

**Message #16****Esther 9:1-10**

We learn much about how God sovereignly works in Esther. He expects His people to do what they can humanly do and then He sovereignly intervenes to do the rest.

Clear back in the book of Exodus, God promised that He would “utterly blot out” the Amalekites (Ex. 17:14). Even though Saul had blown it once, God graciously and sovereignly gave Israel another change under Mordecai, and this time Israel would obey. The Amalekites and all the rest of Israel’s enemies in the Persian Empire would finally fall.

**WHEN GOD SOVEREIGNLY INTERVENES AND PUTS HIS FAITHFUL PEOPLE IN KEY POSITIONS OF POWER, HIS PEOPLE SHOULD OBEY GOD AND DO WHAT HIS WORD SAYS, EVEN IF IT IS NEGATIVE FOR GOD WILL SOVERIGNLY BLESS THEM.**

When God is sovereignly moving, there will be positives and negatives. There will be times of rejoicing and there will be times of war. There will be additions and there will be subtractions. There will be joyous blessings and there will be tough burdens.

God is not named once in the book of Esther, but His providential sovereignty is seen time and time again.

**THOUGHT #1** – God’s people receive a reversal of status in God’s perfect timing. **9:1**

On the exact day that Haman’s extermination plot was to be worked out against the Jews (3:13), God sovereignly reversed Israel’s status and instead of Israel being on the defensive, she was on the offensive.

We learn from **verse 1** that there were more in the Persian kingdom who hated the Jews than just Haman. In fact, the writer stresses this point several times in this chapter (**9:1, 2, 5, 6**). Obviously throughout the Persian kingdom there was some form of “universal animosity” against the Jew.

The Jews were still living in the same homes, they were still working at the same jobs, going to the same schools and still associating with the same people; but when Mordecai issued his counter decree, everything instantly changed for the Jew. They may have looked the same, but they weren’t the same. For the first time in many of their lives, they sensed they were right with God.

**THOUGHT #2** – God’s people used their changed status to do God’s will. **9:2**

There is a word that shows up once in this verse and once in the next; it is the word “dread.” This is a Hebrew word that describes a trembling type of fear, a terror which causes one to tremble (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 671).

Not one person dared to turn against Israel for they knew something powerful was behind this movement and they trembled in fear.

God's reversal edict meant new responsibilities to these Jews. They now had the unpleasant task to get rid of the enemies. This was a very negative assignment, but it was one that needed to be carried out for it truly was the will of God.

**THOUGHT #3** – God's people are esteemed by foreign leadership. **9:3**

The key leaders of the Persian world sensed God's power was with Israel. They feared Mordecai and, as a result, they did everything they could to assist the Jews. It is not specifically stated what they did, but we do know they did assist the Jews in getting rid of their enemies. Perhaps they assisted them financially. Perhaps they assisted them morally. Perhaps they assisted them militarily. Perhaps they assisted them physically.

This is a remarkable scene because here is Persian political leadership doing everything they can to eliminate certain Persian people from their Persian society.

These leaders were doing everything they could to please their new boss, Mordecai, for they knew he was a very powerful man with the king and with God.

**THOUGHT #4** – God's leader became greater and God's people became bolder. **9:4-10**

Result #1) God's servant becomes more and more famous. **9:4**

The Hebrew words "fame spread" indicate that Mordecai's reputation was being reported and rumored (Gesenius, p. 836).

Mordecai was not spreading his own reputation, it was just happening. Behind this was the sovereign work of God.

Result #2) God's people become more and more bold. **9:5-10**

The word "thus" of **verse 5** is what is called a "waw consecutive," meaning the action is a sequel of events connected with the preceding action. In other words, the Jews became courageous and started striking down enemies because of Mordecai. The fact that the people knew Mordecai had God on his side prompted them to a boldness they had never experienced before.

They started destroying their own enemies, even in Susa the capital. They killed 500 men, including, as we shall see, the ten sons of Haman.

There is strength and courage that comes to God's people when faithful leadership is at the helm. People aren't as intimidated to stand for God's Word, to carry out disciplinary action, to deal with things in their own lives, or to face things head on.

There are some great lessons to be learned from this passage:

- 1) At just the right time, at just God's perfect time, God will see to it that His faithful people are vindicated and their enemies are destroyed.
- 2) When God does positive things for His people, His people have the responsibility to obey His Word and carry out His will.
- 3) When God's sovereign work is taking place in the life of a person, others will sense it.
- 4) God is for Israel and honors those who honor her and destroys those who hate her.