

Esther 9:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim;
and it was written in the book.

Analysis

And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book. This concluding verse establishes permanent authority for Purim observance. "The decree of Esther" (umaamar Ester, וּמָאָמַר אֶסְתֵּר) literally means "the saying/command of Esther," emphasizing her personal authority as final arbiter. While Mordecai co-authored and distributed the letter, Esther's royal word carries ultimate weight. This grants a Jewish woman unprecedented religious authority—establishing binding practice for God's people across generations.

"Confirmed these matters of Purim" (qiyam divrei hapurim haeleh, קִיָּם דִּבְרֵי הַפְּרִים הָאֵלֶּה) uses covenant confirmation language. The verb קִיָּם (qiyam, "confirmed") appears repeatedly in this passage (vv. 27, 29, 31, 32), creating a rhetorical emphasis on establishment and permanence. "These matters" encompasses all the detailed prescriptions: dates, practices, transmission to descendants, integration of fasting and celebration.

"And it was written in the book" (venikhtav basefer, וְנִכְתָּב בַּסֵּפֶר) provides permanent written record. The definite article "the book" likely refers to official Persian court chronicles (similar references in 2:23, 6:1, 10:2) rather than the Book of Esther itself. This establishes Purim in governmental records as official imperial policy, giving it both religious significance for Jews and legal standing within Persian administration. Written documentation ensures preservation, prevents alteration, and provides authoritative reference for resolving future disputes.

Historical Context

The Persian Empire maintained extensive written records of royal decrees, administrative actions, and significant events. The Book of Esther repeatedly references these chronicles (2:23, 6:1, 10:2), and archaeological discoveries have confirmed Persian administrative record-keeping through clay tablets, parchment documents, and royal inscriptions. That Purim observance was recorded in official chronicles demonstrates its significance beyond mere religious custom—it was imperial policy affecting Persian citizens of Jewish ethnicity.

Esther's authority to establish binding religious practice raised important theological questions in Jewish tradition. How could a woman—and a woman married to a Gentile king—have authority to establish perpetual observance? Rabbinic interpretation resolved this by emphasizing both her royal position and the Jewish people's voluntary acceptance (v. 27). Esther's decree had authority because it was confirmed by the people themselves and proved its divine sanction through the deliverance it commemorated.

The permanent written record in Persian archives meant Purim's establishment was historically documented beyond Scripture itself. Even if the Book of Esther were lost or questioned, Persian government records would testify to these events and the resulting festival. This dual documentation—biblical and secular—provided extraordinary validation. Though ancient Persian chronicles haven't survived, the Book of Esther's repeated references to them suggest contemporaries could verify its historical claims through accessible public records.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's use of unexpected people (like Esther—a woman, a queen of a pagan king) challenge our assumptions about who can establish lasting spiritual legacy?
2. In what ways should important spiritual commitments and testimonies be recorded to ensure preservation for future generations?
3. What does the permanence of written Scripture teach about God's desire for reliable, unchanging revelation available across all generations?

Interlinear Text

וּמֶלֶךְ רַ	אֶסְתֵּר רַ	קִי מִ	דְּבַר יִ	הַפֶּר יִם	הָא לָהּ
And the decree	of Esther	confirmed	these matters	of Purim	H428
H3982	H635	H6965	H1697	H6332	
וְנִכְתָּ בִ	בְּסֵפֶר:				
and it was written	in the book				
H3789	H5612				

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