

EPILOGUE
(Esther 9:20 – 10:3)

- I. Establishing an ANNUAL HOLIDAY (Esther 9:20-32)
 - A. The INSTRUCTION from Mordecai (9:20-25)
 - 1. Perhaps Mordecai WROTE this BOOK (9:20)
 - 2. He COMMANDED the Jews to celebrate ANNUALLY (9:21-23)
 - 3. It was to commemorate their VICTORY over their ENEMIES
 - 4. Haman’s casting PUR to destroy the Jews had been OVERTURNED to his and his family’s DESTRUCTION (9:24-25)
 - B. The REACTION of the Jews (9:26-28)
 - 1. They NAMED the new holiday PURIM
 - 2. They ESTABLISHED the annual holiday for both JEWS and CONVERTS
 - 3. They intended EVERY JEW to participate and EVERY GENERATION to REMEMBER (9:27-28)
 - C. The CONFIRMATION from Esther (9:29-32)
 - 1. Adds the AUTHORITY of the QUEEN
 - 2. Addresses ALL the Jews in the EMPIRE
 - 3. Includes “words of PEACE and TRUTH”
 - 4. Includes instruction for FASTING

II. Extolling a NATIONAL HERO (Esther 10:1-3)

A. GREATNESS of Mordecai preserved in the IMPERIAL chronicles (10:1-2)

1. He increased the WEALTH and POWER of King Ahasuerus
2. He was rewarded with SUPERIOR RANK in the empire

B. GRATITUDE for Mordecai preserved in the JEWISH community (10:3)

1. His leadership brought PROSPERITY and PEACE to the JEWS
2. His leadership brought WEALTH and SECURITY to the EMPIRE

III. Lessons

A. We see God KEEPING His promise to ABRAHAM (cf. Gen. 12:3)

1. He will BLESS those who BLESS his descendants
2. He will CURSE those who CURSE his descendants
3. Through his descendants ALL the peoples of the EARTH will be BLESSED

B. We learn to TRUST God's GUIDANCE

C. We learn to ACT for God's GLORY as we have OPPORTUNITY

D. We are reminded that "He who PROMISED is FAITHFUL" (Heb. 10:23)