

Esther

Part 3

In Part 2

- Haman despises Mordecai because he won't bow to him and plots to kill not only him, but all his people, the Jews throughout Persia.
- Haman under vague pretense, convinces King Xerxes to do so and a decree is sent out to every province that on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month every Jew (young and old, women and children) will be killed.
- When Mordecai receives word he tears his clothes and puts on sackcloth and ashes. He weeps at the king's gate until Esther receives word of what is happening. Esther is alarmed but is reminded that not even the queen can approach the king without first being summoned. If she does, she could die, unless the King tips his golden scepter towards her.
- Mordecai reminds Esther in **Chapter 4:14** *For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"*

Esther 5 NIV

1 On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. **2** When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

In the story of Esther each person can be seen as a type or foreshadowing:

Esther: is a type of the Church. She is beautiful, gracious and chosen.

Mordecai: as a type of Christ, who is unbending towards the enemy, intercedes for his people and calls Esther (The Church) to action.

Haman: is a type of the Devil, who is full of pride, longs to be exalted even to the highest place, and hates what God loves both the Church and Israel.

The King: is a type of our Heavenly Father who has authority over all.

Vs. 1,2

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2 When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

- Esther knew appearing before the king without being summoned was dangerous and could cost her life. Because the need was great, she was courageous and prepared with her royal robes.
- Esther approaching the King is a reminder of how we should also approach God in prayer.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- Just as Esther approached the King of Persia and found him gracious, we should approach the King of Kings knowing he is gracious towards us.

Reminds me also of

Isaiah 1:18 KJV

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Vs. 3-8

3 Then the king asked, “What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you.”

4 “If it pleases the king,” replied Esther, “let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him.”

5 “Bring Haman at once,” the king said, “so that we may do what Esther asks.” So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared.

6 As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, “Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.”

7 Esther replied, “My petition and my request is this: **8** If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king’s question.”

- Esther has found the gracious side of the king...
- At this point Esther has made 3 requests from the King. The first was to accepted her presence unannounced. The second was to

come to a banquet she has prepared. The third is to come to another banquet she will prepare the next day.

This tells us something about Esther:

#1. She knows how to keep her husband in suspense

#2. She chooses her words and timing carefully. She doesn't jump on the first opportunity to shower him with the weight of her concern. She doesn't even do this at the first banquet. Because of the seriousness she waits for the right time and place.

- When King Xerxes says "What is your request? Even up to half the kings, it will be given you." This is a not a literal statement, it was considered more of a proverbial expression. None the less it communicates the king's willingness to be gracious.

Vs. 9-14

9 Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage against Mordecai.

10 Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home.

Calling together his friends and Zeresh, his wife, **11** Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honored him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials. **12** "And that's not all," Haman added. "I'm the only person Queen Esther invited to accompany the king to the banquet she gave. And she has invited me along with the king tomorrow. **13** But all this gives me no satisfaction as long as I see that Jew Mordecai sitting at the king's gate."

14 His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Have a pole set up, reaching to a height of fifty cubits (75ft), and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai impaled on it. Then go with the king to the

banquet and enjoy yourself.” This suggestion delighted Haman, and he had the pole set up.

Esther 6

1 That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him.

2 It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.

3 “What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?” the king asked.

“Nothing has been done for him,” his attendants answered.

4 The king said, “Who is in the court?” Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about impaling Mordecai on the pole he had set up for him.

5 His attendants answered, “Haman is standing in the court.”

“Bring him in,” the king ordered.

6 When Haman entered, the king asked him, “What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?”

Now Haman thought to himself, “Who is there that the king would rather honor than me?”

- The record of Mordecai’s good and faithful deeds have come back to bless him.

1 Peter 2:12 NIV

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Question: Do you think it is coincidence that King Xerxes can't sleep the night before Haman plans to kill Mordecai? or is God doing something?

- How many of you if you couldn't sleep, would wake up and say "Somebody please read to me from the Chronicles". The fact is, there were many books of the Chronicles. It just so happened that the right Chronicle was chosen and the right page was opened and read from.

"If this book of Esther shows us anything, it shows us that God manages the affairs of men, even without them knowing. God knows what He is doing and in the courts of heaven there are no coincidences or surprises." (Guzik)

Proverbs 21:1 KJV

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

- This appears to be a moment where God intervenes for Mordecai.

Proverbs 16:7 NKJV

When a man's ways please the Lord,
He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

- God is working to preserve and protect Mordecai.

Vs. 7-14

7 So he answered the king, "For the man the king delights to honor,
8 have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head. **9** Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes.

Let them robe the man the king delights to honor, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, ‘This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!’”

10 “Go at once,” the king commanded Haman. “Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king’s gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended.”

- Here God allows the spiritual principle of **Matthew 5:44** to be imposed on Haman: *“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,”*

11 So Haman got the robe and the horse. He robed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city streets, proclaiming before him, “This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!”

12 Afterward Mordecai returned to the king’s gate. But Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief, **13** and told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him.

His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, “Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him—you will surely come to ruin!” **14** While they were still talking with him, the king’s eunuchs arrived and hurried Haman away to the banquet Esther had prepared.

- Haman, in his own selfish desire, asked for things that really mattered very little, except to puff himself up with pride.
- When I study the book of Esther it reminds me that we serve the God who turns tables. Chapter 6 marks the beginning of a divine turning.
- This wasn’t luck or coincidence it was divine interruption.

“Esther wasn’t lucky to be queen; Mordecai wasn’t lucky to have heard of the assassination plot; it wasn’t luck or chance that made Haman enter the royal courts at this time with this heart. All of these events were orchestrated by God and not by luck.” (Guzik)

- It’s difficult when we read of the evil Haman had intended toward Mordecai and the Jews. It’s difficult to understand in our own lives, why bad things happen. In the midst of things like this we must not lose heart but remember, just as God was faithful to Esther and Mordecai he is also faithful to us.

Romans 8:28 NKJV

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Closing: Water Baptism