

All Things Work Together for Good  
(Lesson 9)

Introduction:

1. The special principle revealed in Romans 8:28 is illustrated in the book of Esther.
2. Review of ch.1-8:
  - 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.
3. In 9:1-19, the Jews destroyed their enemies with assistance from the Persian officials.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.1-4) WHEN THE DAY ARRIVED FOR THE JEWS TO BE DESTROYED, THEY WERE PREPARED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES
  - A. We must keep in mind that:
    1. a law had been made which stated that the Jews were to be destroyed on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month (3:12-13)
      - a. Haman, the man responsible for this law, had been killed.
      - b. However, this law was still in effect because Persian laws could not be altered.
    2. the king authorized a law that allowed the Jews to stand against their enemies (8:9-13).
  - B. (vs.1-2) The Jews gathered together in the various places where they lived so they could stand against their enemies.
  - C. (vs.3-4) The Persian rulers assisted the Jews.
    1. These rulers offered their assistance because of Mordecai.
    2. Mordecai had been promoted to a high position (8:2, 15).
- II. (vs.5-19) THE JEWS DESTROYED THEIR ENEMIES
  - A. (vs.5) The Jews took vengeance on their enemies.
  - B. More specifically,:
    1. the Jews destroyed their enemies in Shushan (vs.6-15)
      - a. (vs.6) The Jews killed 500 men in Shushan.
      - b. (vs.7-10) They killed Haman's 10 sons.
      - c. (vs.11-15) The Jews were given another day to destroy their enemies in Shushan.
        - 1) Haman's sons were hanged (Deuteronomy 21:22-23).
        - 2) The Jews killed 300 more men in Shushan.
    2. the Jews destroyed 75,000 of their enemies in other areas (vs.16).
  - C. After destroying their enemies,:
    1. the Jews did not take the spoils
      - a. The law stated that they could take the spoils of their enemies (8:11).
      - b. However, they refused to do so (vs.10b, 15b, 16b).
    2. the Jews in Shushan celebrated on the 15<sup>th</sup> day because they had been given an extra day to destroy their enemies (vs.18)
    3. the Jews in other areas celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> day (vs.17, 19).