

# PROVIDENCE FULFILLS PROMISES

## Esther 8

### FROM PASTOR MARK

**Providence** is God's purposeful sovereignty or "the hand of God in the glove of history." The entire Book of Esther, without mentioning God's name, illustrates His providence fulfilling His promises to His people. As New Covenant believers, we rightly relish Romans 8:28. God's people the Jews, even in their exile in the days of Esther, could count on the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant of Genesis 12:3.

Esther 8 continued to sort out the fortunes of Esther, Mordecai, and the Jews in Persia. Notice the God sightings even though He is not mentioned directly!

**God's Promises in the Abrahamic Covenant:** *Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (Gen. 12:1-3)*

- I. **PERSONAL IDENTITY** (8:1)
- II. **POSITIONAL AUTHORITY** (8:2)
- III. **RELATIONAL SOLIDARITY** (8:3-6; contrast with 4:4, 11-13)
- IV. **NATIONAL SECURITY** (8:7-14)
  - A. The King's Apathy (7-8)
  - B. The Edict's Effectiveness (9-14; detailed reversal of 3:13)
- V. **JOYFUL FESTIVITY** (8:15-17a)
  - A. Mordecai
  - B. The City
  - C. The Jews Empire-wide
- VI. **SOCIETAL DESIRABILITY** (8:17b)
  - A. The Fear of the Jews
  - B. The Witness of the Jews (Gen. 12:3b; Psalm 67:1-3, 96:3)

**PERSONALIZE:** Remember and Believe Romans 8:28 in our own lives...

### TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

1. What is amazing about God's Providence providing reversals for the Jews in Esther 8.
2. In what part of your life right here right now do you need to remember and apply Romans 8:28 even where you don't yet understand what God is doing?

**FOR NEXT TIME**—Read Esther 9—10, *God's Reversals*