

Message #13

Esther 7:1-10

In the O.T. God makes a remarkable promise to His people Israel: “I will bless those who bless you and will curse those who curse you” (Gen. 12:3).

In the N.T. God makes a similar promise to His people in the Church: “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord” (Rom. 12:19).

In both of these passages, God is promising to personally intervene and punish the enemies of God’s people.

Those who turn against God’s people never last long for God always keeps His Word; He blesses those who bless His people and He curses those who curse His people and if ever there was a prime example of this principle, it is the example of Haman.

Haman was an evil enemy of God’s people. For a while, he appeared to have the upper hand. For a while, he appeared to be on top of the Persian world. He wanted the Jews exterminated and appeared to have everything going his way. But Haman overlooked one key factor: the sovereignty of God! No one will ever fool God, no one will ever beat God and no one will ever get away with harming His people. God will ALWAYS see to it that the enemies of His people are punished.

ENEMIES OF GOD’S PEOPLE WILL EVENTUALLY BE EXPOSED AND ELIMINATED .

Haman was a vicious enemy of God’s people and he was eventually fully exposed and fully eliminated.

Now this exposure and this elimination did not just happen by osmosis. God used His faithful people, who were willing to lay their own lives on the line, to accomplish His objective. There was certainly God’s sovereignty involved, but there was also human responsibility. Mordecai and Esther took the right stand and the right time and Haman was destroyed.

Esther 7 is a remarkable study of Haman’s exposure and elimination.

ASPECT #1 – The banquet for the king. 7:1-2

Here is the fifth banquet we read about in Esther. Two banquets were put on by the king (1:3, 5), one banquet was put on by Vashti (1:9), and two were put on by Esther (5:4, 8; 7:1).

There is no doubt from even a cursory reading of **verses 1-2** that this banquet was devoted to drinking wine.

Esther knew if she made one wrong move, every Jew in the Persian empire could be exterminated, so she carefully did everything she knew to do to please the king: 1) She put on beautiful clothes (5:1); 2) She put on two banquets (7:1-2); 3) She invited the king's closest friend, Haman (5:8; 7:1); 4) She provided plenty of wine (7:1-2).

Don't ever assume that because the setting appears to be godless that God is not still sovereignly working out His will.

ASPECT #2 – The request of the queen. **7:3-4**

Esther asks the king for two things: 1) Her own life (7:3a) and 2) Her people's lives (7:3b).

In **verse 4**, she explains that she and her people had been sold. She was obviously referring to the financial deal that had been worked out between Ahasuerus and Haman (3:9). If the issue would have only been that of slavery, she wouldn't have bothered the king; but the issue was extermination. The edict was not to enslave the Jew; the edict was to exterminate the Jew.

When it comes to making any request, chances for a favorable answer are much greater if we have been pleasing to the leader and if we give enough details to establish the facts.

ASPECT #3 – The response of the king. **7:5**

Ahasuerus, or better known by his Greek name, Xerxes, was not a man who typically was grieved by the threat of men losing their lives. In many ways, he didn't bat an eye to throw away human lives. To him, human life was very cheap.

Ahasuerus would let you destroy his military but he would not let you tamper with his family.

ASPECT #4 – The revelation of the queen. **7:6**

Fact #1 - The man was a foe. **7:6a**

The Hebrew word "foe" suggests that Haman was a hardened adversary (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 718).

Fact #2 - The man was an enemy. **7:6b**

The Hebrew word "enemy" suggests that Haman was a hateful enemy who breathed after the persecution of the Jew (*Ibid.*, p. 36).

Fact #3 - The man was wicked. **7:6c**

The Hebrew word means Haman was evil and bad (*Ibid.*, p. 772).

Fact #4 - The man was Haman. **7:6d**

This must have been shocking news for the king to learn that according to Esther, the most hardened, hateful and evil enemy of Esther and her people was his closest friend and highest ranked military man, Haman.

ASPECT #5 – The retreat of the king. **7:7a**

There have been many suggestions as to why the king left the table:

- 1) He needed time to think about this whole situation with his friend and high-ranking colleague.
- 2) He needed time to think up a punishment that would fit the crime.
- 3) He needed time to walk in the fresh air and calm down from his anger.

Perhaps it was a combination of all of these, but for whatever the reason, the king left the room and behind this was the sovereignty of God because it was this very short absence that would cement Haman's doom.

ASPECT #6 – The reaction of Haman. **7:7b**

What a total “reversal of fortune.” Haman is now begging a Jewish woman for his life. He had seen the angry look on the king's face and he sensed his own doom.

ASPECT #7 – The reentrance of the king. **7:8**

When the king saw this, he viewed it as some sexual assault on Queen Esther. In fact, the Hebrew word used for “assault” suggests that the king viewed this as a forcible rape scene (*Ibid.*, p. 383-384). It really wasn't that, but that is the way the king perceived it and God did not change the king's perception of what he saw.

At that moment the king's attendant covered Haman's face. He could no longer speak, he could no longer defend himself and no one in the room could see Haman's horror, shock, sadness and fear.

Esther could have informed Ahasuerus that Haman was only begging for his life, but she kept her mouth shut. The truth is God's judgment had arrived and it was too late for grace. There was no more begging, his mouth was shut.

The Word of God promises that there will come a day when the highest ranking political leaders from the nation will bow down before Israel (Is. 49:23) and those who have been judged will bow before the Jew (Is. 60:14). It is also promised that those who were Satan's religious emissaries will bow before faithful believers (Rev. 3:9). Proud, arrogant, godless people will one day bow before God's people.

ASPECT #8 – The execution of Haman. **7:9-10**

The large gallows was a fitting tribute to Haman's high level of pride and arrogance that dared to try to destroy God's people.

1) Harbonah testified of Haman's character. **7:9a**

2) Harbonah testified of Mordecai's character. **7:9b**

Harbonah was a Persian who saw things clearly. He saw Haman for who he was and he saw Mordecai for who he was. This was key testimony for it verified the diabolical nature of Haman and it finalized Haman's execution.

If you are here and have rejected Christ, you are an enemy of God. According to Romans, you are in enmity against God. Come to Christ today and you can be set free from the death edict that is against you.

If you know Christ, remember this concerning your enemies: "Vengeance is His, He will repay!"