

Book Study on Esther
Haman Honors the Kings Servant
Esther 7:1-6

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Introduction

- Review books of the Bible: Genesis – Esther
- We left off with the Haman honoring Mordechai in front of the whole kingdom.
- The Chamberlains coming to pick Haman up for the banquet.

Let's pick up here in chapter 7 and verse 1

Bible

Est 7:1 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

Est 7:2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.

Est 7:3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

Est 7:4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

Est 7:5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?

Est 7:6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

Lets look a little deeper into these verses:

Est 7:1 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

Est 7:2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.

- Water was served up first, from the river Choaspes only. The king and his eldest son were allowed to drink of "the golden waters," of which they alone had 70 fountains. (Atheneus xii. 2.) --- Their wine was brought from Chelbon, near Damascus.¹
- In Persian feasts the solid dishes were few, and the time was mainly passed in drinking and eating dessert (Herod., 1:133).²
- after he had been heated with wine, says the Vulgate. In such a state the king was more likely to come into the measures of the queen.³
- This was the third time he put the following question to her, being very desirous of knowing what she had to ask of him; and it was of God that this was kept upon his mind, and he was moved to solicit her petition, or otherwise it would not have been so easy for her to have introduced it:⁴

Est 7:3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

- my life = my soul. Hebrew. nephesh⁵
- My life — It is my only request, that thou wouldst not give me up to the malice of that man who designs to take away my

¹ Haydock, George Leo. "Commentary on Esther 7:1". "George Haydock's Catholic Bible Commentary". 1859.

² The Pulpit Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2010 by BibleSoft, inc

³ Clarke, Adam. "Commentary on Esther 7:2". "The Adam Clarke Commentary". 1832.

⁴ Gill, John. "Commentary on Esther 7:2". "The New John Gill Exposition of the Entire Bible". 1999.

⁵ Bullinger, Ethelbert William. "Commentary on Esther 7:3". "E.W. Bullinger's Companion bible Notes". 1909-1922.

life. Even a stranger, a criminal, shall be permitted to petition for his life. But that a friend, a wife, a queen, should have occasion to make such a petition, was very affecting.⁶

- Esther, at length, surprises the king with a petition, not for wealth, or honour, or the preferment of some of her friends to some high post, which the king expected, but for the preservation of herself and her countrymen from death and destruction.⁷
- The king now learned, perhaps for the first time, that his favorite was a Jewess.⁸

Est 7:4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

- Haman could not profit the king by his malice as much he would hinder him by the loss of the Jews and the tribute which he had from them.⁹
- Though a great calamity to the Jews, the enslavement of that people might have enriched the national treasury; and, at all events, the policy, if found from experience to be bad, could be altered. But the destruction of such a body of people would be an irreparable evil, and all the talents Haman might pour into the treasury could not compensate for the loss of their services.¹⁰
- Countervail - shaw-vaw'; a primitive root; properly, to level, i.e. equalize; figuratively, to resemble; by implication, to adjust (i.e. counterbalance, be suitable, compose, place, yield, etc.):—avail, behave, bring forth, compare, countervail, (be, make) equal, lay, be (make, a-) like, make plain, profit, reckon.¹¹
- His ten thousand talents would not repair the king's loss in the customs and tributes, which the king receives from the Jews within his dominions, nor the injury his kingdom would sustain, by the loss of so many industrious hands out of it. To persecute good people is as impolitic as it is impious, and a manifest wrong to the interests of princes and states, which are weakened and impoverished by it.⁷

Est 7:5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?

- There is a wonderful abruptness and confusion in the original words, highly expressive of the state of mind in which the king then was:
 - "Who? He? This one? And where? This one? He? Who hath filled his heart to do thus?" He was at once struck with the horrible nature of a conspiracy so cruel and diabolic.³
- but the king had either forgot the decree he had granted, and the countenance he had given him to execute it; or, if he remembered it, he was now enraged that he should be drawn in to such an action by him; and perhaps till now was ignorant of Esther's descent, and knew not that she would be involved in the decree.⁴
- to circumvent me, and by subtlety to procure an irrevocable decree, whereby not only my estate should be so much impaired, and so many of my innocent subjects be destroyed without mercy, but my queen also should be involved in the same danger and destruction.¹²

Est 7:6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

- It is he that has designed our murder, and I charge him with it before his face: here he is; let him speak for himself, for therefore he was invited.⁷
- The adversary and enemy. Esther adds a second term of reproach - "enemy" - stronger than the one which she had used before (ver. 4), to stir up the king to greater anger.¹³
- Was afraid. . . .—Shrank back in terror¹⁴
- And it was time for him to fear, when the queen was his prosecutor, the king his judge, his own conscience a witness against him. And the surprising turns of providence that very morning, could not but increase his fear.⁶

⁶ Wesley, John. "Commentary on Esther 7:3". "John Wesley's Explanatory Notes on the Whole Bible". 1765.

⁷ Benson, Joseph. "Commentary on Esther 7:3". Joseph Benson's Commentary. 1857.

⁸ Notes on the Bible by Albert Barnes [1834].

⁹ Beza, Theodore. "Commentary on Esther 7:4". "The 1599 Geneva Study Bible". 1599-1645.

¹⁰ Jamieson, Robert, D.D.; Fausset, A. R.; Brown, David. "Commentary on Esther 7:4". "Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible". 1871-8.

¹¹ Strong's Concordance

¹² Poole, Matthew, "Commentary on Esther 7:5". Matthew Poole's English Annotations on the Holy Bible. 1685.

¹³ The Pulpit Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2010

¹⁴ Ellicott, Charles John. "Commentary on Esther 7:6". "Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers". 1905.