

Read Esther 8:9-17

**9** So, on June 25 the king's secretaries were summoned, and a decree/law was written exactly as Mordecai dictated. It was sent to the Jews and to the highest officers, the governors, and the nobles of all the 127 countries/provinces stretching from India to Ethiopia. The decree was written in the languages of all the peoples of the empire, including that of the Jews.

**10** The decree was written in the name of King Xerxes and sealed with the king's signet ring. Mordecai sent the dispatches by swift messengers, who rode fast horses especially bred for the king's service.

**11** The king's decree gave the Jews in every city authority to unite to defend their lives. They were allowed to kill, slaughter, and annihilate anyone of any nationality or province who might attack them or their children and wives, and to take the property of their enemies.

**12** The day chosen for this event throughout all the provinces of King Xerxes was March 7 of the next year.

**13** A copy of this decree was to be issued as law in every province and proclaimed to all peoples, so that the Jews would be ready to take revenge on their enemies on the appointed day.

**14** So, urged on by the king's command, the messengers rode out swiftly on fast horses bred for the king's service. The same decree was also proclaimed in the fortress of Susa.

**15** Then Mordecai left the king's presence, wearing the royal robe of blue and white, the great crown of gold, and an outer cloak of fine linen and purple. And the people of Susa celebrated the new decree.

**16** The Jews were filled with joy and gladness and were honored everywhere.

**17** In every province and city, wherever the king's decree arrived, the Jews rejoiced and had a great celebration and declared a public festival and holiday. And many of the people of the land became Jews themselves, for they feared what the Jews might do to them.

**Why were the King's secretaries summoned (v. 9)?** To write a new law. **Who decided what the new law would say?** Mordecai **Who was it sent to?** All the leaders of the 127 countries in the kingdom.

**Whose signature was on the new law (v. 10)?** King Xerxes. Mordecai used the King's signet ring to sign it. **How did the new law get to the people?** Swift messengers carried it on fast horses.

**What did the new law say (v. 11)?** The Jews could gather together and fight against anyone who attacked them on the basis of Haman's old law. The new law gave the Jews the right to protect their lives. Plus they could take the property of their enemies that attacked them.

**When would the new law take effect (v. 12)?** The same day Haman's law was going to take effect – March 7 of the next year.

**After the new law was sent out by swift messengers, what did the people of Susa do (vv. 15-16)?** They celebrated the good news. They must have liked Mordecai and Esther and the Jews.

**How did the people celebrate (v. 17)?** They made March 7 a holiday and had a huge party. Now people were beginning to realize that the God of the Jews was protecting them. So many of the people became Jews because they were afraid that the Jews might attack them.