

Esther 8:3-9 (ESV)

Then Esther spoke again to the king. She fell at his feet and wept and pleaded with him to avert the evil plan of Haman the Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews. 4 When the king held out the golden scepter to Esther,



Esther 8:3-9 (ESV)

5 Esther rose and stood before the king. And she said, "If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and if the thing seems right before the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let an order be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king.



Esther 8:3-9 (ESV)

6 For how can I bear to see the calamity that is coming to my people? Or how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?” 7 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, “Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows, because he intended to lay hands on the Jews.



Esther 8:3-9 (ESV)

8 But you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked.”



Esther 8:3-9 (ESV)

9 The king's scribes were summoned at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day. And an edict was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded concerning the Jews, to the satraps and the governors and the officials of the provinces



Esther 8:3-9 (ESV)

from India to Ethiopia, 127 provinces, to each province in its own script and to each people in its own language, and also to the Jews in their script and their language.



Esther 8:15-17 (ESV)

Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced. 16 The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor.



Esther 8:15-17 (ESV)

17 And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.



Esther 9:1-4 (NIV)

On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them. 2 The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those determined to destroy them.



Esther 9:1-4 (NIV)

No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them. 3 And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king's administrators helped the Jews, because fear of Mordecai had seized them.



Esther 9:1-4 (NIV)

4 For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces, for the man Mordecai grew more and more powerful.



Esther 4:1-3 (ESV)

When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. 2 But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it.



Esther 4:1-3 (ESV)

3 In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.



God Gives His People the Upper Hand in the Face of Death

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” 55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

1 Corinthians 15:54-58 (NIV)



God Gives His People the Upper Hand in the Face of Death

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54-58 (NIV)



God Gives His People the Upper Hand in the Face of Death

58Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:54-58 (NIV)



God Gives His People the Upper Hand in the Face of Death

- We live in a world full of death.

“Perishable”

“Mortal”

For the wages of sin is death...

Romans 6:23 (NIV)



God Gives His People the Upper Hand in the Face of Death

- God Gives Life Through Christ.

“Perishable” -> “Imperishable”

“Mortal” -> “Immortality”

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NIV)



God Gives His People the Upper Hand in the Face of Death

- Christ's Death Rescues Us from the Consequences of Death

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 (NIV)



God Gives His People the Upper Hand in the Face of Death

- Christ's Death Rescues Us from the Consequences of Death

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us;

Colossians 2:13-15 (NIV)



God Gives His People the Upper Hand in the Face of Death

- Christ's Death Rescues Us from the Consequences of Death

he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:13-15 (NIV)



God Gives His People the Upper Hand in the Face of Death

- In Response We Stand Firm

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

Hebrews 13:6 (NIV)



God Gives His People the Upper Hand in the Face of Death

- In Response We work

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. . Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)



God Gives His People the Upper Hand in the Face of Death

- In Response We work

For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. 6 But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. Romans 7:5 (NIV)



God Gives His People the Upper Hand in the Face of Death

- In Response We work

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12 (NIV)



God Gives His People the Upper Hand in the Face of Death

- In Response We work

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25 (NIV)



In the eyes of the world,
it is not our relationship
with Jesus Christ
that counts;
it is our resemblance
to Him!”

— “The Queen and I” by Ray Stedman

