

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 2ND, 2022 // BOOK OF ESTHER

HAMAN EXPOSED (ESTHER 7:1-6) COMFORTABLY NUMB

Haman had most likely pushed through the events of the day and was relaxing comfortably at the banquet the queen prepared when the king asked Esther to make her request known.

- It does not appear at this time the king or Haman was aware that Esther was a Jew.

WISDOM IN DELAY

Esther had shown great wisdom in how she had delayed the request until this time. God had her delay so the king could be reminded of Mordecai's hand in saving him.

- The delay was also an opportunity for Haman to repent (2 Peter 3:9). However, his pride would not let him see it, and he believed he was safe (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

WISDOM IN THE DELIVERY

The wording from Esther shows that she wasn't telling the king what to do but wanted him to recall that all she had done was to please him, and her request was no different.

- She wisely focused her petition on the fact that the queen's life was in danger, and if Ahasuerus still favored her, he would have to act to save her life.

THE EVIL HAMAN IS EXPOSED

Esther first pled for her life, then for the lives of her people. This statement probably perplexed the king. As the Persian queen, who were her people, and who would want to destroy them?

- Esther revealed that it was the evil Haman—the adversary and enemy—that sold them to destruction.

EGG ON HIS FACE

The king realized he had been manipulated into murdering the Jewish nation, to which his queen belonged.

- The king's anger burned, and someone had to be punished. The king would have to blame someone to save face, but who? In the king's eyes, his most trusted official had tried to have the queen murdered.

HAMAN EXECUTED (ESTHER 7:7-10)

HAMAN IS OUT OF OPTIONS

The king angrily went to the palace garden to process the news he had just received, leaving the queen and Haman behind.

- Though it was against harem protocol for a man to be within seven steps of the queen or to speak to her without the king present, Haman, in desperation, threw himself at the queen's mercy.

THE KING'S DECISION WAS MADE FOR HIM

We don't know if the king had reached a decision when he returned, but a decision was made upon seeing Haman falling on the couch where Esther was reclining.

- It appeared as if Haman was attempting to attack the queen, which was a capital offense. Haman's head was immediately covered, marking him for execution.

HAMAN CREATED HIS OWN DESTRUCTION

One of the king's eunuchs was aware that Haman had constructed the gallows to kill Mordecai and brought it to the king's attention.

- The king now thought Haman not only wanted to kill the queen but also the man responsible for saving his life, so he ordered that Haman be hung from the gallows he built for another.

"THE KING'S WRATH WAS PACIFIED" (KJV)

Once Haman was hung on the gallows prepared for Mordecai, we see the king's anger subside. The language used is the same used in Genesis 8:1 when describing the water receding after The Flood.

- The king's anger was satisfied and Haman was removed as a threat, but the decree against the Jewish people was still in effect.

ESTHER INTERVENES (ESTHER 8:1-8)

THE THRONE TAKES HAMAN'S POSSESSIONS

Haman's possessions were given to Esther by the king since the Persian throne typically acquired the possessions of someone labeled as a traitor. The king could have kept the possessions but chose to give them to Esther.

- Was it an act of generosity, or was the king trying to atone for the trouble he caused Esther and her people?

MORDECAI ELEVATED

Esther revealed her relationship to Mordecai. Not only did he save the king's life, but he was kin to his queen. The king gave the signet once held by Haman to Mordecai.

- The Jewish people now had a Jewish queen and a Jewish prime minister in the Persian palace, but their positions alone did not guarantee their safety.

ESTHER INTERCEDES FOR HER PEOPLE

Esther pleads with the king. She and Mordecai were safe and elevated to the highest positions in the Persian court, but Esther couldn't selfishly go about her life when her people were still sentenced to death.

- She threw herself at the king's mercy. Esther fell at his feet, wept, and begged him to revoke the evil of Haman.

TWO IRREVOCABLE DECREES

Haman's decree could not be revoked, so the king gave Mordecai the signet ring and, with it, the ability to write a new decree any way he wished to supersede it.

- The king pointed out that they now have all of Haman's possessions and should use them to their benefit. It is believed that Esther distributed them to the Jews.

DECREE REVERSED (ESTHER 8:9-17)

RESOURCES TO PREPARE

The decree Mordecai drew up gave the Jews nine months to prepare for conflict.

- The new decree was dispatched the same way Haman's was sent out, giving all Jews the right to protect themselves and the right to annihilate and plunder any group that fought against them.

A CHOICE WAS AVAILABLE

The people of the provinces were empowered with a choice; they were not bound by Haman's decree to attack the Jews.

- The Jews, who were powerless against the impending attack, are now empowered with a chance to defend themselves. However, they were not permitted to go on the offensive and initiate attacks.

MOURNING TURNED TO CELEBRATION

Haman's decree caused confusion in Susa, but Mordecai's decree created a different response.

- The Jewish people celebrated with "gladness, joy, and honor" at the mention of their salvation. Their faith was witnessed in the provinces, and many ethnic groups put their faith in the Jewish God.

WE REAP WHAT WE SOW

- Haman was defeated by his own doing. He thought he would be victorious by creating the gallows to kill Mordecai, but he died on it himself.
- **Satan thought he had won by getting the crowds to crucify Jesus, but the cross turned out to be the instrument of his defeat.**

WRATH SATISFIED

- In 7:10, we see the king's anger was satisfied by the death of Haman.
- In the case of Haman, the guilty died in place of the innocent, and Mordecai was spared.
- **As for Jesus, the innocent died on the cross, spared the guilty, and satisfied the wrath of God.**
- Esther's life was spared, and her adopted father's life was spared. They were given power and safety, yet Esther could not accept her own security when her people were heading towards destruction.
- **What is our reaction to salvation? Do we get ours and then check out?**
- Once the decree offering salvation to the Jews was drawn up, Mordecai had them sent out "by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses bred in the royal stables."
- **Mordecai showed an urgency to tell the Jews about their salvation.**
- **Do we display the same urgency to tell others about their salvation?**