

- 3) In **verse 2**, we read that when the king saw Queen Esther, she found favor in his sight and he held out the golden scepter to her. There are a number of commentators, such as Adam Clarke, Matthew Henry, as well as the historian, Josephus, that mention a story that says when the king first saw Esther he was enraged and looked upon her fiercely. The story goes that, overcome by fear, she fainted, and he jumped up from his throne in compassion and took her in his arms until she recovered, and comforted her with loving words.

We don't know for certain if that story is true. Here, we read only that when he looked at her, she found favor and he welcomed her into his presence by holding out to her the golden scepter. In either case, God rescued Esther from what could have been her last hour. What promises do we find in the following Scriptures that give us courage in times of crisis?

Psalm 18:2 -

Psalm 34:4, 7 –

Psalm 50:15 -

- 4) God intervened on Esther's behalf, and caused her to find favor, rescuing her from what could have been a horrible outcome. **We too, are the bride of a King, and how different is our experience when we approach Him!** Esther felt fear, for she had not been called by the king. We do not have to wait for an invitation to come into our King's presence, because our King has **called** us, **chosen** us, and **given us access** to His throne at any time, day, or night. Record the words spoken to us in the following verses.

Jeremiah 31:3 -

John 6:37 -

Hebrews 4:16 -

Hebrews 10:19-22 –

1 Peter 2:9 -

- 5) There are several other important contrasts for us to note between Esther's relationship with the king and the relationship we have with our King. When we are preparing to go to an interview or an important appointment, we need to be concerned about the impression we make. As with Esther, our attitude and attire matter. We want to put on our "best face," and we carefully choose what we want others to see. But when we come before our Lord, He is not interested in our "best face." What reminders do these verses say to us about when we come into His presence?

Psalm 38:9 -

Psalm 51:6 -

Psalm 139:2-4 -

Hebrews 4:13 -

Hebrews 10:22 -

- 6) In **verse 3** the king asks Esther her request and promises to give her whatever she desires. We notice that she doesn't come right out and tell him what her request is. Instead, what does she ask of him in **verse 4**?
- 7) Remember, Esther has just spent three days in prayer and fasting, and there is no doubt that much of that time in prayer was spent, not only in asking God to protect her, but also asking Him for wisdom on what to say and how to make her request known. What does **James 1:5** tell us about asking God for wisdom?
- 8) In **verses 5 & 6** we see that the king and Haman joyfully attend the banquet Esther has prepared, and he again asks her what her request is. How does she respond in **verses 7 & 8**?

9) What do you think Esther's reasons were for this second banquet? Do you think that maybe she lost her nerve and needed more time to gather her courage? Share your thoughts.

10) In **verse 9** we read that Haman left the banquet with a glad and joyful heart, but something happens that changes his mood from joyful to something else. Record what takes place and describe his mood afterwards.

11) **Verses 10, 11 & 12** describe what Haman does after this. Record each of his actions in these verses below.

Verse 10 -

Verse 11 -

Verse 12 -

12) What things do you learn about Haman and his character from these verses? How would you describe this man?

- 13) Trying to find our self-worth in “things,” be it **possessions**, a **position** of influence, or any other areas of “**fortune & fame**” is a foolish and futile mindset. Read Jesus’ parable in **Luke 12:16-21**. How has this parable affected your life and your mindset?
- 14) What **safeguard** do we find in **Psalm 119:37** to protect us from that kind of futility? Write out the verse below and share how it speaks to you.
- 15) Haman has just gathered all his friends, along with his wife, to **feed his pride** by gloating over all his wealth and his favored position with the king. But we see proof of the emptiness and the inability of those things to bring true satisfaction to our lives by Haman’s words in **verse 13**. What does he say?
- 16) Record the words of **Proverbs 27:20** below.

Commentator Adam Clarke says in his comments on Esther 5:13, “Pride will ever render its possessor unhappy. He has such a high opinion of his own worth, that he conceives himself defrauded by everyone who does not pay him all the respect and homage which he conceives to be his due.”

17) In **verse 14** what do Haman's wife and friends suggest he do to solve the "Mordecai problem?"

18) If Haman had been able to carry out his plan against Mordecai, do you think he would have then been satisfied? Why or why not? Share your thoughts.

19) What things spoke most to your heart in Lesson Five of our study in Esther?