

Esther 9:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth,

Analysis

And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth. The pronoun "he" refers to Mordecai, who administered distribution of the co-authored letter (v. 29) through Persian imperial postal system. The phrase "sent the letters" (vayishlach sefarim, וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפָרִים) indicates multiple copies dispatched to all Jewish communities—no small administrative undertaking requiring scribes, messengers, and coordination across the vast empire.

The scope "to the hundred twenty and seven provinces" repeats Esther's opening (1:1), creating literary symmetry: the empire's geographic extent that initially seemed to amplify danger now enables comprehensive communication of deliverance. What threatened total annihilation across all provinces now facilitates universal celebration and security. Divine providence transforms the empire's administrative structure from instrument of potential genocide into mechanism for preserving and blessing God's people.

"Words of peace and truth" (divrei shalom vemet, דְּבָרִי שָׁלוֹם וְאֶמֶת) describes the letter's content and tone. "Peace" (שָׁלוֹם, shalom) encompasses security, wellbeing, reconciliation, and wholeness—a comprehensive welfare assurance replacing the terror under Haman's decree. "Truth" (אֶמֶת, emet) indicates reliability, faithfulness, and accuracy—this decree speaks truthfully about deliverance and establishes genuine, lasting observance. The combination "peace and truth" appears together

in prophetic literature (Jeremiah 33:6, Zechariah 8:19), suggesting messianic overtones: Purim's deliverance foreshadows ultimate redemption.

Historical Context

The Persian postal system (angarion in Greek, pirradaziš in Persian) was among the ancient world's most sophisticated communication networks. Herodotus famously described it: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds"—words later adapted for the U.S. Postal Service motto. Relay stations across the empire enabled rapid communication, and royal decrees could reach distant provinces within days or weeks.

Mordecai's access to this system through his position as second-in-command ensured the Purim letter reached every Jewish community throughout Persian territories. The same administrative infrastructure that had distributed Haman's genocidal decree (3:12-14) now carried news of deliverance and instructions for commemoration. This demonstrates God's providence in positioning Mordecai in authority—his promotion enabled not just rescue but lasting institutional change.

The contrast between Haman's earlier letters—commanding destruction—and these letters—establishing peace—could not be more stark. Jewish communities receiving Mordecai's message would remember the terror following Haman's decree and rejoice in the reversal. The phrase "peace and truth" assured recipients this was not temporary reprieve but permanent security under new royal policy supported by Esther and Mordecai's authority.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can believers leverage existing systems and structures (governmental, technological, institutional) for spreading the gospel and blessing others?
2. In what ways does God's transformation of threatening systems into blessing mechanisms encourage trust in His sovereignty?
3. How should Christians communicate God's deliverance—with what tone, content, and emphasis—to maximize impact?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁלַח יְמִינָה כָּל אֶל סְפָר יְמִינָה כָּל אֶל פְּנֵי יְמִינָה כָּל אֶל שְׁבָע יְמִינָה וְעֶשֶׂר יְמִינָה
And he sent the letters unto all the Jews and seven twenty
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שְׁלֹשׁ וּמְדִינָה מֶלֶךְ וְשָׁאַל אַחֲשָׁוֵרֶוס וְשָׁלַח וּמְדִינָה וְמִמְּדִינָה
to the hundred provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus with words of peace
H3967 H4082 H4438 H325 H1697 H7965

וְאֱתָתָה:

and truth

H571

Additional Cross-References

Esther 1:1 (Kingdom): Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)

Esther 8:9 (Kingdom): Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.

