

# Esther 9:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far,

## Analysis

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**And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far,** Mordecai formalized Purim observance by writing and distributing letters throughout the empire, ensuring all Jews would know to celebrate annually. The phrase "both nigh and far" emphasizes comprehensiveness—every Jewish community should participate. This official communication from Mordecai, now the king's second-in-command (8:2, 15; 10:3), carried authority. His action transformed spontaneous celebration into permanent institution. The written letters ensured accurate transmission across distances and generations. Mordecai's leadership extended beyond crisis management to creating lasting memorial of God's deliverance.

## Historical Context

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Mordecai's position as highest-ranking Jewish official in the empire gave him authority to establish religious observances. The letter-writing mirrors how royal decrees were distributed (3:13; 8:10)—using the imperial communication network to establish a Jewish festival. Ancient Jewish festivals commemorated God's redemptive acts (Passover, Tabernacles, Dedication/Hanukkah), and Purim joined this tradition. The written nature of the command ensured preservation—oral tradition could be forgotten or corrupted, but written texts survived. Jewish communities worldwide still celebrate Purim annually based on Mordecai's letters establishing it.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Mordecai's establishment of Purim demonstrate the importance of commemorating God's past deliverances for future generations?
2. What does this teach about the role of memorial practices in maintaining faith and covenant identity?

## Interlinear Text

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וִיכָתַב ב	מֶרְדֵּכַי	אֶת	הַדְּבָרִים	הָאֵלֶּה	וַשִּׁלַּח	סִפְרֵי	אֶל
wrote	And Mordecai		these things		and sent	letters	
H3789	H4782	H853	H1697	H428	H7971	H5612	H413
כָּל	הַיְּהוּדִים	אֲשֶׁר	בְּכָל	מְדִינוֹת		הֵם	לְ
	unto all the Jews			that were in all the provinces		of the king	
H3605	H3064	H834	H3605	H4082		H4428	
אֲחַשְׁוֵר וְ	הַקְּרוֹבִים	וְהַרְחֹקִים:					
Ahasuerus	both nigh	and far					
H325	H7138	H7350					