

# Esther 3:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day.

## Analysis

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**The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day.**

The decree was published empire-wide, commanding readiness for the thirteenth of Adar. The phrase "published unto all people" ensured everyone knew the date and authorization for destroying Jews. This public proclamation served multiple purposes: it gave legal cover for the pogrom, created anticipation and fear, and demonstrated royal authority. For Jews, the published decree meant existential terror—their destruction was now legal, scheduled, and unavoidable (due to Persian law's immutability). Yet this very publication would also enable Jewish counter-organization when the second decree came (chapter 8). The public nature of the threat meant the deliverance would also be public and undeniable.

## Historical Context

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Public proclamation of decrees was standard practice in ancient empires. Town criers, posted notices, and official communications ensured all subjects knew the law. The phrase "be ready against that day" meant provinces should prepare for the pogrom—gathering weapons, identifying Jewish communities, and organizing for violence. This created a countdown of terror for Jews throughout the empire. The eleven-month gap between decree (Nisan, first month) and execution (Adar, twelfth month) gave time for preparation but also for God's counter-plan. Archaeological evidence shows ancient Near Eastern kingdoms used public

proclamations to mobilize populations for war, taxation, or other state purposes—here perverted to organize genocide.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the public nature of the threat demonstrate that God's deliverance often comes in response to publicly visible, apparently unstoppable danger?
2. What does the published decree teach about how evil operates openly when it feels secure in legal and institutional support?

## Interlinear Text

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פִּתְּשׁ גִּן	הַכָּתָב ב	לְהֵנָּה תֵּן	דָּת	בְּכָל	וּמְדִינָה
The copy	of the writing	to be given	for a commandment	H3605	in every province
H6572	H3791	H5414	H1881		H4082
וּמְדִינָה	גָּל וַי	לְכָל	הָעַמָּה יָם	לְהִי וְת	
in every province	was published	H3605	unto all people	H1961	
H4082	H1540		H5971		
שֶׁתֵּד יָם	לִי וּמ	הַיּוֹם:			
that they should be ready	against that day	H2088			
H6264	H3117				