

THE ORIGIN OF THE JEWISH FEAST OF PURIM

(Esther 9:20-10:3)

V. THE DAY FOR HAMAN'S DECREE TO BE IMPLEMENTED FINALLY ARRIVED (9:1-10:3)

A. The Jews are VICTORIOUS in DEFEATING their enemies (9:1-19)

B. The FEAST of PURIM is instituted as a memorial (9:20-32)

1. Now that the tables had been _____ for the Jews, the tables of joy and _____ could be spread.
2. It is possible that several months or even years had passed by the time Mordecai issued this decree uniting the two days (the 14th and 15th) into _____. (vv. 20-22)
3. The Jews accepted Mordecai's decree (v. 23) and the new holiday was called "*Purim*," which is the _____ form of the Persian word "*pur*" meaning "_____." (v. 26)
4. Because the Feast of Purim was not prescribed in the Mosaic Law it was essential for the Jews to establish its official _____ and then pass it on from generation to generation. (vv. 27-28)
5. Queen Esther felt it necessary to send out her own decree (v. 29), which contained words of "_____ and _____" (v. 30), confirming Mordecai's previous declaration of the official Jewish holiday.

C. Mordecai's ADVANCEMENT in the Persian Government (10:1-3)

1. Ahasuerus imposed an empire-wide tax, and perhaps this is mentioned because Mordecai had encouraged the king to tax _____ for once rather than _____ his citizens. (v. 1)
2. Mordecai was one of several biblical characters whom the Lord elevated to a _____ government position like Joseph, Daniel, and Nehemiah. (vv. 2-3)

* God delights in lifting up nobodies and using them as somebodies. Are you willing to be used and made into a "somebody" for His glory?

D. Some CONCLUDING thoughts regarding the book of Esther

1. God's sovereignty and _____ care are on grand display in this book.
2. While Mordecai and Hadassah are _____ portrayed as godly Jews who kept the Law, they are described as being _____ for the well being of their Hebrew people.
3. The Book of Esther shows how God has _____ to His promises, in spite of His adversaries' antagonism and His people's unfaithfulness.
4. A man is coming in the future that will one day revive Haman's satanic _____ to *exterminate the Jews*; his title will be _____.