### Esther

## Chapter 9

1Well, by the 13th day of the 12th month (Adar), all the letters from the king had been distributed. 2So on that day, all the enemies of the Jews were destroyed, because everyone was afraid to oppose them!  
  
3And everyone (including the heads over the governors, the vassal kings, and the royal scribes) treated the Judeans with respect, because they were afraid of MordecAi, 4since the king had ordered his name 5to be proclaimed throughout the kingdom.  
  
6In the city of Susa alone, the Judeans killed about 500 people, 7including:  
  
 • PharShandatha,  
 • Daiphon,  
 • Aspatha,  
 • 8Pharadatha,  
 • Barea,  
 • Sarbaka,  
 • 9MarMasima,  
 • Ruphaeus,  
 • Arseus,  
 • ZabuThaeus,  
 • 10The 10 sons of HaMan, and   
 • The son of AmaDathes the Bougean (who were all enemies of the Judeans).  
  
However, they didn’t do any plundering that day.  
  
  
11Well when the king heard how many had been destroyed in Susa, he said to Esther:  
  
 12‘Since the Judeans have destroyed 500 men in the city, how do you suppose they were treated in other areas?  
  
 ‘You can ask for whatever you wish and it’ll be yours!’  
  
13And Esther said to the king:  
  
 ‘Allow the Judeans to do the same thing tomorrow [here in Susa], and let them hang [up the bodies of] the 10 sons of HaMan.’  
  
14So he agreed to let it happen, and the Judeans in the city hung up the bodies of the sons of HaMan. 15Then they all gathered in Susa on the 14th day of Adar and killed 300 more men… But again, they didn’t plunder them.  
  
  
16Meanwhile, the rest of the Judeans throughout the kingdom had also gathered to protect themselves, which finally gave them some rest from those warlike men. Altogether, they destroyed 70,000 of them on the 13th of Adar… But they didn’t do any plundering either.  
  
17Then they rested on the 14th day of the month, proclaiming it a day of rest, joy, and gladness. 18The Judeans in the city of Susa also gathered for rest on the 14th day, then they celebrated on the 15th day with joy and gladness.  
  
  
19And because of this, all the Judeans who were scattered outside [of Judea] still celebrate the 14th day of Adar as a happy day, during which they each send food to their neighbors.  
  
20For MordecAi wrote that they should write this in a scroll that he would then send to the all Judeans throughout the kingdom of ArtaXerxes, both near and far, 21establishing the 14th and 15th days of Adar as good days of celebration, 22because those were the days when the Judeans were gained rest from their enemies…  
  
It was the month when their mourning was turned into joy and their grief was turned into happy days. As a result, they were to celebrate those days happily with wedding feasts and by sending food to their friends and to the poor.  
  
23The Judeans were also happy when MordecAi wrote of 24how HaMan (son of HamaDathes the Macedonian) had waged war against them by authoring a referendum to wipe them out, 25and of how he’d gone before the king to hang MordecAi [on a pole].  
  
Then he told of how [HaMan’s] attempt to do bad things to the Judeans resulted in his own hanging, along with his children.  
  
26So they call those days Purim (Lots), because these were the days [that HaMan] had chosen by throwing lots (which in their dialect was called Purim).  
  
  
Well, because of the words in that letter, all the things that [the Jews] had suffered and that had been done to them, came to an end.  
  
27And the Judeans adopted [Purim as a holiday] for them and their offspring, and they agreed to observe it exactly as [MordecAi] suggested. It was to be a memorial from generation to generation in every city, family, and place. 28These days were to be celebrated for all time, and were never to be forgotten throughout the generations!  
  
29Then Queen Esther (the daughter of AbiHail) and MordecAi (the Judean) wrote about all that they’d done, in confirmation of what was written in the letter about Purim.  
  
30MordecAi and Esther attested to all that they’d done, of how they had fasted, and to the things that they had each said. 31And thereafter, Esther established the matter throughout the ages by [having it written] as a memorial.