

# 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, פָּחַד) 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.

## Related Passages

## Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

- ## Interlinear Text

2

## 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.