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## Uncommon Courage God's Favor Brings Victory

### Esther 8:1–17 (HCSB)

That same day King Ahasuerus awarded Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. Mordecai entered the king's presence because Esther had revealed her relationship to Mordecai. <sup>2</sup> The king removed his signet ring he had recovered from Haman and gave it to Mordecai, and Esther put him in charge of Haman's estate. <sup>3</sup> Then Esther addressed the king again. She fell at his feet, wept, and begged him to revoke the evil of Haman the Agagite, and his plot he had devised against the Jews. <sup>4</sup> The king extended the gold scepter toward Esther, so she got up and stood before the king. <sup>5</sup> She said, "If it pleases the king, and I have found approval before him, if the matter seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his sight, let a royal edict be written. Let it revoke the documents the scheming Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king's provinces. <sup>6</sup> For how could I bear to see the disaster that would come on my people? How could I bear to see the destruction of my relatives?" <sup>7</sup> King Ahasuerus said to Esther the Queen and to Mordecai the Jew, "Look, I have given Haman's estate to Esther, and he was hanged on the gallows because he attacked the Jews. <sup>8</sup> You may write in the king's name whatever pleases you concerning the Jews, and seal it with the royal signet ring. A document written in the king's name and sealed with the royal signet ring cannot be revoked." <sup>9</sup> On the twenty-third day of the third month (that is, the month Sivan), the royal scribes were summoned. Everything was written exactly as Mordecai ordered for the Jews, to the satraps, the governors, and the officials of the 127 provinces from India to Cush. The edict was written for each province in its own script, for each ethnic group in its own language, and to the Jews in their own script and language. <sup>10</sup> Mordecai wrote in King Ahasuerus's name and sealed the edicts with the royal signet ring. He sent the documents by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses bred from the royal racing mares. <sup>11</sup> The king's edict gave the Jews in each and every city the right to assemble and defend themselves, to destroy, kill, and annihilate every ethnic and provincial army hostile to them, including women and children, and to take their possessions as spoils of war. <sup>12</sup> This

would take place on a single day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month Adar. <sup>13</sup> A copy of the text, issued as law throughout every province, was distributed to all the peoples so the Jews could be ready to avenge themselves against their enemies on that day. <sup>14</sup> The couriers rode out in haste on their royal horses at the king's urgent command. The law was also issued in the fortress of Susa. <sup>15</sup> Mordecai went from the king's presence clothed in royal purple and white, with a great gold crown and a purple robe of fine linen. The city of Susa shouted and rejoiced, <sup>16</sup> and the Jews celebrated with gladness, joy, and honor. <sup>17</sup> In every province and every city, wherever the king's command and his law reached, joy and rejoicing took place among the Jews. There was a celebration and a holiday. And many of the ethnic groups of the land professed themselves to be Jews because fear of the Jews had overcome them.

### 1. WITH GOD, THERE IS ALWAYS \_\_\_\_\_ vv 1-2

- We do not always \_\_\_\_\_ how God is working.
- When we go with God, we always have victory in this life or the next.
- God does not just \_\_\_\_\_ us, He blesses us.

### 2. WITH COURAGE, THERE IS GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_ vv 3-14

- When we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves for others, God sees it.
- God may not work the way we want Him to, but He is always at work.
- God makes a \_\_\_\_\_ for His chosen ones.

### 3. WITH GOD'S FAVOR, THERE IS \_\_\_\_\_ vv15-17

- Our enemy wants to destroy us, God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ us.
- Our despair turns into joy when we trust in God.
- When we see God \_\_\_\_\_, we should celebrate.

### The Next Step:

Have the courage to trust God to bring you victory.