



GULF SHORES
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Morning Sermon (by Ray Reynolds)

February 26, 2017

"THE PROTECTION OF THE JEWS"

TEXT: Esther 8

Introduction: Sometimes our enemies enjoy watching us stress and fret. In fact, there are people that enjoy watching us struggle. They look forward to seeing us in pain or turmoil. Others, thankfully, want to help us out of the mess. They want to help us avoid a crisis. When the king sent out the decree to the empire (authorizing the Jews to defend themselves against those that he had seventy days earlier authorized to kill them), Persian citizens must have been confused as to what the king had in store. This teaches us at least three things: the King was not afraid to admit he was wrong, the King was able to find a loophole in the Persian law, and the King was not willing to sacrifice his queen or her family. The Jews knew that God had acted on their behalf, but they were not out of the woods yet. There is more to come! Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. The Ironic Position of Mordecai (Esther 8:1-2)

- ◆ Haman's property was divided.
- ◆ Mordecai's place was elevated.

II. The Intense Pleading of Esther (Esther 8:3-6)

- ◆ Esther's crying made a difference.
- ◆ The King's writing made the people nervous.

III. The Incredible Proposition of the King (Esther 8:7-14)

- ◆ The king offers an irrevocable command.
- ◆ The people receive an inconceivable deliverance.

IV. The Intense Proselytizing by the Jews (Esther 8:15-17)

- ◆ The people were afraid of the Jews.
- ◆ The people were astonished by the Jews.

Conclusion: What an amazing story of providence! Our Father will always be there for us, no matter what, because He loves us (**John 3:16-17**). God was always with Esther, Mordecai, and the Jews. He was providing for His people all along. God kept His promise to watch over them. Do you believe in God's protection? Have you praised Him for His deliverance? Are you resting in His arms? We need to believe that God will always be there for us. What a blessing to have His promises!