

Esther 9:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;)

Analysis

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;) The appointed day arrived—Adar 13, when Haman's decree authorized genocide (3:13). The narrative emphasizes reversal: "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)." The Hebrew word *nehpak* (נָהַפַּךְ, "turned to the contrary") is the root of reversal, transformation. God transformed intended destruction into Jewish victory. The parenthetical phrase emphasizes this theme central to Esther and Purim: God reverses enemy plots, turning mourning to joy, threat to deliverance. The day intended for Jewish annihilation became instead the day of their triumph.

Historical Context

The conflict occurred because Persian law's immutability meant Haman's decree couldn't be revoked, requiring the counter-decree (8:11) authorizing Jewish self-

defense. Both decrees were valid, creating legal authorization for violence on both sides. Jews throughout the empire prepared to defend themselves. The phrase "enemies of the Jews" indicates some Persians, motivated by antisemitism or greed (the original decree authorized plundering Jewish property), still attempted the genocide despite knowing Jews had imperial authorization to resist. The outcome—Jewish victory—demonstrated that God's providence had positioned them not merely for survival but for triumph.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the reversal theme illustrate God's sovereignty in transforming intended destruction into deliverance?
2. What does this teach about trusting God's ability to reverse apparently irreversible situations?

Interlinear Text

וּבַשָּׁנִים	עָשָׂה	חֹדֶשׁ	הוא	חֹדֶשׁ	אֶדָר	בַּשְּׁלוֹשָׁה הַ
Now in the twelfth	H6240	month	H1931	month	Adar	on the thirteenth
H8147		H2320		H2320	H143	H7969
עָשָׂה	בַּיּוֹם	בָּרַב	אֶשָּׁה	הִגִּיעַ	דִּבָּר	
H6240	day	H0	H834	drew near	commandment	
	H3117			H5060	H1697	
הֵמָּה לָהֶם	וְדַתּוֹ	לְהַעֲשֶׂה	וְהָיָה	אֶשָּׁה	בַּיּוֹם	
of the same when the king's	and his decree	to be put in execution		day		
H4428	H1881	H6213		H3117	H834	
שָׁבַר וְ	אֵיבֵי	הַיְּהוּדִים	יִשְׁלֹט וְ	בָּהֶם		
hoped	that the enemies	of the Jews	had rule			
H7663	H341	H3064	H7980	H0		
וְנֶהְפָּאוּ	וְהָיָה	אֶשָּׁה	יִשְׁלֹט וְ	הַיְּהוּדִים	הַמָּה	
over them (though it was turned			had rule	of the Jews		
H2015	H1931	H834	H7980	H3064	H1992	
בַּשְּׂנְאֵיהֶם:						
over them that hated						
H8130						

Additional Cross-References

Esther 8:12 (Kingdom): Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.

Esther 3:13 (Kingdom): And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.

Revelation 11:18 (Parallel theme): And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou

shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Psalms 30:11 (Parallel theme): Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;

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