The Jews had to defend themselves to gain the upper hand over all who attacked them. Three reasons are given for their successful defense:

a. Because of King Xerxes’s second decree, the *Decree of Defense*, the Jews had time to prepare and mobilize themselves against all adversaries. In city after city throughout the empire, the Jews banded together to defend themselves against all who sought their death. If each family had stood alone, they would have been easy prey. But by banding together in cities, they were able to successfully defend themselves when attacked.

b. Because of God’s love for the Israelites. He aroused fear within the hearts of the anti-Semites (v.2; 8:17). None of them were successful in attacking the Jews because they were too apprehensive, too afraid. Once again the Lord, through His sovereignty, had protected the Jews. He had long ago appointed them to be the people through whom He would give the Word of God (the Holy Bible) to the world and through whom He would send the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, to save the world.

c. Because the Persian nobles and political leaders threw their weight behind the Jews, the Jews were able to successfully defend themselves (v.3). Within the cities throughout the empire, the political officials took their stand with the Jews. This was to be expected, for King Xerxes had thrown his weight behind the Jews. Furthermore, he had appointed the Jew Mordecai to be the prime minister of the nation. In fact, Scripture says that the governors and political officials actually *feared* Mordecai. Thus they were bound to support the Jews against their attackers. If they had actually supported the aggressors, they themselves would have been executed.

3. For the above three reasons, the Jews gained a great victory against the citizens who attacked them. They survived the attempted holocaust launched by those who so despised the Jews. Instead of being slaughtered, they were actually able to defend themselves and to kill the aggressors. Moreover, they were apparently strong and confident in their defense. For the most part they were able to do as they pleased, gaining an easy and complete victory over those who assaulted them (v.5).

4. In the fortress of Susa the Jews killed 500 men. In addition, they killed the ten sons of Haman, the former prime minister who had so bitterly despised the Jews and who had deceived King Xerxes into signing the decree of extermination*.* But note this fact: the Jews did not plunder the property of those they killed (vv.6-10). This fact is so important that it is repeated three times (v.10, 15-16). The only motive of the Jews was to defend and protect their lives, not to steal property. They had as much a right to live and to defend themselves as any other people. At some point during the day, the number of the slain in Susa was reported to the king (v.11).

5. Pleased with the report of the Jews’ success, Xerxes shared the news of the fighting with Queen Esther. He then asked if she had any other requests that might help the Jews against their attackers (v.12). To assure a complete victory over the brutal enemies, Esther made two additional requests:

⇒ That the Jews in Susa be given one more day to continue pursuing the attackers who sought to slaughter them ([v.13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Est+9%3A13)).

⇒ That the bodies of Haman’s ten sons be hanged on gallows as a warning and deterrent to any future aggressor seeking to slaughter the Jews.

King Xerxes granted the request of his beloved wife and queen (v.14). He immediately issued a decree in Susa that extended the right of the Jews to pursue and execute those who had so viciously attacked them, seeking to slaughter their families and steal their property. He also hung the bodies of Haman’s ten sons in public as a warning, to bring a halt to any future aggressor who might wish to slaughter the Jews.

6. In the additional day, the Jews were able to track down and kill 300 more of their attackers in the city of Susa. But again note, they did not plunder the enemy’s property.

7. Throughout the rest of the empire, the Jews were able to successfully defend themselves. They killed 75,000 of their aggressors (v.16). But for a third time: they did not plunder their property. They sought only to protect themselves and to live peacefully without oppression.

8. A great victory, the Jews celebrated their deliverance from the aggressors (17-19). Celebrations were held all over the empire on the day after their triumphant stand. In the city of Susa the Jews celebrated on the 15th day of Adar, which was the 12th month (v.18). But out in the provinces or districts, where they had not been given an extra day, the Jews celebrated on the 14th day of Adar (v.19)

Preparation is an absolute essential if we are to be triumphant, victorious. The Lord tells us exactly how to prepare. Preparing for the attack of the enemy:

1. We must put on the armor of God.

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

2) We must Hope in the Lord Jesus Christ; Be Prepared to answer every person that asks why do you hope in God.

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

3) We must not hate our enemies but, rather, love them for the cause of Christ.

Mt 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

4) We must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, not entangling ourselves with the affairs of this life.

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier (2 Ti.2:3-4).

5) We must be angry about sin and hate sin and evil, but not the sinner, the one who does evil against us. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil (Ep.4:26-27).

6) We must pursue, follow peace with all men. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart (2 Ti.2:22).

Follow peace with all *men,* and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you,* and thereby many be defiled” (Heb. 12:14-15).

7) We must avoid foolish and unlearned questions and arguments that cause divisions and strife.

But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men,* apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will (2 Ti.2:23-26).

8) We must be constantly aware that the world will persecute us and that evil men and deceivers will grow from bad to worse.

And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved (Mt.10:22).

And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God (Phil. 1:28).

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived

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9) We must follow the example of those who have withstood persecution for us. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward Heb 11:24-26

Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience (James 5:10).

10) We must keep our eyes on the reward.

And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved (Mt.10:22).

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (2 Ti.4:5-8).

11) We must know, (be fully convinced) that the Lord will strengthen us to stand against those who attack us.

At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve *me* unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen (2 Ti.4:16-18).

*Let your* conversation [behavior, conduct] *be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me (Heb. 13:5-6).

The Lord *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him” (Ps.28:7).

But I *am* poor and needy; *yet* the Lord thinketh upon me: thou *art* my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God (Ps.40:17).

Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness (Isa. 41:10).

Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine. When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee” (Isa. 43:1-2).

12) We must honor the rulers of this world and the leaders who have authority over us. We must work for the good of the society in which we live.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God:   
the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same” (Ro.13:1-3).

Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, *but* gentle, showing all meekness unto all men” (Tit.3:1-2).

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well” (1 Pe.2:13-14).

13) We must take a stand and defend ourselves against those who would assault or kill us. We must not indulge nor give license to evil, allowing it to run rampant through our neighborhoods, communities, states, nations, and all the earth. We must take a stand for righteousness, justice and the execution of justice within society.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God’s ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due;* custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour” (Ro.13:1-7).

1Pe 2:13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work [obeying the laws of justice]” (Tit.3:1).

That which is altogether just shalt thou follow, that thou mayest live, and inherit the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee” (De.16:20).

Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy” (Ps.82:3).

To do justice and judgment *is* more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice” (Pr.21:3).

Thus saith the Lord, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation *is* near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed (Isa. 56:1).