

Esther 7

Verses 1- 4

Now the king and Haman came to drink *wine* with Esther the queen. ² And the king said to Esther on the second day also as they drank their wine at the banquet, "What is your request, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your wish? Up to half of the kingdom it shall be done." ³ Then Queen Esther replied, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me as my request, and my people as my wish; ⁴ for we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, killed, and eliminated. Now if we had only been sold as slaves, men and women, I would have kept silent, because the distress would not be sufficient *reason* to burden the king."

The Jewish people had been sold when Haman bribed the king with his offer of 10,000 talents of silver to be given to the king's treasury.

See Esther 3:9

⁹ If it is pleasing to the king, let it be decreed that they be eliminated, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who carry out the *king's* business, to put into the king's treasuries."

She placed all the blame on Haman but the king owned some responsibility for the decree because he did not have someone investigate the validity of Haman's accusations that there was this group of law breakers that should be eliminated.

Verses 5 - 7

⁵ Then King Ahasuerus asked Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would presume to do such a *thing*?" ⁶ And Esther said, "A foe and an enemy is this wicked Haman!" Then Haman became terrified before the king and queen. ⁷ The king then got up in his anger from drinking wine *and went* into the palace garden; but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that harm had been determined against him by the king.

The truth was finally revealed and in his anger, the king arose and left the banquet while Haman pleaded with Esther to spare his life. Hopefully the king was reflecting on how he had made a snap decision when Haman presented his idea of destroying "this group of people" and that he should have taken more time to verify the facts.

Verses 8 -10

⁸ Now when the king returned from the palace garden into the place where they had been drinking wine, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, “Will he even assault the queen with me in the house?” As the word went out of the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face. ⁹ Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who *stood* before the king, said, “Indeed, behold, the wooden gallows standing at Haman’s house fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai who spoke good in behalf of the king!” And the king said, “Hang him on it.” ¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the wooden *gallows* which he had prepared for Mordecai, and the king’s anger subsided.

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Unfortunately, the king was jumping to another false conclusion placing the worst motives on Haman's prostrate position. In this case Haman deserved the punishment he was about to receive but not for the right reasons. History informs us that Xerxes was unstable, unreasonable and capricious. From what we have observed of the king's actions in this account the depiction of him in secular history fits fairly well. This explains why Haman was able to trick the king into doing his will so easily and why Esther was fearful of going before the king.

¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the wooden *gallows* which he had prepared for Mordecai, and the king’s anger subsided.

Haman died on the gallows meant for Mordecai but it wasn't time to celebrate quite yet because a decree had been made and the Jews were still in great danger.