

Book Study on Esther
Haman meets his demise

Esther 7:7-10

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Introduction

- Review books of the Bible: Genesis – Esther
- Last time we ended with Esther exposing Haman as a wicked enemy of the Jews who was planning to kill her and her people.

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

Bible

Est 7:7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

Est 7:8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

Est 7:9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.

Est 7:10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

Lets look a little deeper into these verses:

Est 7:7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

- As not able to abide the sight of such a wretch, he flings away in a chafe. This wrath of the king was to Haman a messenger of death; and so he apprehended it, as appears by that which followeth. Ashamed the king was, and vexed, that his favour and power had been so much abused, to the hazarding of the queen's life, and the taking away of the lives of so many innocents. It troubled him also to consider how he had lost his love upon so unworthy a wretch, and trusted him with his secrets whom now he findeth treacherous, and all for his own ends.¹
- partly, as disdaining the company and sight of so ungrateful and audacious a person; partly, to cool and allay his troubled and inflamed spirits; and partly, to consider within himself the heinousness of Haman's crime, and the mischief which himself had done by his own rashness, and what punishment was fit to be inflicted upon so great a delinquent.²
- He first stood up, to beg she would save his life,³
- When the king of Persia orders an offender to be executed, and then rises and goes into the women's apartment, it is a sign that no mercy is to be hoped for. Even the sudden rising of the king in anger was the same as if he had pronounced sentence.⁴

¹ Trapp, John. "Commentary on Esther 7:7". John Trapp Complete Commentary. 1865-1868.

² Poole, Matthew, "Commentary on Esther 7:7". Matthew Poole's English Annotations on the Holy Bible. 1685.

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

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

Est 7:8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

- The King, Being a little cooler, and more composed in his mind,⁵ (Remember the decisions he made in haste in the past)
- He first stood up, and then fell down at her feet, to beg she would save his life, and take all he had. They that are most haughty, insolent, and imperious, when they are in power and prosperity, are commonly the most abject and poor-spirited, on a reverse of condition and circumstances. Esther's sworn enemy now owns that he lies at her mercy, and begs his life at her hand.³
- And Haman, it seems, fell down as a supplicant at the feet of Esther, laying his hands upon her knees, and beseeching her to take pity upon him: for it is not improbable that it was the custom among the Persians, as it was among the Greeks and Romans, to embrace the knees of those whom they petitioned to be favourable to them.³
- but a woman's heart might be more tender, and he might perhaps move the queen to allay the storm that she had raised, and induce the king to spare him. He therefore pleaded with all the earnestness in his power, and at last threw himself forward on the couch where Esther reclined, seeking perhaps to grasp her feet or her garments, as is usual with suppliants in the East. At this crisis the king returned, and misconstruing Haman's action, or pretending to do so, exclaimed aloud, "Will he even force the queen with me in the house?" The terrible charge brought matters to a conclusion - it was taken as a call on the attendants to seize the culprit and execute him⁶
- will he now attempt my queen's chastity, as he hath already attempted her life?²
- The import of this striking action is, that a criminal is unworthy any longer to look on the face of the king, and hence, when malefactors are consigned to their doom in Persia, the first thing is to cover the face with a veil or napkin.⁴

Est 7:9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.

- Harbonah.—See Esther 1:10.⁷ (one of the King's Chamberlains)
- Harbonah.— his name, with Josephus^{F25}, is Sabouchadas.⁵
- As if he had said, Besides all he has determined to do to the Jews, he has erected a very high gallows, on which he had determined, this very day, to hang Mordecai, who has saved the king's life.⁸
- Harbonah knew this either by his own observation, or by the information of some of his brethren, who were lately sent to Haman's house, Esther 6:14, where they might easily see it, or at least hear of it. And this he said, either out of a distaste which he had taken against Haman for his great insolency and barbarous cruelty; or in compliance with the king's inclinations, and the queen's desires.²
- Who discovered the conspiracy against the king, Es 2:21,22.⁹
- Haman is here, without order of law, more than the king's command, adjudged to be hanged. The truth is, it was a clear case, and the malefactor was self condemned; hang him, therefore, saith the king; a short and just sentence, and soon executed.¹

Est 7:10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

- I cannot pass over the wonderful harmony of Providence, says Josephus, Antiq. 50:11; 100:6 without a remark upon the Almighty power and admirable justice of the wisdom of God, not only in bringing Haman to his deserved punishment, but in entrapping him in the very snare which he had laid for another, and turning a malicious invention upon the head of the inventor. Well says the heathen poet,¹⁰
- having inflicted punishment on such a wicked counsellor of his, and the contriver of such mischief.⁵
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⁵ Gill, John. "Commentary on Esther 7:8". "The New John Gill Exposition of the Entire Bible". 1999.

⁶ The Pulpit Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2010

⁷ Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers

⁸ Clarke, Adam. "Commentary on Esther 7:9". "The Adam Clarke Commentary". 1832.

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

¹⁰ Coke, Thomas. "Commentary on Esther 7:10". Thomas Coke Commentary on the Holy Bible. 1801-1803.