

# Decree a Purim Deliverance for Today



GARY HARGRAVE





## An Exuberant Celebration of Life!

If you ever have the privilege of being in Jerusalem during the Feast of Purim, you will be part of a lively celebration. People in costumes dance in the streets and synagogues among boisterous readings of the book of Esther. It is a joyous expression because it celebrates the reversal of a plot against the Jews that would have meant their total destruction. At Purim we celebrate the fact that Haman was hanged after he used the authority of the king to decree the killing of all Jews in the Persian Empire (Esther 3:8-11). What is often overlooked is the fact that Haman's end did not mean the end of the decree against the Jews.

On that day King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther; and Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had disclosed what he was to her. The king took off his signet ring which he had taken away from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman. Then Esther spoke again to the king, fell at his feet, wept and implored him to avert the evil scheme of Haman the Agagite and his plot which he had devised against the Jews.

ESTHER 8:1-3



## Destruction Is Set in Motion

This exchange between Esther and King Ahasuerus occurred after Haman was executed. It seemed like the problem had been taken care of and the threat removed. Yet Esther was still concerned. She knew that even though Haman was gone, the decree against the Jewish people was still in place, and if something were not done, all the Jewish people would still be annihilated in a matter of days. This aspect of the story applies to us in a very real way because Haman represents satan. Although we believe that satan has been judged, we do not yet see the end of his plan to destroy all flesh (Matthew 24:22).

In reality, seeing some demons cast out or satan brought down does not necessarily change things. When the decree of destruction is ordered, it is set in motion, and you do not change what has been set in motion just because you remove some of the key players. We see this principle active in our world today. Look at what happens in wars. When a war ends, the conflict may seem to be over, but the consequences of that war continue. There are thousands of people around the world today still being maimed by land mines planted during wars that are officially over. Similarly, the whole earth is under the futility that was set in motion in the Garden of Eden when satan deceived Adam and Eve. We could get rid of satan today and still be dealing with futility.

Esther understood that the decree against the Jews was still in motion. She did not go out and celebrate that Haman had been hanged. Instead, she fell at the king's feet, wept, and implored him, saying, "Something must be done to override the proclamation, for the destruction of my



people has not been removed. We are still under the threat of death.” The king answered her by saying:

“Now you write to the Jews as you see fit, in the king’s name, and seal it with the king’s signet ring; for a decree which is written in the name of the king and sealed with the king’s signet ring may not be revoked.”

Esther 8:8



## Make a New Decree with the King's Signet Ring

**K**ing Ahasuerus told Esther and Mordecai, “Even I cannot reverse the decree of the king. You have to supersede it. You must create something that is a force against what was set in motion, something more powerful than the original decree. You need to make a declaration against the forces set to destroy you, then put the king’s signature on it.”

It is imperative for us to grasp this concept because we live in the time when we believe the Kingdom of God is coming forth in the earth. The things stopping God’s Kingdom are directly tied to satan’s working and what has been set in motion in the earth for thousands of years. The Kingdom of God coming to earth means that the destruction set in motion against mankind must be reversed. Unless satan’s plan is cut short, no flesh will be saved alive. It has always been satan’s determination to destroy all flesh, and he is not going to drop that idea on his own.

The ability for total destruction to happen has already been set in motion, just like it was for the Jewish people in Esther’s day. And just as it was with Esther, we are faced with the problem of how to stop it. Many people wish that Yeshua (Jesus) would just come and make everything right, but Purim tells us a different story. We have to develop a relationship with the King. We must be pleasing to Him so that we can come before Him. We do that knowing that our lives are on the line, but we say like Esther, “If I perish, I perish” (Esther 4:16). If we are seeing it correctly, we are like the lepers at the gate of the city who ask, “Why do we sit here until we die?” (2 Kings 7:3). We must do more than wait for the Lord to return. We must connect with the Lord now until He equips us to deal with the problem. What we need to do as God’s children, as His sons in the earth, is reverse that which has already been set in motion against mankind (Romans 8:19-21).



## Division Is Destruction

More than we understand, the Body of Christ could be on the brink of destruction just as the Jews were at the time of Esther. We need to stop our destruction, and one of the ways this destruction manifests is through division. To understand how this works, let us look at a passage from Matthew 12. This recounts how Yeshua had cast out a spirit and people were accusing Him of casting it out by Beelzebul. That was another term for satan in that day. They accused Yeshua of casting out spirits by the power of satan. The Lord responded to their accusation.

And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand?”

MATTHEW 12:25-26

In verse 25, the word *any* is better translated from the Greek as “every.” This principle applies to every city, every house, every kingdom. Even the Kingdom of God, if it is divided against itself, it cannot stand. Yeshua is saying that every single kingdom that is divided against itself is laid waste. That is a thorough and complete process. Division results in complete destruction.



**“If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”**

**MATTHEW 12:27-28**

Christ explained, “If I am doing this in oneness with the Father, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.” There is an absolute connection between oneness and the manifestation of the Kingdom of God. When Mordecai issued the new decree with the king’s backing, the Jewish people were a united front against their adversaries (Esther 9:1-6). There was no disagreement, no rebellion. You do not read of anyone saying, “Well, that’s a wrong decision” or, “I’m not going to do that” or, “Go do it yourself.” They were in one accord to defeat the threat of death against them. Today if our perception could open up to see the real threat against us, my hope is that it would stimulate us to oneness. The decree of destruction against the earth will be eliminated when we come against it with a united proclamation. Christ has written the new decree: “that they may all be one” (John 17:21). It is stamped with the King’s signet ring. But it is our initiative to make that oneness a reality.

**Because on those days the Jews rid themselves of their enemies, and it was a month which was turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and sending portions of food to one another and gifts to the poor.**

**ESTHER 9:22**





## Together We End the Destruction

**F**irst we bind the strong man and then we plunder his house. Doesn't that sound like Purim? The first thing they did was hang Haman, then they plundered his house. It is a two-step process. Our first step is to become one with the King. Then we begin to move in oneness to annul the decree of death and futility that has been set in motion to destroy mankind. Again, it is about oneness. If we are not one in Christ, we are scattering. At some point God's people must come together—even if we cannot agree on things doctrinally, other than the fact that we will be destroyed if we are not one as Christ and the Father are one (John 17:22).

If we cannot see the handwriting on the wall of where the world is going, where futility is going, where the wickedness in the earth is going, then we are fooling ourselves. However, if we can see that picture, it can be the prod that brings us together. How important are our doctrines compared to our destruction? We could have a perfect set of doctrines, but if we end up being destroyed under the decree of satan against us, those perfect doctrines have done nothing. We cannot become one by trying to agree on doctrines. If we sit down and talk about doctrines, it will divide us. But if we talk about our love for one another and our common bond in Christ, then we promote the oneness we have in Christ.

It is up to us to make the decree, seal it with the authority of the Father, and say that oneness comes to the house of God. We need that oneness right now. We need to see Christianity rising up and taking authority over what is going on in the world. Get out of the political divisions and look at what people are doing to people. When I look at that picture, I see satan's purpose to destroy all flesh. You can say, "Some evil dictator is destroying his own people. What is



happening in some distant war is bad, but there is nothing I can do about it.” Those are the very things that we as Christians should have authority over! There should be authority in our prayer life. There should be authority in our prophecy to bind and to loose and cause things to change (Matthew 16:19). It is more than praying, “O God, the world is such a mess. Come and do something about it and rapture us out because things are getting so bad.” That is not the story of Purim. At Purim, the king said, “I am with you. I gave you the ring. Now you make the decree. You rally the people together and overwhelm what is coming against you.” Our oneness makes this happen.

All Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB1995).

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# ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

**For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: [www.HargraveMinistries.org](http://www.HargraveMinistries.org).**

## ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

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