

## MESSAGE # 15: The Establishment of Purim...Esther 9:20-32

### I. Introduction

For those of us who are not liturgically inclined, special religious days and the like have often no meaning. But in the Bible it is a reality that certain seasons and celebrations are very important...especially in the life of Israel as the covenanted people. You will think of the Day of Atonement and many other special days and recall also the stress given the Sabbath. The days that are outlined by the Spirit are, of course, the vital days but they did not mean that Israel could not have other days. Purim is perhaps the first "added" celebration and will later be followed by Hannukah and other special times. These occasions help the nation to remember and we need all the help in that we can get for we forget so easily and become hardened in the course of life without cause. In Esther 9:20-32 we have the establishment of this Jewish holiday (usually celebrated in January) and it is worth our understanding of this cultural enrichment... And, forgive me, if I forgot to welcome you to our study today...I am in a hurry for no particular reason at all, and I forgot to just be polite. So let us proceed in this section of Esther.

### II. Discussion:

9:20...Mordecai sends a decree.

9:21...the substance of which is to set aside the 14th and 15th days of the month Adar on a yearly basis. (The Jewish calendar has two forms: the religious year began in Nisan and the "business" year began in Tishri. Most of us today have similar calendar affairs with the business and personal world)

9:22...the occasion would be a remembrance and should be marked by feasting, happiness and the exchange of gifts..

9:23...and the Jews follow the instructions faithfully

9:24...remembering the plotting of Haman

9:25...and the means whereby they were delivered.

9:26...and they would call the days Purim (plural of pur)

9:27-28...and these days would be kept perpetually

9:29...note the "second letter". Apparently 8:10 is the first although it does not mention the title of the affair.

*Mordecai wrote Esther with*