

VICTORY IN THE SPIRIT

--ESTHER 9:1-19--

INTRODUCTION:

The end of chapter 8 saw the splendor of Mordecai as he departed the palace arrayed in the garments that spoke of his prominence and his role as the prime minister. His edict, which was written to counter the edict of Haman, had just been issued in Susa and was in the hands of the couriers as they rushed it to every part of the empire.

Throughout this book there has been the constant reminder of a day when the edicts of Haman and Mordecai would be executed. If you remember from last week Mordecai issued his edict about nine months before the day chosen by Haman for the annihilation of the Jews. As we come into chapter nine this morning, the nine months have passed, and the day has now arrived. Mordecai's edict has made its way to every part of the empire and the Jews are ready to defend their lives.

I. THE RIGHT TO DEFEND (Esther 9:1-5)

- a. Throughout Scripture we see God _____ those who have put their faith in Him, seeing if they will trust Him, seeing if they will rely on Him.
- b. So, like the Jews in the empire of Ahasuerus, we must come to the actual day of _____.
- c. Under the edict of Haman, the people of the Media-Persia empire were commanded to _____ against the Jews, and under that same edict there was no provision for the Jews to _____ themselves. (Romans 7:5)
- d. Before the fateful day when Haman's edict would be carried out another _____ was written. (Romans 7:6)
- e. *“Even all the princes of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and those who were doing the king's business _____ the Jews, because the dread of Mordecai had fallen on them.”* (Esther 9:3, NASB95) (Genesis 50:20)

- a. More than this authority of faith but that faith must rest in the right _____, that faith must be in dependence of the man of power.

II. EVIDENCES OF VICTORY (Esther 9:6-15)

- a. As we continue through chapter nine of Esther and come to the next section of verses, we find examples for us of evidences of _____.
- b. The first is the slaying of Haman's ten _____.
- c. The second is seen in the _____ display of their bodies.
- d. The third and final evidence that we find in this passage is mentioned _____ times.

III. THE JOY OF VICTORY (Esther 9:16-19)

- a. What comes after a great victory? _____ and gladness.
- b. How much did the kingdom of Media-Persia experience these blessings while _____ was prime minister?

CONCLUSION:

As I close with the rest, feasting, and rejoicing in our minds and knowing that each of us can have this same type of rest when we depend on the indwelling Holy Spirit to empower and work through us to live the victorious Christian life. But we must be careful when we make this point. We are so used to looking at our circumstances as the source of our happy feelings, and when we hear that we can experience rest, rejoicing, and concern for others continually, we might feel that this somehow means that we will have joyful circumstances all the time. The promised supply of peace, victory, joy, and a continual out-flowing of love does not necessarily mean that there will be a change in our circumstances. Victory does not mean freedom from weariness, sickness, sorrow, heartache, pressure, defeat, or danger in the Christian experience. What it does mean, in the midst of these things we shall, at the same time, experience a quiet inner joy, a sense of sustaining strength, and a freedom from the traits of the old nature, as we allow the indwelling Holy Spirit to control us.