

# AN EDICT OF SALVATION

Esther 8



## SYNOPSIS

In Chapter 8, we see the resolution to the larger conflict at hand - The edict for the destruction of the Jews on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month. Esther asks the King to revoke the edict, but it cannot be revoked. However, King Xerxes gives Mordecai and Queen Esther the signet ring to come up with a second edict to counter the first. In this second edict, on the very same day, the Jews would be allowed to gather and defend themselves against their enemies. The first edict was an edict of death, the second edict was an edict of salvation.

When we consider our own Salvation Story, aren't we people of two edicts as well? We know that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23) and that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). We were under the edict of death and destruction. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). We were once a people destined for death, but now we are a people destined for eternal life with God.

And this edict was rushed out on the fastest horses to all of the provinces so that all would come to know about the second edict. In the same way, we too are to be couriers of the edict of the King, bringing the good news to the ends of the earth.

The chapter wraps up with gladness, feasting, and celebrating. The city of Susa that was thrown into confusion at the end of the first edict is now shouting and rejoicing. The Jews who were mourning, fasting, weeping and wailing are now filled with happiness, joy, gladness, and honor. And as people who have received the message of the edict of salvation and the backing of the government of God enforcing the freedom that we can declare with confidence, shouldn't we be people with the most cause for celebration?



## OUTLINE

### 1 THE TWO EDICTS

Ephesians 2 is a framework of the two edicts we have received. We were dead in our transgressions and sins and by nature deserving of wrath. That's the first edict. We were destined for death and despair. But verse 4 says "But God, in his great love for us, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions. It is by grace you have been saved." That's the second edict. We have received the edict of salvation. We who were once not a people of God can now be called people of God. That's good news!

### 2 COURIERS OF THE GOOD NEWS

The second edict goes out swiftly, designated for the fastest horses the king has. As we consider the good news that we have, we also want to renew our commitment and desire to bringing the good news to the ends of the earth. We want our church to participate in what God is doing in bringing the good news both locally and globally with a sense of purpose and urgency.

### 3 CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Psalms 149 instructs us to sing for joy, to rejoice, to praise, to dance, and to make music. As we think about our salvation, do we consider ourselves people who have a reason to celebrate? May God continue to release the joy of His salvation within us so that we might worship with joy and jubilation.



kairos  
church



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

How much weight/trust do we give to the power, wealth and positions of this world?

2

Do we still live as hopeless about our position in life or fighting tooth and nail for salvation/change by works? How can we live in the victory Christ gave us? How can we live in trust in that victory?

3

Why doesn't the second edict make sense without the first edict?

4

What does it look like to bring the good news of Jesus' "second edict" to those in our lives and to our community in San Diego and beyond?

5

What's keeping you from dancing, jumping, being more expressive in your worship? How can we break out of that and worship in free joy?



## BIG IDEA

Under the first edict, the Jews were defenseless and helpless. They were destined for death and destruction by their enemies. But under the first edict, they receive good news of their salvation. They would be able to gather and defend themselves from the enemy. We too are people of two edicts. We were once destined for death and despair. But now we are destined for glorious riches in Christ Jesus. We have received good news, but we are to be more than hearers of the good news. We are to be couriers of the good news - bringing the second edict of salvation to the ends of the earth. And in that, may the world rejoice, knowing that we no longer live under the tyranny of sin and death, but are under the reign of the edict of salvation.

