

“Surrender All!”
Esther 9:1-5

Introduction:

1. Let's Head Back Together:
 - To The Book Of Esther - And Chapter 9:
 - Where - Finally - After Months Of Preparation:
 - The Day Has Come!
 - What Day?
 - 9:1-5 - “Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)/ 2 The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people. / 3 And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. / 4 For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater. / 5 Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them!”
2. What A Remarkable Turn Of Events!
 - The Day:
 - That Was Supposed To Be:
 - The Jew's Day Of Destruction:
 - By Their Enemies – Became:
 - The Jew's Day Of Defense:
 - And Triumph Over Their Enemies!
 - It Truly Was A Miracle!
 - And Even Though The Jews:
 - Had Been Preparing For This Day:
 - For Just About Nine Months!
 - God, In His Providence:
 - Had Been Preparing For This Day:
 - All Along! Even Well Before A Man Named Mordecai Adopted A Little Girl Named Esther To Be His Own Daughter!
 - And So - The Victory Of The Jews Was Sure!
 - 3. But The Question Comes To Mind:
 - Why Did So Many Of The Enemies Of The Jews:
 - Persist In Their Hatred Against Them:
 - Even When They Knew That The Tide Of The King's Favor Had Turned?
 - I Think We Know The Answer:
 - From Our Own Experience & From Our Own Hearts!
 - It Is Because - ***Sin Is A Stubborn Thing!***
 - Sin Is Like That Stubborn Stain That You Can Never Get Out Of Your Clothes:
 - No Matter How Hard You Try!
 - And So - Even After All That Had Been Seen & Heard:
 - From Chapter 8 - The Jew's Hope & Joy & Change!
 - The Hearts Of Many Of The Jew's Enemies:
 - Remained Hard!
 - And They Still - “Hoped To Have Power Over Them!”
 - 4. But Before We Criticize Those People To Harshly:
 - For Their Stubbornness:
 - We Also Need To See The Stubbornness:
 - Of Our Own Sin & Of Our Own Hearts!
 - Even If You Are A Christian - That Stubborn Stain Of Sin Can Linger On!
 - And So - What Must We Do?
 - The Same Thing We Would Have Told:
 - The Jew's Enemies Back In Esther's Day!
 - Just Surrender!
 - Just Give It Up!

- Why Be So Stubborn?

- Just Surrender All!

- After All - Some Of The People Of Persia:

- Did Just That!

- Remember 8:17 - "And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them!"

- "Many Of The People Of The Land" **Did**:

- Surrender!

- They Surrendered To The Jews!

- And Ultimately - They Surrendered Their Own Sin & Their Own Hearts To The Lord!

5. In The Verses We Just Read:

- We Find 4 Reasons Why:

- The Enemies Of The Jews Should Have Just Surrendered:

- Instead Of Just Persisting In Their Hardness & Hate Toward God And His People!

- And These 4 Reasons:

- Can Apply To Us & Our Hearts:

- Our Own Hate & Our Own Sin!

* First Reason To Surrender:

1. The Fate Of Sin!

- 9:1 - "Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)"

- What We Find In This Verse Is That:

- The Enemies Of The Jews Were Still Looking Forward To This Day:

- With Great Anticipation!

- They - "**Hoped** To Have Power Over Them!"

- And They Were Still:

- Hanging On To:

- This Hope!

- Their Hatred!

- And Their Hostility Toward The Jews - God's Own People!

- And They Just Couldn't Wait:

- To Kill As Many Jews As They Could!

- But Then - We Read:

- "Though It Was Turned to The Contrary!"

- **IE**: Now - Have You Ever Wanted To Read A Book Or Watch A Movie - And Then Someone You Know Already Did? And They Start Talking About It - And Then Tell You The Ending? Didn't Even Have The Courtesy To Give You A "Spoiler Alert!"

- Well - This Verse Is A "Spoiler" - It Pretty Much Summarizes The Ending Of What Could Have Been A Great War Novel!

- But Instead - We Read Simply:

- "The Jews Had Rule Over Them That Hated Them!"

- The Reason Why We Have This "Spoiler" Is Because:

- God's Point Is To Show Us:

- The Fate Of Sin!

- He's Not Trying To Hold Us In Suspense!

- Instead - He Wants Us To Know That:

- No Matter How Much A Person:

- Enjoys Their Sin!

- No Matter How Long A Person:

- Persists In Their Sin!

- God Reveals To Us In His Word:

- How Things Are Going To End!

- James 1:13-16 - "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: / But every man is tempted,

when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. / Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. / Do not err, my beloved brethren!"

- And So - The Truth Is - The Enemies Of God Are Powerless To Resist Him!
- So - Instead Of Being Stubborn:
 - In Your Sin - Surrender It To The Lord!
 - After All - The Fate Of Sin:
 - Is No Surprise!
 - Revelation 20:11-15 - "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. / And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. / And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. / And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. / And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire!"
 - This Is The Fate Of Sin & Sinners!
 - Why We All Need To Surrender!

* Second Reason To Surrender:

2. ***The Futility Of Sin!***

- 9:2 - "The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people!"
 - So - After The "Spoiler" - We Are Now Given:
 - Some Of The Details Of That Day!
 - And After The "Jews Gathered Themselves Together" According To The King's Decree:
 - They Defended Themselves Against Any & All Of Those Who "Sought Their Hurt!"
 - Now - The Jews Had Their Own Communities:
 - All Throughout The Empire Of Persia:
 - And So - They Prepared themselves To Protect Their Homes & Their Families!
 - And As Their Enemies Hunted Them Down - We Find A Great Miracle Taking Place!
- "No Man Could Withstand Them!"
 - This Is A Universal Statement!
 - In Other Words - It Seems As If Not A Single Jew:
 - Was Killed Or Injured:
 - On That Day!
 - Even Though There Were Still:
 - Many Hard-Hearted Enemies:
 - Who Came To Attack Them:
 - They Were No Match For The Jews!
 - How Could This Be?
 - Romans 8:31 - "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"
 - Instead Of "Withstanding" The Jews:
- Their Enemies Were Weakened:
 - Before The Jews!
 - "For The Fear Of Them Fell Upon All People!"
 - Even Their Enemies!
 - Even As Their Enemies:
 - Took Up Arms Against Them:
 - They Did Not Have The Confidence They Once Had!
 - Instead They Had Fear!
 - And This Kind Of Spirit Is Detrimental To Any Army!
- But - Ultimately - Only The Lord:
 - Could Do This For His People!
 - Job 12:21 - "He poureth contempt upon princes, and weakeneth the strength of the mighty!"

- And Their Resistance Against God & His People Was Utterly Futile!
- And We Need To Remember:
 - That The Same Thing Is True:
 - For Our Own Sin!
 - Resistance To The Lord & His Will Is Futile!
- So - Instead Of Being Stubborn:
 - In Your Sin - Surrender It To The Lord!
 - After All - The Futility Of Sin:
 - Is No Surprise Either!

* Third Reason To Surrender:

3. ***The Fear Of Sin!***

- 9:3 - “And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them!”
 - Here Is Another Reason Why The Enemies Of The Jews:
 - Should Have Just Surrendered:
 - And Just Given Up - Instead Of Pursuing & Hunting Them Down!
 - Because Of All Those:
 - Who Were Helping The Jews!
 - From The Least To The Greatest:
 - Authorities In The Kingdom!
 - From The Furthest To The Closest:
 - To The King Himself!
 - They Were Now All On The Side:
 - Of The Jews!
 - Now - We Don’t Know Exactly:
 - How They “Helped The Jews!”
 - But - It Seems As If Each Administrative Division:
 - All Throughout The Empire - Did Whatever They Could:
 - To Assist The Jews!
 - Supplies / Arms / Money / Transportation / Etc.
 - Reminds Us Of The Time Of The Exodus:
 - When - Exodus 12:36 - “And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians!”
 - Only The Lord Could Do This!
 - Even If Their Primary Motivation Was - “The Fear Of Mordecai!”
 - But The Point Of This Verse Is To Show:
 - That Everyone Who Had Any Power:
 - And Anyone Who Had Any Authority:
 - Was Now On The Side Of The Jews:
 - For ***Their*** Protection & For ***Their*** Ultimate Success!
 - And Knowing This:
 - Their Enemies Should Have Just:
 - Surrendered!
 - Given Up On Their Futile & Fateful:
 - Endeavor To Destroy The Jews!
 - They Really Had No Chance Now!
 - They Were Up Against:
 - All The Powers Of Earth & Heaven!
 - And - Hebrews 10:31 - “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!”
 - We Need To Remember:
 - That When We Or Anyone Else:
 - Stubbornly Persists In Sin:
 - All Of Heaven Is Against Us!
 - However - When We Or Anyone Else:
 - Surrenders To The Lord:
 - Then - All Of Heaven Is For Us!

- And God Himself Will “Help” Us Overcome Our Sin & Temptations To Sin!
- Hebrews 4:15-16 - “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. / Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need!”
 - God Will Help You:
 - When You Surrender Your Sin / Your Hate / Your Heart:
 - To Him!
- He Gives You:
 - The People Of God:
 - To Help You!
 - Hebrews 10:24 - “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works!”
- He Gives You:
 - The Word Of God:
 - To Help You!
 - Psalm 119:9 - “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word!”
- He Gives You:
 - The Spirit Of God:
 - To Help You!
 - Galatians 5:22-25 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, / Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. / And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. / If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit!”
- When You Surrender Yourself To The Lord:
 - All Of Heaven Is For You!
 - God Himself Will Help You!
 - Hebrews 13:6 - “So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me!”

* Fourth Reason To Surrender:

4. ***The Frailty Of Sin!***

- 9:4 - “For Mordecai was great in the king’s house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater!”
 - The Reason The People Of Persia Feared Mordecai:
 - Was Because Of His Greatness!
 - He Was An Important Man!
 - “Great In The King’s House!”
 - He Was An Influential Man!
 - “His Fame Went Out Throughout All The Provinces!”
 - He Was An Impressive Man!
 - He “Waxed Greater And Greater!”
 - And No Man Could Stand Against:
 - Mordecai And His Greatness:
 - Which - Ultimately - Was Granted To Him By God!
 - And So - The Enemies Of The Jews:
 - Were No Match:
 - For The Greatness Of Mordecai!
 - They Were Weak & Frail & Doomed To Failure!
 - They Should Have Just Surrendered!
- But As Great As Mordecai Became:
 - God Himself Remains Even Greater!
 - Psalm 145:3 - “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable!”
 - And This Is Why:
 - We Need To Surrender Our Own:
 - Stubborn Sins To The Lord!
 - We Need To See Our Sin:
 - Not As A Strength:

- But As A Weakness!
- Much Has Been The News About The Opioid Epidemic:
 - And How Quick / Easy It Is To Become Addicted To Heroine & Other Drugs:
 - Addiction - Not A Sign Of Strength, But Of Weakness! No Control! Need Help!
 - The Worst Addiction There Is:
 - Is To Sin! And One We All Have!
 - No Control! Need Help!
 - We Need To Pray - "LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am!" (Psalm 39:4)
- Then - And Only Then:
 - Can We Find Our Strength & Help In The Lord!

Conclusion:

1. So - Why Do We Persist In Our Sins?
 - Why Are We So Stubborn:
 - Like The Enemies Of God & His People:
 - In The Book Of Esther?
 - Do Not Harden Your Heart!
 - Do Not Sear Your Conscience!
 - Do Not Grieve The Holy Spirit Of God!
 - Instead - Surrender!
 - Surrender To The Lord:
 - Who Made It All Possible Through The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Because - Not Only Is God:
 - A Great God - But He Is Also:
 - A Gracious God!
 - You Surrender By:
 - Repenting From Your Sin:
 - And Turning To & Trusting In:
 - The Lord!
 - And Keep Doing So:
 - Whenever You Are Tempted To Return To Your Sin!
 - 2. We Need To Keep:
 - Waiving The White Flag Of Surrender:
 - To The Lord - Because We Know Already Know:
 - The Outcome!
 - Just Like What We Find In Esther:
 - 9:5 - "Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them!"
 - God Will Ultimately Destroy His Enemies!
 - All Who Stubbornly Persist In Their Sin!
 - 3. This Is Why We Must Surrender Today!
 - And Why We Must Surrender All!

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