

GOD'S REVERSALS

Esther 9-10

FROM PASTOR MARK

Today, we conclude with the amazing wrap up of "Esther: Silent Sovereignty." Doomsday had been set for the destruction of the Jews (3:13). A counter-decree was issued (8:11-12). What would happen on the fateful day? What lessons are we to learn?

I. THE REVERSAL OF PLANNED DESTRUCTION (9:1-17a)

- A. Declaration of the Reversal (9:1)
- B. Details of the Reversal (9:2-17a)
 - 1. Protection of the Jews(2)
 - 2. Support of Government Officials (3-4)
 - 3. Judgment of Enemies (5-10a)
 - 4. Restraint of the Jews (10b, 15, 16)
 - 5. Extent of the Judgment (11-17a)
 - a. Destruction in the Capital (11-12)
 - b. Esther's Requests (13-15)
 - c. Destruction in the Provinces (16-17a)

II. THE CELEBRATION OF PROVIDENTIAL DELIVERANCE

- A. Spontaneous Celebration (17b-19)
- B. Permanent Celebration (20-32)
 - 1. From Mourning to a Holiday (20-22)
 - 2. The Naming of the Holiday (23-26; Proverbs 16:33)
 - 3. The Perpetuation of the Holiday (27-32)

III. THE CONTINUATION OF PERSIAN DOMINION (10:1-3)

- A. The Times of the Gentiles (10:1)
- B. The Reversal for Mordecai (10:2-3a)
- C. The Providential Benefits for the Jews (10:3b)

LESSONS ABOUT OUR GOD:

- 1. God keeps His promises (Gen. 12:1-3; Romans 11:25-27; 2 Cor. 1:20).
- 2. God delights in His reversals (2 Cor. 5:21; Romans 4:25).

TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

- 1. In what way has the Esther series encouraged your heart or strengthened your faith?
- 2. How can you better remember and celebrate the goodness of God's plan in your life?

FOR NEXT TIME—Read Romans 8, *God Is for Us*