

Reversing the Irreversible Esther 8

I. A New Day Begins – 7:10-8:2

1. “On that day” – 8:1
On the day Ahasuerus learned about Haman
Esther identified Haman as her enemy
On the day Haman was hanged on his gallows
And the king’s wrath was abated – 7:10
On that day the king’s heart softened – 8:1
2. “On that day” things changed for Jews
King gave Esther the “house of Haman”
The enemy is defeated & the spoils to the victor
Esther revealed her relationship to Mordecai
Told the king “what he was to her”
The king’s hero is related to the queen
The king promotes Mordecai – 8:2
He gives him his signet ring taken from Haman
Authority to act in behalf of the king
Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman

II. The Edict Remains – 8:3-8

1. Esther went to the king again – 3
She fell at his feet, wept & pleaded with him
Begged him to avert Haman’s evil plot
2. The King is gracious to Esther – 4
Again he extends the golden scepter to her
She stood before the king to plead her cause
3. Esther’s appeal before the King – 5-6
Note the basis of her appeal
If it please the king – submission to his will
If I have found favor in his sight – you are pleased
If my cause seems right to you – seeks justice
If I am pleasing in your eyes – how he sees her
The request in the appeal – 5
Let an order be written revoking Haman’s edict
The one set to destroy all Jews in the kingdom
The passion of her appeal – 6
How can I bear to see calamity come on my people
How can I bear to see destruction of my kindred
4. The king’s response – 7-8
It is addressed to Esther & Mordecai
He relates what he has done for them - 7
He has given Esther the house of Haman
He has hanged Haman on the gallows
Because of what he did against the Jews
He tells what he can & cannot do – 8
He can write to help the Jews in his name
You can seal it with the king’s ring
But he cannot revoke what is written & sealed
It is the law of the Medes and the Persians

III. A New Edict – 8:9-14

1. Historical facts of Edict – 9-10
Actual writing was done by the king’s scribes
On the 23 day of the 3rd month
Almost nine months before 1st edict takes place
Gives Jews time to prepare
Edict was authored by Mordecai
Addressed to officials in the whole empire
Written in the language of each province
Written also in the language of the Jews
Written in the name of King Ahasuerus – 10
And sealed with the king’s signet ring
Sent by couriers on swift horses of the king
2. Content of the edict – 11-12
King gives permission for Jewish defense
Defend against any that might attack
To kill attackers and plunder their goods
Defense granted for one day set in 1st edict
13th day of the 12th month (Adar)
3. Copies of edict to be posted – 13
Publicly posted for all to see in every province
4. Couriers rode swiftly – 14
They were urged on by king’s command
5. Decree was issued in Susa – 14
The city of the King’s palace

IV. Praise for Deliverance – 8:15-17

1. Mordecai was honored in Susa – 15
Dressed in royal robes with a gold crown
The city of Susa shouted and rejoiced
Provision was made for victory over enemies
They must still fight & defend themselves
2. Jews rejoiced throughout empire – 16-17
Jews had light & gladness, joy & honor
In every province there was joy & gladness
A feast and holiday was celebrated
Many people declared themselves Jews
Fear of the Jews had fallen on them