

- I) **V1-5 INTRO: Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes. Mordecai had just notified Esther of Haman's plot to kill all of the Jews. He had instigated their annihilation due to his petty pride and hatred for Haman.**
- II) **When told of the plot, at first Esther resisted involvement. When she did, Mordecai had to exhort her to become involved. He made it clear: she is also a Jew and under the orders, will also be killed.**
- III) **It seems at first that Esther wanted someone else to do such a thing. Perhaps she had, under the comfort of the palace, forgotten who she was.**
- IV) **Quote: Our being so much like the world—our *trading* as *the world* trades, our *talking* as the *world talks*, our insisting that we *must do* as other people *do*—this is doing more harm *to the world* than all our preachers can hope to effect good. I cannot imagine a man professing to be a Christian, and then acting as the world acts, and yet still believing that he is honoring Christ.**
- V) **Esther had not been with the king for a month (4:11). Let someone else do it: your request may very well cost me my life.**
- VI) **When she saw the need of the hour, she determined to do what she could. She and her maids fasted, and the Jews in Shushan also fasted (for her).**
- VII) **Esther and the people fasted, knowing that God protects His people. Ps 141:8 My eyes are fixed on you, O Sovereign Lord; in You I take refuge—do not give me over to death.**
- VIII) **As mentioned, Esther had not been with the King for a month (4:11). Before she went before him, she put on her royal robes. As she stood before him, she would have been incredibly beautiful.**
- IX) **V2 So it was when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court. She found favor in his sight: God had answered their need. Ro 8:31 What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?**
- X) **Esther was welcomed into his presence.**

- I) God was moving already, preparing the king for what would happen
Pr 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water He turns it wherever He wishes
- II) Esther had said that to be welcomed to his presence, he must **extend his sceptre**
This he did, showing that he pardoned her presumption
She touched the top of the sceptre, showing gratitude for being welcomed
- III) V3-4 And the king said to her, **What do you wish**, Queen Esther
Your wish is at my command
The way he answers reveals his deep affection, giving her liberty to request
She simply says: I would like to have a meal with you and Haman
- IV) V5 Then the king said Bring Haman quickly that he may do as Esther has said
- V) V6 At the banquet of wine the king said to Esther What is your petition
This tells us that the meal was of fruits and wines, not simply meats
It also reveals that he knew she wanted more than a meal with him
- VI) V7-8 Then Esther answered and said My petition and request is this
It seems that she is allowing his curiosity to grow as he waits
If you will once again dine with me, then I will make my request
- VII) V9-12 So Haman went out that day joyful and with a glad heart but when he saw Haman is overjoyed that he has had such honor bestowed upon him
The king would ordinarily dine alone, with guests in a dining hall
Haman had been honored to sit with both the king and his queen
- VIII) V13 He rushes home to boast of his being **honored** and his **importance**
The problem is, Mordecai once again failed to tremble and honor him
The fact that this Jewish man didn't honor him ruined everything
- VIII) V14 Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him
This isn't good advice
- IX) It reminds me of Job's wife who said curse God, and die

- I) Zeresh gives him her advice: impale Mordecai on a 75' stake
This will be a lesson for all to see, and you can merrily go on your way!
Pr 26:27 Whoever digs a pit will fall into it; if someone rolls a stone, it will roll back on them.
- II) The decree to kill all Jews **has already been given**, so take advantage of it
The law has been put in place and even the king can't overrule it
- III) Haman thought this was a great idea, and happily went to bed
In the morning, he will request the death of Mordecai
- IV) Ch 6:1-3 That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring
While man was plotting, God was making what was intended for evil, good
- V) This reveals the Lord working through what would appear petty details
The king had **divine insomnia**, and simply could not get to sleep
A good thing to put him to sleep was to have kingdom records read to him
- VI) As the records are read to him, he hears about Bigthana and Teresh
These were the ones who had plotted to assassinate him
When he asks if Mordecai had received recognition, the answer is no
- VII) V4-5 So the king said Who is in the court? Now Haman had just entered
He had come in to ask the king to kill Mordecai
The gallows were already prepared, just waiting for the body
The servants told him that Haman was waiting to see him
- VIII) V6-9 So Haman came in and the king asked him What shall be done for the man
Haman is so self-important that he thinks the king is speaking of him
Everything is going his way!
- IX) He says: Create a grand spectacle, with him as the center of attention
Give the man the appearance of royalty, treat him with pomp and attention
- X) Obviously Haman was not in need of money or women
What he craved was attention

- I) V10-11 Then the king said to Haman, Hurry take the robe and the horse
Imagine how he felt: he couldn't express it but he was totally humiliated
Pr 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall
- II) V12-14 Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate But Haman hurried
Mordecai didn't need this attention, and went back to his job
Haman did, and rushed home humiliated and distraught
- III) V13 Notice: If Mordecai is of Jewish descent
Gen. 12:1-3 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get you out of your country,
and from your kindred, and from your father's house, unto a land that I will show you:
And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great;
and you shall be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that
curses you: and in you shall **all families of the earth be blessed**.
- IV) V14 While they were still talking with him the king's eunuchs came
He had just been humiliated, and his wife and friends caused more pain
What kind of situation is he now going to encounter
- V) Ch 7:1-4 So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther
This was a banquet of wines and various kinds of fruit
Once again the king asks what her request is
- VI) V3 Imagine his surprise at her request
Spare my life, and the life of my people
- VII) V4 We have been sold, to die (by Haman)
This speaks of the bribe Haman offered the king
Esther 3:19 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I
will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king's administrators for the royal
treasury."
- VIII) V4 We have been sentenced to be destroyed, killed, and annihilated
Destroyed: Exterminated
Killed: Murdered
Annihilated: Blotted out; caused to vanish

- I) V4 the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss
The 10 thousand talents could not equal the loss of tribute and taxes lost
Not to mention losing his Queen
- II) V5 So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther Who is he
Who would dare do such a thing
- III) Remember, Haman had not named the Jews
Esther 3:8 he said There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain
- IV) V6 And Esther said The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman
Haman knew that Mordecai was a Jew, but apparently didn't know Esther was
- V) V6 So Haman was **terrified** before the king and queen
He had already been humiliated and depressed, but now he is filled with fear
- VI) V7 The the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went
He couldn't stand being in the same room as Haman and left to cool down
- VII) Haman knew he was about to die, and fell at her feet begging for mercy
Everything I own I will give for my life! Spare me, please!
- VIII) V8 When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet
Haman had fallen across the couch, where Esther was reclining
Will he **assault**: Sexually molest
They covered his face: they muffled him from speaking
- IX) V9 Now Harbonah one of the eunuchs said to the king Look The gallows
Let him be crucified on the stake (impaled)
- X) V10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai
The one who expected all to show him honor is now forever humiliated
Ps 9:16 The Lord is know by His acts of justice; the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands

- I) **What do we learn from this**
It is possible for us to survive under this kind of leadership
- II) **Ahasuerus was acting out of a response to what was in his best interests**
As a King, he was attempting to preserve the strength of the Kingdom
- III) **Haman's desire to kill the people was something that he approved**
It was the revelation that Esther was Jewish that disturbed him
Remember, Esther had not disclosed that she was Jewish
He took this as a personal attack
- IV) **He killed Haman because Esther revealed that Haman was his enemy: Ambitious**
He regarded Haman's falling on Esther as an attack on his property: His wife
He also saw Haman as attacking a benefactor, Mordecai
- VII) **We must simply never put our trust in such government to preserve us**
Temporal authority is not enough: We must trust completely in the Lord
Ps 115:11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and shield
Ps 118:8-9 It is better to trust in the LORD **than to put confidence in man**. It is
better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes (human leaders).