

Chapter 6

Verse 1

On that night the king could not sleep. And he gave orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles, and they were read before the king.

On that night- This night was the night the queen held her **banquet**. It was the night Haman was on top of the world and was having a device built to kill Mordecai. This was the night the king could not sleep and so he had one of his servants read him the **chronicles** which would be the record of daily events in the kingdom.

Verse 2

And it was found written how Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, and who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

The servant picked the scroll that recorded the event which happened five years before. It was the plot to kill the king. It reminded the king of three things.

1. Esther's **loyalty** to the king.
2. Mordecai's **loyalty** to the king.
3. Mordecai had been **overlooked** for a reward for alerting the king about this assassination attempt.

Verse 3

And the king said, "What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" The king's young men who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

The Persian kings took **pride** in rewarding those who had served them well. Xerxes sees that he **failed** in this.

Verses 4-5

And the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to speak to the king about having Mordecai hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for him. 5And the king's young men told him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

The king wanted to reward Mordecai as **soon** as possible. Haman came to court very early so that he could see the king right away so that he could **kill** Mordecai right away.

Verse 6

So Haman came in, and the king said to him, "What should be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?" And Haman said to himself, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?"

Haman did not have a chance to tell the king **why** he was there. The king asked Haman how he should honor someone and of course, Haman **thought** he was referring to how he could honor Haman.

Verses 7-9

And Haman said to the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, 8let royal robes be brought, which the king has worn, and the horse that the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown is set. 9And let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble officials. Let them dress the man whom the king delights to honor, and let them lead him on the horse through the square of the city, proclaiming before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.'"

To wear a robe or ride a horse that the king had worn or rode was the **highest** honor that could be shown.

Verses 10-11

Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry; take the robes and the horse, as you have said, and do so to Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Leave out nothing that you have mentioned." 11So Haman took the robes and the horse, and he dressed Mordecai and led him through the square of the city, proclaiming before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor."

This was not only Haman's idea, he **thought** it was for him. He was also to dress Mordecai, but also lead the king's horse through the city square telling everyone why Mordecai was being **honored**.

Verse 12

Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.

Haman returned home in shame. This was the day that Mordecai was going to be **executed**, instead, he was **honored**.

Verses 13-14

And Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the Jewish people, you will not overcome him but will surely fall before him." 14While they were yet talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and hurried to bring Haman to the feast that Esther had prepared.

Haman was probably looking for encouragement but instead, he was told that this was not going to end well for him. The king's eunuch then picked Haman up and took him to Esther's feast.

Chapter 7

Verses 1-2

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. 2And on the second day, as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king again said to Esther, "What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."

For the **second** day in a row, Esther held a feast for the King and Haman. Haman's **mood** probably was not the same as the feast that Esther put on the day before.

The king assumed that she would ask for **material** possessions. Esther was interested in what really matters, **human life**.

Verses 3-4

Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be granted me for my wish, and my people for my request. 4For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have been silent, for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king."

When Esther said this, the king must have **wondered** why Esther's life in danger. What did he miss? Then Esther said her people would be **destroyed**.

When I look at this verse, it reminds me God's timing is always right. Esther had been **restrained** the day before because God had to make the final adjustments in His plan.

Verses 5-6

Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has dared to do this?” 6And Esther said, “A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Xerxes, who was a **terrifying** individual when he was angry, wanted to know who was going to kill his queen and her people. Esther tells the king who was **behind** this plot to kill Esther and her people.

Verse 7

And the king arose in his wrath from the wine-drinking and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that harm was determined against him by the king.

The king **realized** he had been duped by Haman to destroy his queen. Haman knew the king was going to lower the boom on him, so he **begged** Queen Esther for his life.

Verse 8

And the king returned from the palace garden to the place where they were drinking wine, as Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. And the king said, “Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?” As the word left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman’s face.

When the king returned, he took Haman’s actions as he was trying to **assault** the queen, his wife, right there.

According to Persian law, in order to **execute** someone, you needed **two serious** charges against a citizen. The king had these:

1. Haman’s plot to kill the Jews would include **killing** the king’s queen.
2. The second one was Haman’s **assault** on the queen.

The king moved very quickly and condemned Haman. We know this because the verse tells that Haman’s face was covered. According to Persian custom, a condemned man was no longer worthy to be looked upon by others, so Haman’s face was covered.

Verse 9

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Moreover, the gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, is standing at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that."

Here comes the third charge. The servant wanted to remind the king that the man, Mordecai, who saved your life and you honored him Haman was going to hang him on these gallows he is building. It should be noted that the Septuagint adds a verse saying Haman would be executed for **treason**.

We need to remember that God is always **working** in our lives. God sometimes uses reversals to move us forward in our lives

Chapter 8

Verse 1

On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her.

A couple of things were going on.

1. It would appear, according to historians, that traitors and other condemned criminals had their **property** and **bank** accounts forfeited to the king.
2. The king gave Esther Haman's **property** and possessions.
3. Esther **finally** revealed her nationality and her relationship to Mordecai to the king.

Verse 2

And the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

The king, by taking off his ring and giving it to Mordecai, made Mordecai the Grand Vizier, the **same position** that Haman had. Esther gave Mordecai Haman's property and possessions, which made him **second to** the king both in power and financially.

Verses 3-4

Then Esther spoke again to the king. She fell at his feet and wept and pleaded with him to avert the evil plan of Haman the Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews. 4When the king held out the golden scepter to Esther, Esther rose and stood before the king.

Esther did not stop with her own deliverance and Mordecai's, but was concerned for her peoples deliverance.

It would appear that this all happened at the same ceremony. Esther fell at Xerxes feet, weeping and asking for the king's mercy. The **extending** of the scepter to Esther was the king wanting Esther to rise and continue to speak.

Verses 5-6

And she said, "If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and if the thing seems right before the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let an order be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king. 6For how can I bear to see the calamity that is coming to my people? Or how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?"

Esther's request was simple. She asked for another **decree** written and sent out overriding the first decree.

Also, notice Esther had no problem **telling** the king she was a Jewess.

Verses 7-8

Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows, because he intended to lay hands on the Jews. 8But you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked."

The king first reminds Esther of what he has **already** done by giving Haman's estate and position to her cousin.

Persian kings prided themselves on **being right**. So whatever they signed was always right. So for him to admit he made a mistake would be **dangerous** for him and his kingdom. Therefore, Xerxes said you can write another decree which will override the first, in the name of the king.

Verse 9

The king's scribes were summoned at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day. And an edict was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded concerning the Jews, to the satraps and the governors and the officials of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, 127 provinces, to each province in its own script and to each people in its own language, and also to the Jews in their script and their language.

This decree was written exactly as Mordecai **dictated**. The time was June-July 474 BC. This decree was written to the Jews, along with the political leaders in all the different provinces of Persia (written on June 25, 70 days after Haman's decree).

Verses 10-12

And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed it with the king's signet ring. Then he sent the letters by mounted couriers riding on swift horses that were used in the king's service, bred from the royal stud, 11 saying that the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to gather and defend their lives, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, children and women included, and to plunder their goods, 12 on one day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

The message was sent out, and what this decree said was the Jews could **defend** themselves only on the day, March 7th, that Haman's decree had specified for killing the Jews.

- This decree did not allow any **preemptive** strike before that day or a continuation beyond that one day.
- The Jews could **defend** themselves and take the property of those who attacked them.

Verse 13

A copy of what was written was to be issued as a decree in every province, being publicly displayed to all peoples, and the Jews were to be ready on that day to take vengeance on their enemies.

Take Revenge - These words refer to the establishment **of justice**. What it is referring to is if the civil government or Persian army could not exercise authority over the parties in a conflict, the attacked party could establish **justice** by taking action against those who wronged them or their family.

Verses 15-16

Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced. The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor

Mordecai did not **become** king but he had clothing that marked him as a man of great power. The royal crown refers to a **turban**, like what the Persian royalty would wear. The celebration started in Susa and then would spread throughout the kingdom. The word "light" can be translated "**hope**". Before there was no hope, now there was.

Verse 17

And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.

It would **appear** that some people identified with the Jews because of their political power. But there were some Persians who truly **converted** to the Hebrew God.