

## DATE AND TIMING IN ESTHER

*In the 12<sup>th</sup> Year of Ahasuerus (3:7)*

### Nisan (1<sup>st</sup> month)

1-12 Haman casts lots for d-day. Falls on 13/12/12 (cf. 3:13)

13 The decree is written to destroy the Jews (3:12)  
Mordecai hears of the edict (4:1)  
He communicates with Esther (4:8-17)  
Esther decides to fast for 3 days (4:16; 5:1)

14-15 Fasting

16 Fasting  
Esther appears before the king and invites to feast (5:1,4)  
Feast with Haman and King – invite to a feast tomorrow (5:4, 8)  
Haman returns home and is seen Mordecai (5:9)  
At night the king cannot sleep (6:1)

17 Mordecai is honored (this morning?) (6:12)  
The second feast takes place (7:2)  
Haman is hanged (7:9)  
Esther given the house of Haman (8:1)

### Sivan (3<sup>rd</sup> month)

23 Mordecai's decree is written and posted out (8:9)

### Adar (12<sup>th</sup> month)

13 King's (Haman's) decree carried out (9:1)  
Jews of Shushan and provinces defeat enemies (9:6, 16-17)  
Esther asks if Jews in Shushan can do the same 'tomorrow' (9:13)

14\* Jews in Shushan kill 300 more enemies (9:15)  
Jews in the provinces rested – a day of feasting and gladness (9:17)

15\* Jews in Shushan rest – a day of feasting and gladness (9:18)

*\*14-15 of Adar officially instituted by Mordecai (confirmed by Esther) as the days of Purim in order to celebrate the fact that they had 'rest from their enemies' and because it was the month 'which was turned from sorrow to joy... from mourning to a holiday' - days of feasting and joy. of sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor. (9:21-22)*

## EXAMPLES IN EXILE

# THE EXPERIENCES OF DANIEL & ESTHER

1. The setting is the Diaspora (specifically Medo-Persian, Dan. 6)
2. They arrive at high positions in the royal court
3. They find special favour with the foreign administration and king
4. They are threatened with death (Mordecai too – more personally)
5. The king is not innately hostile to the Jews in their kingdom or court
6. Because of this the enemies must use tricks and slander to get the king to act against the them
7. The scheme of the enemies revolve around manipulating the legal system and creating irrevocable laws
8. The king believes he is doing the right thing by taking action against disobedient people (not the Jews in particular) – but in both cases the people affected by the law are loyal and obedient to the empire!
9. They are condemned because of this hasty law-making decision from the king
10. The king himself is trapped by his own laws (cannot automatically free them)
11. The king punishes the enemies - the enemies have the very thing happen to them that they had planned for those they hated (destroyed, or in the case of Mordecai and Haman, hanged!)