

Esther 9:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

Analysis

But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth day thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. Shushan's two-day battle (Adar 13-14) meant they rested and celebrated on Adar 15, one day later than provincial Jews (who fought only on Adar 13 and celebrated on Adar 14). This explains Purim's variable dating: Adar 14 in unwalled cities, Adar 15 in walled cities (following Shushan's precedent). The pattern—fighting, then rest, then celebration—mirrors creation (six days work, seventh day rest, Genesis 1-2) and exodus (deliverance, then rest, then celebration, Exodus 14-15). Rest after redemption enables celebration of God's saving work.

Historical Context

The different celebration dates created practical distinction still observed in Purim traditions—most Jews celebrate Adar 14 (Purim), while Jerusalem and other historically walled cities celebrate Adar 15 (Shushan Purim). The two-day battle in Shushan suggests either more intense opposition or larger forces requiring extended conflict. As imperial capital, Shushan concentrated both Jewish population and potential enemies, explaining prolonged fighting. The immediate transition from victory to celebration demonstrates confidence that threat had

ended—governmental support and comprehensive victory assured safety. Archaeological evidence shows ancient celebrations typically included feasting, wine, communal gathering, and rejoicing, all featured in Purim observance.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the pattern of conflict, rest, then celebration mirror creation and exodus themes, showing God's consistent redemptive rhythm?
2. What does the immediate celebration teach about confidence in God's completed deliverance enabling joyful response?

Interlinear Text

בְּשִׁלְשׁוֹן הַיְּהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר וּבְהַזָּמָן בְּשׁוֹשָׁן נִגְּזָבָלוּ בְּשִׁלְשׁוֹן הַיְּהוּדִים
But the Jews H3064 that were at Shushan H834 assembled together H7800 on the thirteenth H6950 H7969

בְּ וְ עַשֶּׂר וּבְאַרְבָּעַת הַיּוֹם וְ וְ עַשֶּׂר בְּ וְ עַשֶּׂר
H6240 H0 day thereof and on the fourteenth H702 H6240 H0 H5117

בְּ חֲמִשָּׁה הַיּוֹם אֶת וְ וְ עַשֶּׂר בְּ וְ עַשֶּׂר וְ וְ עַשֶּׂר מִשְׁתַּחַת הַיּוֹם
thereof and on the fifteenth H2568 H6240 H0 and made H6213 H853 it a day H3117 of feasting H4960

וְ שִׁמְךָ
and gladness
H8057

Additional Cross-References

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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