

Esther 9:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

Analysis

On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. After defeating their enemies on Adar 13, provincial Jews rested on Adar 14 and celebrated. The transition from mortal danger to festive celebration happened overnight—the day appointed for their destruction became instead the day of rest and rejoicing. The verbs "rested" (nuach, נָוַח) and "made it a day of feasting and gladness" (mishteh ve-simchah, מִשְׁתֵּה וְשִׂמְחָה) signal completion and triumph. Rest after victory echoes Sabbath rest after creation—God's redemptive work completed, His people can rest. The feasting celebrates deliverance God provided. This established Purim's date (Adar 14) for Jews in unwalled cities.

Historical Context

The immediate celebration following victory demonstrates Jewish confidence that the threat had ended—no fear of renewed attacks. The royal support (Mordecai's position, the king's favor, Persian officials' assistance, v. 3-4) assured safety. The transformation from mourning to joy fulfilled Mordecai's prophecy that the month would be "turned from sorrow to joy" (v. 22). Ancient Jewish celebration included feasting, wine, and communal joy—practices maintained in Purim observance. Archaeological evidence shows ancient Near Eastern cultures celebrated military victories with feasts, public celebration, and religious observance. The date (Adar 14 in provinces, 15 in Shushan) became fixed annual celebration.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the immediate transition from mortal danger to festive celebration illustrate God's power to transform circumstances completely?
2. What does the rest and celebration teach about how God's completed redemptive work allows His people to rest and rejoice?

Interlinear Text

יּוֹם שְׁלֹשָׁה עָשָׂר לְחֹדֶשׁ אָדָר וּבַיּוֹם
day On the thirteenth H6240 of the month Adar H5117
H3117 H7969 H2320 H143

וּבַיּוֹם עָשָׂר וּבַיּוֹם אֶת יּוֹם מִשְׁתֵּה
and on the fourteenth H6240 H0 they and made H853 day of feasting
H702 H6213 H3117 H4960

וּשְׂמֵחָה:
and gladness
H8057

Additional Cross-References

Esther 9:1 (Parallel theme): 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;)

Esther 9:21 (Parallel theme): To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,

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