

Haman's Downfall

October 7, 2012

ESTHER 7:1 – 8:2

Vol. 2 Num. 40

Core Competency:

Personal God- I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

I lift my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1–2)

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

❸ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROUP.

Introduction

“That’s not fair!”

This expression is one of the most common utterances of modern everyday discourse. Early in life, children gain a clear understanding of the concept of justice. And for the rest of our lives, we bump daily into situations that cry out for impartial assessment. Will right behavior be rewarded? We innately know it should be. Will wrong actions be judged as such? Will the people who do evil have to face the music? Something in us longs for the even-handed application of both reward and punishment.

In Esther’s story, a hot-headed and prideful man named Haman was rewarded for his evil actions (7:1–8:2). He had been plotting genocide against the Jewish people living in Persia. With his high rank, and with the apparent blessing of King Ahasuerus, his murderous dream seemed destined to come to pass.

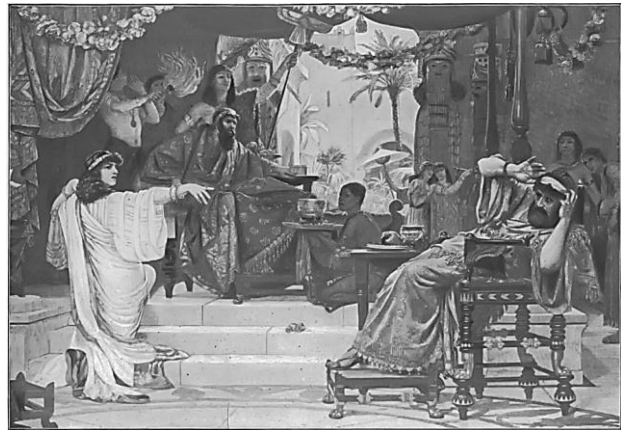


Figure 1: Esther Accuses Haman

This Week

The sovereign God had other plans, however. The new queen of Persia happened to be Esther, a Jewish woman herself, and her cousin Mordecai was the same man who earlier had foiled an assassination plot on the king’s life. As these situations and facts came together, and came to light, Haman’s brutal plans caught up with him. The tables were turned. Justice was served.

What a good reminder that the Lord sees all and will one day make everything right.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

Esther 7:1 – 8:2

1 The king and Haman came to feast with Esther the queen.

2 Once again, on the second day while drinking wine, the king asked Esther, “Queen Esther, whatever you ask will be given to you. Whatever you seek, even to half the kingdom, will be done.”

3 Queen Esther answered, “If I have obtained your approval, my king, and if the king is pleased, spare my life—this is my request; and spare my people—this is my desire.

4 For my people and I have been sold out to destruction, death, and extermination. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept silent. Indeed, the trouble wouldn’t be worth burdening the king.”

5 King Ahasuerus spoke up and asked Queen Esther, “Who is this, and where is the one who would devise such a scheme?”

6 Esther answered, “The adversary and enemy is this evil Haman.” Haman stood terrified before the king and queen.

7 Angered by this, the king arose from where they were drinking wine and went to the palace garden.

Haman remained to beg Queen Esther for his life because he realized the king was planning something terrible for him.

8 Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the house of wine drinking, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, “Would he actually violate the queen while I am in the palace?” As soon as the statement left the king’s mouth, Haman’s face was covered.

9 Harbona, one of the royal eunuchs, said: “There is a gallows 75 feet tall at Haman’s house that he made for Mordecai, who gave the report that saved the king.” The king commanded, “Hang him on it.”

10 They hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king’s anger subsided.

8:1 That same day King Ahasuerus awarded Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. Mordecai entered the king’s presence because Esther had revealed her relationship to Mordecai.

2 The king removed his signet ring he had recovered from Haman and gave it to Mordecai, and Esther put him in charge of Haman’s estate.

Notes

my people (v. 3)—This plea parallels God’s message given to Pharaoh through Moses, “Let my people go,” almost a thousand years earlier (Exodus 7:16).

sold (v. 4)—refers back to Haman’s bribe (see 3:9; 4:7)

destruction ... death ... extermination (v. 4)—Esther recounted the exact language of Haman’s decree (see 3:13).

this evil Haman (v. 6)— similar to Nathan’s famous

accusation against King David, “You are the man” (2 Samuel 12:7)

Mordecai, who gave the report (v. 9)—Haman heard the three capital offenses charged against him. One, he manipulated the king in planning to kill the queen’s people. Two, he was perceived to accost the queen. Three, he planned to execute a man whom the king had just greatly honored.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the following questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

1. In light of the events immediately preceding Haman’s arrival at the banquet, what emotions might he have felt and what thoughts likely occupied his mind during the feast? (6:11–14)
2. What was Esther’s first request and the foundation of her petitions? How does this wording show keen wisdom? (v. 3)

3. How does Haman's own boasting among the king's servants provide the tool for the ultimate irony? (vv. 9, 10; see 1:10)

4. Two key truths are presented in Esther 7:10. Read the following references and write these truths in your own words.
 - a) Truth 1: (Ps. 94:23; Prov. 16:4)

 - b) Truth 2: (Ps. 7:16; Prov. 11:5, 6)

5. How are these truths important to you personally?

6. To what actions do they call you? How are you incorporating or how will you incorporate this action into your daily life?

Sermon Notes:

☪LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP.

As you look around you and see unbelievers who do not honor God and yet who seem to be prospering in life, how can (and should) this passage from Esther alter your attitudes?

The purpose of THE PARCHEMENTS is to help you develop beliefs, practices, and virtues of a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ called the 30 Core Competencies through your own active reading of the Bible. Send any questions and or comments you may have about this lesson to church@clbcHouston.org.

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.