

# Esther

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## Lesson 3: Both Banquets

Haman's plot to destroy the entire Jewish race is well on its way. However, Mordecai has succeeded in convincing Queen Esther to approach King Xerxes on her people's behalf.

### Chapter 5

#### **Read 5:1-8**

Esther approaches Xerxes in a public setting. It says that the King was pleased with her and extended the royal scepter sparing her life. Remember that anyone who approached the king unannounced and uninvited would be put to death unless the king extended his royal scepter.

Notice the over the top reaction to Esther that the king gives.

**Q:** Do you recall another occasion in which Xerxes rash behavior showed itself?

**Q:** If the king was willing to give Esther whatever she requested at that moment why didn't Esther just bring her true request before the king right away?

#### **Read 5: 9-14**

The jealousy and pride of Haman knows no bounds. He assumes that the only reason he was invited to the banquet with the king is because he is the only person in the empire important enough to have been invited. But, he didn't take any happiness in the fact that he was invited by the queen. The only thing that will make him happy at this point is the total destruction of Mordecai and his people.

Notice how Haman's pride shows itself even more. How big were the gallows that Haman built? They were 75 feet tall.

### Chapter 6

#### **Read 6:1-14**

Some might call the order of events that happens here in Esther luck. But we see it differently. We see God's hand shaping the events of time so that the outcome is exactly what he wants.

The very night in which the fate of God's people hangs in the balance the king cannot sleep. So he reads from the book of "minutes" of the kingdom and happens to open to the exact page where he is reminded of the life debt he owes to the man named Mordecai. At that same moment Haman appears on the scene to carry out the king's order.

They say that pride goes before the fall. The very advice that Haman gave to the king thinking that it would be used to glorify himself is instead turned around and used on Haman's greatest enemy.

Haman's prideful downfall hasn't finished yet. In fact it is just beginning.

### Chapter 7

#### **Read 7:1-10**

It is possible that Esther was not yet aware of the exaltation of Mordecai at the time that this second banquet takes place. She may still be very much afraid of the power that Haman possessed.

**Q:** How does Esther use a tactic from Haman's play book?

Haman's pride was the weapon of his own destruction. How fitting that he would be put to death by the very thing he had built to enact his revenge on Mordecai.

God's plan to use Esther to protect his people had come to fruition. What an amazing thing that God would have such a direct hand in orchestrating the events that took place so that his people would be saved from destruction.