

Esther 9:20-32; 10:1-3

Introduction:

1. Review of ch.1-9:19:
 - a. (ch.1) Ahasuerus, king of Persia, removed Vashti as queen.
 - b. (ch.2) Esther, a beautiful young Jewish woman, was chosen to be the new queen.
 - c. (ch.3) Haman devised a plot to destroy the Jews, and he manipulated the king into making an official law that would accomplish his desire.
 - d. (ch.4) Mordecai involved Esther in the situation that had developed.
 - e. (ch.5) Esther asked the king and Haman to attend a banquet she had prepared, and, at the banquet, she asked them to attend another one the following day.
 - f. (ch.6) Between the two banquets, the king honored Mordecai, and Haman was humiliated.
 - g. (ch.7) Esther exposed Haman's wickedness, and he was put to death.
 - h. (ch.8) Since Persian law could not be altered or reversed, another law was enacted that would allow the Jews to defend themselves against their enemies.
 - i. (9:1-19) The Jews destroyed their enemies with assistance from the Persian officials.
2. In:
 - a. 9:20-32, "Purim" was established as an annual feast
 - b. 10:1-3, the king, Mordecai, and the Jews were blessed.

Discussion:

- I. (9:20-32) "PURIM" WAS ESTABLISHED AS AN ANNUAL FEAST
 - A. (3:7, 12-13) The 13th day of the 12th month [Adar] was the time selected for destroying the Jews.
 1. This time was selected by casting "Pur" [the lot].
 2. "Casting lots" is also mentioned in:
 - a. Leviticus 16:8-10
 - b. Numbers 26:55-56
 - c. Jonah 1:7
 - d. John 19:23-24
 - e. Acts 1:23-26.
 - B. The Jews:
 1. in Shushan had destroyed their enemies on the 13th and 14th days of Adar, and they celebrated on the 15th day (9:18)
 2. in the rest of the empire destroyed their enemies on the 13th day of Adar, and they celebrated on the 14th day (9:16-17, 19).
 - C. (vs.20-22) Mordecai instructed the Jews through letters that they were to observe the 14th and 15th days of Adar as a time of feasting each year.
 - D. (vs.23-28) The Jews determined that they would follow Mordecai's instructions.
 1. The feast was called "Purim."
 2. This annual feast would remind the Jews of the events that had occurred.
 - E. (vs.29-32) Esther confirmed Mordecai's instructions.
- II. (10:1-3) THE KING, MORDECAI, AND THE JEWS WERE BLESSED
- III. APPLICATION
 - A. The book of Esther shows how enemies cannot separate God's people from His love (Romans 8:31-39).
 - B. The observance of Purim shows how the Lord's people need to be regularly reminded of His goodness (Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).