

Esther 9:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.

Analysis

The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.

Jews throughout the empire organized for defense, gathering in their cities to resist attackers. The phrase "no man could withstand them" indicates decisive victory—Jewish forces overwhelmed their enemies. The cause: "the fear of them fell upon all people." This "fear" (pachad, פָּחָד) echoes the fear that fell upon Israel's enemies during the Exodus (Exodus 15:14-16) and Conquest (Joshua 2:9-11). Divine favor creates inexplicable dread in enemies, ensuring victory beyond natural explanation. The fear derived partly from knowing the king and Mordecai supported the Jews (8:15-17; 9:3-4), but also from supernatural terror that accompanies God's protection of His people.

Historical Context

The empire-wide nature of the conflict demonstrates both the dispersed Jewish population and the extent of antisemitism. Despite knowing Jews had royal authorization to defend themselves and that Mordecai now held Haman's former position, some Persians still attacked. Their defeat demonstrates that God's providence didn't merely create legal permission but ensured practical victory.

Historical precedent shows that diaspora communities facing persecution sometimes achieved unexpected victories when authorities supported them or divine favor granted supernatural advantage. The Jews' victory on this day established Purim as perpetual celebration of deliverance.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the fear falling upon the Jews' enemies demonstrate God's supernatural protection beyond human factors?
2. What does this teach about how divine favor can create victory beyond natural capabilities?

Interlinear Text

gathered themselves together	נִקְבַּל	יְהוָה	בָּעֲרִיכָּה	בְּכָל	בְּכָל
	H6950	H3064	H5892	H3605	
throughout all the provinces	מִדְיָנוֹת	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אַחֲשֵׁר	לְשָׁלָמָה	דָּבָר
	H4082	H4428	H325	H7971	H3027
on such as sought	בְּמַבְּקָשׁ	בְּעֵת	אֵין	עַמְּתָה	לִפְנֵיכָה
	H1245	H7451	H376	H5975	H3588
of them fell	כִּי	עַל	כָּל	בְּעָמִים:	כִּי
	H5307	H6343	H3605	H5971	

Additional Cross-References

Esther 8:17 (Kingdom): And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

Esther 8:11 (Kingdom): Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey,

Psalms 71:13 (Parallel theme): Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries to my soul; let them be covered with reproach and dishonour that seek my hurt.

Psalms 71:24 (Parallel theme): My tongue also shall talk of thy righteousness all the day long: for they are confounded, for they are brought unto shame, that seek my hurt.