

For Such a Time as This

A study in the book of Esther

Lesson Seven

“Reaping What You Sow”

Prayerfully read through Esther, chapter seven

- 1) As King Ahasuerus and Haman are dining at Esther’s second banquet, the king again asks Esther what her petition is, encouraging her that whatever it is it will be granted her. Record Esther’s reply in **verse 3**.
- 2) Remember that in her days of fasting and prayer, Esther surely asked God for wisdom in how to petition the king. We notice that she does not yet disclose herself or her people as being Jews. Just as Haman did, she chooses not to immediately give the king that information. The king very possibly still doesn’t know the people group he has targeted. Instead, Esther tactfully pleads with him on a very personal basis. How does she do that in **verse 3**?
- 3) As we read **verse 4** we see that Esther avoids saying anything that would sound accusatory toward the king. She chooses her words very carefully. She tells him that she and her people have been “**sold.**” Look back at **Esther 3:9 & 11**, and state what Esther was referring to that had taken place.
- 4) Continuing in **verse 4** of Esther 7, what does Esther tell the king was to happen to her and to her people?

- 5) Look up **Esther 3:13**. What words does Haman use in the letter he had his couriers send out to into all the king's provinces?

- 6) Still looking at **verse 4**, we see in the second part of her petition she very wisely appeals to the king's pride by telling him that she wouldn't have bothered him with any of this if her people were merely being sold as slaves, but she cleverly points out the economic loss he will face when this edict is carried out. Record the words she speaks to the king in this last half of **verse 4**.

- 7) In **verse 5** we see the king's response. Record from this verse his reply to Esther.

- 8) Esther has been very careful not to point any accusations at the king, and the king, himself, seems to be completely unaware and ignorant of what he, himself, has done. Look back at **Esther 3:10 & 11**. Record what had actually taken place that the king seems "not to remember."

- 9) In **verse 6**, Esther reveals Haman as the man. She has very wisely and strategically made her case before she comes out with this accusation against the one whom the king considered his most faithful servant. In truth, Haman was not at all the faithful servant the king thought he was. Look back at Esther 6:6-9 and comment on what the real desire of Haman's heart was.

10) Looking again at the last part of **Esther 7:4**, comment on Haman's **disregard** for the king's benefit and welfare.

11) Haman has one priority, and that is himself. He has been so full of himself that he can see nothing else. From the following verses, share what each reveals about Haman's character.

Esther 3:5-6 -

Esther 5:9 & 13 -

Esther 6:6 -

12) What do the following verses reveal to us about Satan's character?

Isaiah 14:13-14 -

Ezekiel 28:17 -

John 8:44 -

1 Peter 5:8 -

13) In the first half of **Esther 7:7**, how does the king respond to this news? What does he do?

- 14) What are your thoughts on his immediate response? Why do you think he did that?
- 15) As the king makes a swift exit, what does Haman do according to the last half of **verse 7**?
- 16) Looking at **verse 8**, when the king returns to the banquet from the palace garden, what does he see and how does he respond?
- 17) Clearly, King Ahasuerus has misinterpreted Haman's intentions, but how does God use it to carry out His ultimate plan?
- 18) Do you think the king would have responded as violently if he had not seen Haman lying across the queen's couch?

19) We see in the last words of **verse 8** that as soon as the king's words left his mouth, Haman's fate was sealed. The king's servants immediately cover Haman's face to prepare him for execution. In **verse 9**, what does Harbonah, the king's eunuch, suggest be done to Haman?

20) In **verse 10** we see Haman's final end. Chuck Swindoll states, **"All the time Haman was having the gallows built, he could see - enthusiastically anticipate - Mordecai impaled there. Now, he is condemned to die there himself. We call this irony. Theologians call it sovereignty."**

Look up and record **Psalm 7:14-16** below.

21) What do these other verses tell us about God's justice?

Deuteronomy 32:4 -

Deuteronomy 32:35 -

Psalm 9:16 -

Nahum 1:2 -

22) When we are in those places where we feel we've been persecuted unfairly and evil seems to be prevailing, with no justice taking place, how do the words of **Isaiah 35:4** comfort your heart?

Verse 10 tells us that once Haman had been executed, the king's wrath subsided. A substitutionary death averted the king's wrath, just as a substitutionary death averted God's wrath towards mankind. David Guzik shares, **"In the case of Mordecai and Haman, it was the guilty dying in the place of the innocent; in the case of us and Jesus, it is a matter of the innocent dying in the place of the guilty."**

23) Share how Lesson 7 has ministered to your heart and what was most meaningful to you.