

The Reversal

Esther 8

1. From lowly status to a status of honour vs. 1-2

Because of God's grace, outcomes were reversed. Mordecai destined for death was given a life that Haman once lived; became second to the king with the blessing of the signet ring, received the estate that Haman once possessed, and was free to be Esther's Cousin in the presence of the king.

By God's grace, our status is transformed. In Christ Jesus we are a new creation, a child of God, God's chosen people.

2. From A Decree of Death to A Decree of Life vs. 1-14

Although Persian law would not allow to cancel the decree of death, the King gave Queen Esther and Mordecai permission to add a decree of life for the Jews in the entire empire; the right to assemble and protect themselves.

Through Jesus dying in our place for our sins (Romans 6:23) and rising again three days later, those who choose to believe and receive Jesus, are forgiven of their sins and receive eternal life with our God.

3. From Mourning to Joyous Celebration vs. 15-17

From mourning and great sadness to joyous celebration as Mordecai dressed in clothes of honour, joined the city of Susa in celebration and the Jews throughout the empire celebrated when they saw the new edict; a decree for the Jews that brought peace, truth and rest. This celebration influenced others to become Jews.

Life without Christ lacks abundance. With Christ, we have hearts of gratitude and endless reasons for celebration.

Questions:

- Jesus came with the power to reverse the curse on your life and make you a new person (2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 3:1). Have you had the opportunity to share that with someone who does not know Him? Is there such a dramatic difference that someone might ask you why? If you haven't had this opportunity lately, how can you and/or your church family create one?
- Why is it good to rejoice when God provides peace, truth and rest? In what areas in your own life has God begun His good work in you; took your old self and made it a new? How have you rejoiced in what God has done for you?