

Recap of 10/27/19 (Esther 8:1-17):

1. In response to Haman's treachery, he has been executed on his own gallows and his estate given to Esther, which she puts in the care of Mordecai. Xerxes gives Mordecai his signet ring which he retrieved from Haman essentially making him Prime Minister in Haman's place with authority to act in the King's name. What a turn of events! Haman's power which he coveted is now Mordecai's power; Haman coveted the Jew's property, but his estate was now the property of Esther. God had reversed their fortunes.

- "The entire Book of Esther is a marvelous testimony to the overruling power and providence of God." "Esther is an illustration of Romans 8:28 ['And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him']" (Wiersbe)

2. Esther's concern was still for the welfare of her people. Haman's edict was still in effect, since laws could not be rescinded, only superseded. Xerxes suggests that a second edict be issued giving the Jews the right to defend themselves, one favorable to them.

3. The second edict was immediately drawn up giving the Jews: the right to assemble and protect themselves; the right to "destroy, kill and annihilate" the armed forces of any nationality which attacked them; and the right to the property of their enemies. The new edict was set to go into effect on the same day as Haman's edict. What was meant as a day of defeat and death became a day of victory and life for the Jews. What looked like certain disaster, with the Jews overwhelmed by their enemies and powerless to help themselves; turned out for their good.

- "God is always at work behind the scenes on our behalf. Even those events that we experience as tragedy can be transformed into good by our loving Father." (Richards)

4. It became obvious that God was at work for His people; that these were not just random events. So much so that many sided with the Jews and not a few became proselytes to Judaism.

5. "If God can bring his chosen people through centuries of chaotic history and preserve them from extinction in spite of unbelief, disobedience, and indifference, what do you suppose he is capable of doing in your life...especially if he has your cooperation? God wants to make Esther's story your story; will you let him?" (The Daily Walk Bible NLT)