in defending themselves when the day of their destruction came (9:1-4)?
2. What did the Jews do to their enemies and to Haman's sons, and what did they refuse to take (9:5-10; see also 9:15-16)?
3. What additional request did Esther have for the king after she was given permission to ask (9:11-15)?
4. How many people did the Jews kill in Shushan and throughout the provinces (9:12, 15-16)?
5. When did the Jews have a day of feasting and gladness (9:17-19)?
6. What did Mordecai write for the Jews (9:20-22)?
7. How does the author of the book describe what happened to Haman and his wicked plan (9:23-25)?
8. How did the feast of Purim get its name, how often was it celebrated, and by whom (9:26-28)?
9. What did Esther write that gave additional authority to what Mordecai had already written for the Jews (9:29-32)?

## **Digging Deeper**

1. What time of the year is “the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar” (9:1)?
2. Why would Esther ask for Haman’s sons to be hanged when they were already dead and for an additional day of fighting for the Jews in Shushan (9:13)? Does this show a moral defect in her character?
3. What is the feast mentioned in the gospel of John that may be a reference to the feast of Purim (9:26)?
4. Where earlier in the story had the Jews fasted and cried out (9:31)?

## **Applications for Today**

1. God can reverse the wicked plans of evil people (9:1, 25; Esther 8:5; Psa. 75:7; 147:6; Lk. 1:52).
2. God’s servants will always have those people in the world who hurt them and hate them (9:2, 5, 16; Mt. 10:22; 24:9-10; Lk. 1:71; 6:22; Jn. 15:18-19; 17:14; 1 Pet. 3:13-14).
3. Those who are truly great serve others for good (9:4; Mt. 20:26; Lk. 22:26).
4. Those who live by the sword will die by the sword (9:1-10; Mt. 26:52).
5. Pray that we might have rest from our enemies (9:11-16, 22; Deut. 12:10; Josh. 23:1).
6. Life is precious, so take a stand for your life and the lives of others (9:16; Esther 8:11; Neh. 4:14).
7. Wicked people want to take life, but righteous people want to spare life (9:25; see also 7:6; Prov. 24:11; Lk. 6:9).
8. The day that life is spared is a day of gladness and a day to be remembered (9:17-32; Acts 2:46).

9. The “words of peace and truth” for us today are found in the New Testament gospel (9:30; Eph. 1:13; 6:15; Gal. 2:5, 14; Col. 1:5).