

## **ESTHER'S COURAGEOUS INTERCESSION FOR HER PEOPLE**

(Esther 8)

### **I. ESTHER'S FIRST BANQUET FOR THE KING (5:1-14)**

### **II. HAMAN IS FORCED TO HONOR MORDECAI THE JEW (6:1-14)**

### **III. ESTHER'S SECOND BANQUET FOR THE KING (7:1-10)**

### **IV. A NEW PERSIAN DECREE IS WRITTEN AND SENT THROUGHOUT THE LAND (8:1-17)**

#### **A. Esther seeks to REVERSE Haman's edict of eradication (8:1-6)**

1. The king generously gave Esther Haman's wealthy \_\_\_\_\_; perhaps this was Ahasuerus' way of \_\_\_\_\_ for his unwise decision with the decree that had caused the queen so much sorrow. (v. 1)
2. Mordecai the Jew was promoted in Haman's recently vacated position of what was equivalent to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. (Esther 8:2; cf. Gen. 41:39-42; Neh. 2:1-9; 2:8; Dan. 5:7, 29; 6:3)
3. Apparently Esther was willing to jeopardize her own \_\_\_\_\_ again by appearing before the king \_\_\_\_\_ as she pleaded with tears for clemency on behalf of her Jewish countrymen. (vv. 3-6)

#### **B. Ahasuerus allows Mordecai to write his OWN decree of deliverance (8:7-17)**

1. Like other Persian kings in the past (Dan. 6:25-27; Ezra 1:1-2; 6:8-12) Ahasuerus was astonishingly favorable in passing a Persian decree that was very "\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_." (vv. 7-8)
2. Just like Haman's earlier decree, this "counter" decree was translated into various languages, \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ and immediately sent out to all the provinces in the land. (vv. 9-10)

3. Mordecai essentially made the second decree a level “\_\_\_\_\_” with the first edict (3:13), the Jews were now free to do exactly what could be done unto them. (vv. 11-12)
  
4. As seen in v. 13, this new edict basically gave the Jews “*the right to \_\_\_\_\_*,” and to defend themselves from their own tyrannical government. (v. 13)
  
5. It has often been said that v. 14 is a remarkably convincing illustration of missionary work today.
  - a. Because of \_\_\_\_\_ entering the world, God's \_\_\_\_\_ sentence hangs over a fallen humanity.
  
  - b. The Lord has also commanded us to \_\_\_\_\_ the message of salvation to every land. (cf. Matt. 28:18-20; Prov. 24:11)
  
  - c. Only a \_\_\_\_\_ to this message of God's grace through the Lord Jesus' merits can the terrible effects from the first decree of universal condemnation for sin be averted.

\* If a group of pagan scribes and messengers on horseback could take Mordecai's decree to an entire empire, how much more should Christians with modern transportation and communication be able to take the gospel to a lost and dying world?
  
6. Amazingly many pagan citizens throughout the empire converted to Judaism because they had recognized divine \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on the Hebrew people. (v. 17)

\* How can you apply this truth to your own life today?