

# Esther 9:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them;

## Analysis

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**And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them;** The Jewish community accepted Mordecai's instruction, committing to observe Purim permanently. The phrase "as they had begun" acknowledges the spontaneous celebrations that followed victory (v. 17-19), now formalized into regular practice. The addition "as Mordecai had written" indicates obedience to official guidance establishing specific dates, practices, and meaning. This combination of grassroots celebration and authoritative establishment created lasting observance. The community's willing acceptance demonstrated unity and recognition of Mordecai's leadership. Purim became not merely Mordecai's decree but the community's committed practice.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Jewish communities accepted new religious observances when grounded in authentic deliverance and endorsed by legitimate leadership. Purim joined Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles, and other festivals commemorating God's redemptive acts. The dual establishment—Mordecai's written command and community acceptance—gave Purim both authority and legitimacy. Archaeological evidence shows Jewish communities throughout the ancient world observed Purim, reading Esther's scroll (Megillah), feasting, giving gifts, and celebrating. The festival's establishment demonstrates how covenant community memorializes God's faithfulness through regular observance.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does the combination of authoritative establishment and willing community acceptance create lasting observance?
2. What does this teach about the importance of both leadership and grassroots participation in religious practice?

## Interlinear Text

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וְקִבַּל	וְהַיּוֹדִים	אֵת	אֲשֶׁר	הָיָה לָו	לַעֲשׂוֹת	וְאֵת
undertook	And the Jews	H853	H834	as they had begun	to do	H853
H6901	H3064			H2490	H6213	
אֲשֶׁר	כָּתַב	מֶרְדֵּכַי	אֵלֵיהֶם:			
H834	had written	and as Mordecai	H413			
	H3789	H4782				

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