

"The Wages Of Sin"
Esther 7:7-10

Introduction:

1. This Morning, We Are Going To Get Back Into Our Series:
 - On The Book Of Esther!
 - So Please Head Back With Me To:
 - Esther Chapter 7 - Where - If You Recall:
 - At The Second Banquet - Queen Esther Finally Shared With Her Husband – The King:
 - The Heavy Burden That Was On Her Heart!
 - 7:3-4a - “Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: / For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish!”
 - Her Petition & Request:
 - Was A Matter Of Life & Death!
 - Of Her Own Life As Well As The Lives Of All Her People!
2. And When The King Asked His Queen:
 - To Identify The Culprit:
 - She Pointed To His “Own Familiar Friend” Who:
 - Was Sitting Right There At The Same Table With Them!
 - 7:6 - “And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen!”
 - And That Was The:
 - Beginning Of The End:
 - Of Proud Haman!
 - Of “That Wicked Haman!”
 - And The Rest Chapter 7 Reveals His Final Downfall!
3. So Let’s Look At What Happens Next:
 - To Haman - 7:7-10 - “And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king. / 8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face. / 9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon. / 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king’s wrath pacified!”
 - My - “How Are The Mighty Fallen!”
 - But - In Truth - Haman Had Been Digging His Own Grave All Along!
 - Because Of The Universal Principle We Find So Clearly Stated In Romans 6:23 - “For The Wages Of Sin Is Death!” (2x)
4. Haman Was Guilty:
 - Not Just Of The Crimes He Had Committed:
 - Against Esther & Her People:
 - But He Was Guilty Of Crimes Against The Holy God Of Heaven:
 - Crimes & Sins That Demanded Justice & The Just Penalty Of Death!
 - He Was Guilty Of The Sin Of Pride!
 - Proverbs 21:4 - “An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin!”
 - He Was Guilty Of The Sin Of Pride!
 - Especially When We Consider That The Kind Of Homage He Expected From Mordecai:
 - Was Worship That Only Belonged To The Lord!
 - He Was Guilty OF The Sin Of Deception!
 - He Was A Liar!
 - The Words He Used To Get The King’s Approval To Destroy The Jews:
 - Where All Fabrications! All Lies!
 - Proverbs 16:16-17 - “These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: / A proud look & a lying tongue!”
 - He Was Guilty Of The Sin Of Murder!

- Proverbs 16:16-17 - “These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: / A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood!”
 - As Far As Haman Was Concerned:
 - The Decree To Destroy The Jews Had Already Been Accomplished!
 - And He Had Already Made Plans To Kill Mordecai!
 - Haman Truly Was A “Wicked” Man!
 - Probably All Of The Six Things That The Lord Hates Applied To Him!
 - And Queen Esther Was Able To Identify Him:
 - And His Character Correctly!
 - And - “The Wages Of [His] Sin [Would Be] Death!”
5. We Must Never Forget, However:
- That “The Wages Of [Our Own] Sin [Is Also] Death!”
 - Physical Death:
 - As Well As A Spiritual Death:
 - A Spiritual Separation From God - That Is Well Deserved!
 - And In These Verses From The Book Of Esther:
 - We Find 3 Serious Results:
 - Of Sin!
 - Not Just For Haman - But For Us As Well!
 - Because Of Another Universal Principle:
 - Regarding Sin - Galatians 6:7 - “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap!”
 - Whenever There Is Sin In Our Hearts:
 - Or In Our Lives:
 - There Will Be Consequences!
 - There Will Be A Yield!
 - **IE:** Even As The Farmers Are Planting Seed With The Expectation That There Will Be A Harvest In The Fall!
 - There Will Be A Harvest Someday:
 - For Your Sin!
 - James 1:15 - “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death!”

* The First Serious Result Of Sin Is:

1. Wrath!

- Like The Wrath & Anger Of The King:
 - In 7:7 - “And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king!”
 - Finally - After Three Opportunities:
 - Esther Poured Out Her Heart To The King!
 - And She Tells Him About Her People, Their Plight, And Their Great Enemy - Haman!
 - And With This:
 - The Moods & Tempers Are Completely Changed At The End Of This Second Banquet!
 - **IE:** Imagine What “Emojis” They Would Have Used!
 - Haman Was “Afraid” Before:
 - The King & The Queen!
 - But The King Is Enraged!
 - He Got Up From “The Banquet Of Wine *In His Wrath!*”
 - A Burning Rage!
 - And In This Mood:
 - He Gets Up & Goes “Into The Palace Garden!”
 - Now - Why Did He Leave?
 - Why Would He Leave His Own Queen To Be Alone In The Presence Her Enemy?
 - A Lot Of Speculation!
 - But - Main Reason:

- He Was Going To Act On His Anger!
 - It Seems Like He Went Out To Get Someone To Arrest Haman!
- Even Haman Seems To Understand This:
 - “For He Saw That There Was Evil Determined Against Him By The King!”
 - **IE:** Perhaps This Is Were We Got The Saying - *“If Looks Could Kill!”*
- The King Was Right To Display Anger:
 - Toward Haman & His Sin!
 - But If This Is How King Ahasuerus Responded Toward’s Haman’s Sin!
- How Do You Think God:
 - Feels About Sin?
 - About Your Sin & My Sin?
 - Something We Often Forget Is That God Is **Angry** Over Our Sin!
 - Proverbs 7:11 - “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day!”
 - And If Nothing Is Done To Appease His Anger:
 - John 3:36 - “He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him!”
 - This Is How God Feels About Sin!
 - And The First Serious Result:
 - Of Your Sin & My Sin:
 - Is God’s Wrath!
 - Ephesians 5:6 - “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience!”
 - But His Wrath:
 - Is Different Than The Wrath Of King Ahasuerus!
 - God’s Wrath Is A Holy Wrath!
 - God’s Wrath Is A Just Wrath!
 - Deuteronomy 32:4 - “He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he!”
- So - How Should You Respond:
 - When You Understand How God Feels:
 - About Your Sin?
 - You Need To Repent & Turn From:
 - Your Sin!
 - Not Just Because Of:
 - The Consequences Of Your Sin:
 - But Because Of The Nature Of Your Sin Against God!
 - Isaiah 55:7 - “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon!”
 - But What Do We Find Haman Doing?
 - In 7:7 - He Is Not Sorry For His Crimes:
 - But Sorry For Getting Caught!
 - “And Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king!”
 - And So - The Wrath Of The King Abode On Him!

* The Second Serious Result Of Sin Is:

I. *Guilt!*

- Like The Guilt & Reputation Of Haman:
 - In 7:8 - “Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face!”
 - Now - How Long Was The King Away:
 - In The Palace Garden?
 - Don’t Know For Sure - But It Doesn’t Seem To Have Been Too Long!
 - But It Was Long Enough:
 - For Haman - To Either Clumsily Or Purposefully:
 - Get “Too Close For Comfort” With:

- The Queen!
 - Haman Was Probably Beside Himself With Fear & Terror - And Forgot Where He Was & Who He Was - Still A Subject Of The Queen!
- But - When The King Reentered The:
 - Banquet Room - There Was Haman:
 - “Fallen Upon The Bed Whereon Esther Was!”
- There Is An Ancient Jewish Tradition:
 - That Says That Haman Was Pushed:
 - By The Angel Gabriel!
- But - However It Happened - In God’s Providence:
 - The King Reentered At That Precise Moment!
 - And He Interpreted It As A Potentially Hostile Act Toward His Queen!
 - And That Was It For Haman!
 - There Would Be No Chance For An Appeal!
- And The King Became:
 - Both The Judge & The Jury:
 - Haman Was Guilty!
 - And So He Called For The Executioner!
 - “As The Word Went Out Of The King’s Mouth, They Covered Haman’s Face!”
 - With Some Kind Of A Shroud!
- What We Can Learn From This Verse:
 - Is That Sin Can Contaminate:
 - An Otherwise Respectable Reputation!
 - **IE:** Happens To Us Also!
 - Takes Time To Regain Trust / Reputation!
 - But Because Of Haman’s Pride & Deception & Heart For Murder:
 - The King Considered Haman Capable Of Any Crime!
 - Even Such A Bold & Brash Crime:
 - As To Potentially “Force The Queen Before Me In The House!”
- What Do You Think:
 - Your Reputation Is Before God:
 - Because Of Your Sin?
 - Apart From Christ – It Is **Guilt!**
 - You Are / We All Are Guilty:
 - And Are Even Capable:
 - Of The Worst Of All Crimes!
- James 2:10 - “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all!”
 - Apart From God’s Grace To Us:
 - We Are All Guilty!
 - And We All Deserve:

* The Third Serious Result Of Sin - Which Is:

2. **Death!**

- Like The Death Sentence Carried Out On Haman:
 - In 7:9-10 - “And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon. / So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai!”
 - Harbonah - Who Is Also Mentioned In 1:10:
 - Speaks Up - Apparently Not Even Waiting For The King To Speak!
 - And Harbonah Seems To Know An Awful Lot About The Gallows Haman Had Built - Just That Previous Night!
 - He Knew What Was Available:
 - “The Gallows Fifty Cubits High!”
 - He Knew Why It Was Available:
 - “Which Haman Had Made For Mordeai!”
 - He Knew Who It Was For:
 - “Who Had Spoken Good For The King!”

- He Knew Where It Was Available:
 - “Standeth In The House Of Haman!”
- How Did This Guy Know So Much:
 - About These Gallows?
 - Could He Have Been A Friend & A Confidant Of Haman’s?
- But When His Fortunes Changed:
 - So Did Their Friendship!
 - And The King Responded Immediately - “Hang Him Thereon!”
- And - “So They Hanged Haman On The Gallows That He Had Prepared For Mordecai!” - Remember:
 - “The Wages Of Sin Is Death!” (Romans 6:23)
 - “Be Not Deceived; God Is Not Mocked: For Whatsoever A Man Soweth, That Shall He Also Reap!” (Galatians 6:7)
- This Is The Just & Deserved Penalty:
 - Not Just For Haman’s Sin:
 - But For My Sin & Your Sin!
- Are You Ready For This?
 - Death Can Happen At Any Age & At Any Moment!
 - Caskets Are Made In Many Sizes!
- But There *Is* A Way For You To Be Ready:
 - For Death!
- But How Did The King Feel:
 - About Haman’s Death?
 - 7:10 - “Then Was The King’s Wrath Pacified!”
 - As Far As The King Was Concerned:
 - The Matter Was Settled!
 - But Was It?
 - As We Will See In A Few Weeks:
 - The Matter Was Far From Over!
 - The King Had All But Ignored:
 - Esther’s Full “Petition & Request”:
 - Not Just For Herself, But For Her People!

Conclusion:

1. But - We Must Also Never Forget:
 - That Even Though The “Wages” Of Our Sin “Is Death”:
 - Romans 6:23 Also Reveals To Us That:
 - “But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!”
 - No Excuse Or Appeal By Haman:
 - Would Have “Pacified” The King & His Wrath!
 - And The King Didn’t Even Offer Him The Chance!
2. But God Is So Different!
 - Joel 2:13 Tells Sinners Like Us To:
 - “Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil!”
 - You See:
 - Even Though:
 - Your Crime Against God:
 - Is As Great As Haman’s! And:
 - Even Though:
 - Your Punishment:
 - Is Just As Deserved As Haman’s!
 - God Has Provided:
 - A Greater Plan!
 - A Plan To Not Just Appease His Wrath, But A Plan To Bring Peace Between Us!
3. And He Does This Through The Person & Work:
 - Of Jesus Christ!
 - Romans 5:6-10 - “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. / 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. / 8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. / 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. / 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life!"

- This Is The Solution:

- For Your Sin & For My Sin!

- God's Wrath Is Fully Satisfied:

- Completely "Pacified!"

- When You Trust In:

- The Death, Burial & Resurrection Of His Only Begotten Son:

- Who Paid The Price - In Full - For You!

4. Are You Trusting In Him Today?

- Christ Jesus Is The Only Way & The Only One:

- Who Can Save Us From:

- The Wrath!

- The Guilt!

- And The Death!

- That Are The Results Of Our Own Crimes & Sin Against God!

* "Only Trust Him!"

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