### Esther

## Chapter 8

1Then on that same day, King ArtaXerxes offered everything that had once belonged to the slanderer HaMan, to Esther.  
  
And after Esther explained how MordecAi was related to her, the king called him in 2and gave him the ring that he’d removed from the hand of HaMan! Esther also put MordecAi in charge of all the possessions of HaMan.  
  
  
3Then, later that day, [Esther] went in and spoke to the king.  
  
She fell to his feet and begged him to undo all the evil things that HaMan had [planned] to do against the Judeans. 4So the king held out his gold scepter to Esther, and she got up on her feet and stood next to the king and said:  
  
 5‘If it seems good to you, and if I’ve found your favor; have those letters that HaMan wrote and sent out about destroying all the Judeans in your kingdom, recalled.  
  
 6‘For, how could I watch my people being so mistreated, and how could I personally be saved when everyone else in my fatherland is being destroyed?’  
  
7But the king said to Esther:  
  
 ‘Since I’ve already granted you everything that HaMan owned, and I had him hung on a pole for raising his hands against the Judeans, what more are you asking?  
  
 8‘You may write whatever seems good to you in my name and then seal it with my ring. However, once the king has given an order and has sealed it with his ring, it may never be changed!’  
  
  
9Well, it was the 23rd day of the 1st month (Nisan) of the same year that the scribes were called in, and [an edict] was written concerning the Judeans that was thereafter sent to all those in authority... To those who were in charge and to all the governors from India to Ethiopia, 127 governors by districts, in each of their own languages.  
  
10It was written in the name of the king, sealed with his ring, and sent out by couriers. 11It gave instructions on how his laws were to be executed in each city, and explained that [the Judeans] should be helped in dealing with their opponents and enemies in any way they wanted, 12all on a single day, throughout the entire kingdom of ArtaXerxes, on the 13th day of the 12th month (Adar)... 13 And [how] copies should be displayed for everyone in the kingdom to see, and how all Judeans should prepare themselves for war against their enemies!  
  
14So, the king’s edict was carried on horseback to be quickly delivered throughout the whole realm, and it was also put on display in Susa.  
  
  
15Well after that, MordecAi was dressed in royal robes, and a gold crown was placed on his head over a purple turban.  
  
And when the people of Susa saw this, they all rejoiced…  
  
16And the Judeans were also very relieved and happy. 17Then in every place and city where the edict had been displayed, there was rejoicing and feasting among the Judeans!  
  
And as a result (because of their fear of the Judeans), many people of the nations got circumcised and became converts to Judaism.