

Esther 6

Verses 1- 3

During that night the king could not sleep, so he gave an order to bring the book of records, the chronicles, and they were read before the king. ² And it was found written what Mordecai had reported about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who were doorkeepers, that they had sought to attack King Ahasuerus. ³ Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

During that night the king could not sleep, so he gave an order to bring the book of records, the chronicles, and they were read before the king.

We know that God caused him to be restless but the king could have ignored this sign as a mere coincidence but instead he acted in a sober and deliberate way and kudos to the king for being diligent.

² And it was found written what Mordecai had reported about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who were doorkeepers, that they had sought to attack King Ahasuerus.

For people of faith we know this was an act of God so the king found what he was supposed to find, that Mordecai had saved the king's life and he had never been rewarded for this good deed.

³ Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

This is one the great things about studying the bible and in particular the history of the Jews in the bible. We get to see what God is quietly and effectively doing behind the scenes to protect those who love and follow him. It is true that Mordecai and Esther had to do their part but God is doing the heavy lifting by making everything happen at its appointed time and in a way that blesses His people.

However, sometimes we have to recognize that it might mean suffering and even death on our part. In Hebrews 11:1 – 34 we can read about some of the great victories that He gave to His people but in verses 35 thru 38 we see how some suffer to glorify God.

³⁵ **Women received *back* their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; ³⁶ and others experienced mocking and flogging, and further, chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented ³⁸ (people of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts, on mountains, and *sheltering in caves and holes in the ground.***

We all want to experience the victories that God provides for His people but how many of us are willing to suffer for the greater good?

Verses 4 - 6

⁴ **So the king said, “Who is in the courtyard?” Now Haman had *just* entered the outer courtyard of the king’s palace in order to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the wooden *gallows* which he had prepared for him. ⁵ So the king’s servants said to him, “Behold, Haman is standing in the courtyard.” And the king said, “Have him come in.” ⁶ Haman then came in and the king said to him, “What is to be done for the man whom the king desires to honor?” And Haman said to himself, “Whom would the king desire to honor more than me?”**

⁴ **So the king said, “Who is in the courtyard?” Now Haman had *just* entered the outer courtyard of the king’s palace in order to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the wooden *gallows* which he had prepared for him.**

God is flawless at doing things at the right time, but Haman, not so much.

⁶ **Haman then came in and the king said to him, “What is to be done for the man whom the king desires to honor?” And Haman said to himself, “Whom would the king desire to honor more than me?”**

The old saying is true that Pride cometh before the fall. In this case what Haman doesn’t know is that he is about to fall.

Verses 7 – 9

⁷ Therefore Haman said to the king, “For the man whom the king desires to honor,
⁸ have them bring a royal robe which the king has worn, and the horse on which the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal turban has been placed; ⁹ then *order them* to hand the robe and the horse over to one of the king’s noble officials, and have them dress the man whom the king desires to honor, and lead him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him, ‘So it shall be done for the man whom the king desires to honor.’”

A man riding on a horse with a crown on his head was a symbol of royal authority and the highest honor that could be given to him.

Verses 10 - 11

¹⁰ Then the king said to Haman, “Quickly, take the robe and the horse just as you have said, and do so for Mordecai the Jew, who is sitting at the king’s gate; do not fail to do anything of all that you have said.” ¹¹ So Haman took the robe and the horse, and dressed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, “So it shall be done for the man whom the king desires to honor.”

Prior to his sleepless night and the reading of the chronicles there was no evidence that the king knew that Mordecai was a Jew. Perhaps there was a comment in the king’s chronicles about Mordechai’s national origin.

This had to be a very painful moment for Haman, honoring the man that he had planned to destroy. In addition his mind had to be racing with thoughts about what might happen to him since he had laid plans to kill all the Jews.

Verses 12 - 14

¹² Then Mordecai returned to the king’s gate, while Haman hurried home, mourning, with *his* head covered. ¹³ And Haman informed Zeresh his wife and all his friends of everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and Zeresh his wife said to him, “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish origin, you will not prevail over him, but will certainly fall before him.”

¹⁴ While they were still talking with him, the king’s eunuchs arrived and quickly brought Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

Haman's wife says **"IF Mordecai is of Jewish origin"**. That seems a bit odd since the following discussion was had in chapter 5.

See Esther 5:

¹⁰ **Haman controlled himself, however, and went to his house. But he sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh.** ¹¹ **Then Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and his many sons, and every *occasion on* which the king had honored him and how he had promoted him above the officials and servants of the king.** ¹² **Haman also said, "Even Esther the queen let no one except me come with the king to the banquet which she had prepared; and tomorrow also I am invited by her with the king.** ¹³ **Yet all of this does not satisfy me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."**

It is obvious that His wife and friends (the wise mwn) knew that Mordecai was a Jew so why does she equivocate at this point and say "If".

Also in chapter 5, the advice of the wise men and his wife after being told that Mordecai was a Jew was the following:

See Ester 5:14

¹⁴ **Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "Have a wooden *gallows* fifty cubits high made, and in the morning ask the king to have Mordecai hanged on it; then go joyfully with the king to the banquet."** And the advice pleased Haman, so he had the wooden *gallows* made.

It is possible that his wife and wise men changed their minds after the events of that day but shouldn't they have known or at least suspected that something like this could happen given the fact that Mordecai was a Jew. They could have informed him of the history of the Jews and that he should use some caution rather than telling him to build a gallows 75 feet high to hang his enemy on. These wise men and his wife had to live with the knowledge that they did not warn him.