

**Subject: *The Hanging of Hateful Haman***

**Scripture: *Esther 7:1-10***

There is an old saying: “What goes around, comes around.” Haman is a perfect example of that. Chapter 7 tells us how God turned the tables on hateful Haman. This illustrates the truth of ***Proverbs 11:8*** *The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead.* ***Psalms 9:16*** *The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.*

The story of Esther has many twists and turns. Let’s take a look back.

- Esther 1 – The king is drunk and the queen is dethroned
- Esther 2 – Esther is chosen as queen and Mordecai saves the king’s life
- Esther 3 – Haman plans to exterminate the Jews
- Esther 4 – Esther and the Jews fast and pray
- Esther 5 – Esther makes a banquet and Haman builds a gallows
- Esther 6 – The king is restless, Mordecai is honored, and Haman is humiliated

Now as we come to chapter 7, we have the climax of the story.

### **THE QUEEN’S REQUEST**

On the second day queen Esther made another private banquet for King Ahasuerus and Haman. She kept them in suspense for 24 hours. During that time she continued to pray and think about how she would make her request. ***Proverbs 16:3*** *Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.* Again the king asked her what she wanted and he promised to grant her request. Surprisingly, she asked that the king would spare her life and the lives of her fellow Jews (vs. 3). As a part of her request she reveals two things:

- Esther reveals the extreme emergency of her people (vs. 4)
- Esther reveals the evil enemy of her people (vs. 6)

### **THE KING’S RAGE**

Can you imagine what was going through the king’s mind? He was angry for many reasons:

- The king did not know that Esther was a Jew
- The king had misjudged Haman’s character
- The king had foolishly signed away the life of Mordecai and Esther

God warns us about making decisions without weighing all the facts. ***Proverbs 18:13*** *He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.*

### **HAMAN’S RUIN**

Haman feared for his life because the king was angry. ***Proverbs 16:14*** *The wrath of a king is as messengers of death.* ***Proverbs 19:12*** *The king’s wrath is as the roaring of a lion.*

Two things sealed Haman's fate. He fell on the bed and appealed to queen Esther to spare his life, but the king thought he was trying to assault her. Then one of the king's attendants, Harbonah, told the king about the gallows that Haman made to hang Mordecai. Apparently Haman had bragged about it and told everyone in the royal palace. Once the king heard it, he gave orders to hang Haman on his own gallows. The tables were turned and justice was served.

### **THE LESSON OF SOWING AND REAPING**

The principle of reaping what you sow is seen in the story of Esther. Haman sowed seeds of pride and evil and reaped humiliation and destruction. Esther and Mordecai sowed seeds of faith and humility and reaped deliverance and honor. The principle of sowing and reaping is illustrated all through the Bible, and applies both to believers and unbelievers. **Galatians 6:7** *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.* **Proverbs 22:8** *He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.*

In Genesis 27, Jacob killed an animal and lied to his father, pretending to be Esau, and years later in Genesis 37, Jacob's sons killed an animal and lied to their father, pretending that Joseph was dead.

In Exodus 1, Pharaoh gave orders to drown all Jewish baby boys, and later on in Exodus 14, Pharaoh's army was drowned in the Red Sea.

In 2 Samuel 11, David secretly took his neighbor's wife and committed adultery, but in chapter 16, David's own son Absalom took his father's concubines and openly committed adultery with them.

In Acts 8, Saul approved and encouraged the stoning of Stephen, and then later when he became a missionary, Saul was stoned at Lystra and left for dead.

But this law of sowing and reaping also applies to doing what is good and right. If we sow the flesh, we reap corruption; but if we sow to the Spirit, we reap life everlasting. No good work done for the glory of God will ever be forgotten. No loving word spoken in Jesus' name will ever be wasted. Even if we don't see the results and reap the harvest in this life, we will reap the results when we stand before the Lord in judgment.

### **THE LESSON OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE**

The power of God's providence is clearly seen in Esther and in the rest of the Bible. Thomas Watson defined providence as God's ordering all issues and events of things after the counsel of His will, to His own glory. Three things are important in this definition: providence includes all things; providence is based on God's will; and providence is all for God's glory.

God is not like a builder who builds a house and then leaves it unattended. He is like a captain who is onboard and steers the ship. God is not detached and removed from His world. He is involved and in control of His world.

- God's providence reaches to all places

God took care of His people while they lived in Israel, but He also took care of them when they were in strange places (while they were slaves in Egypt and while they were captives in

Babylon and Persia). **Proverbs 15:3** *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*

- God's providence reaches to all people

God cares for all people, but He takes special care of His own people.

**1 Peter 5:7** *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

**Psalms 33:18-19**<sup>18</sup> *Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;* <sup>19</sup> *To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.*

**Psalms 34:7** *The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.*

- God's providence reaches to all things

One day on vacation I was working on my SS lesson and saw a man laying a brick walkway. He used a variety of tools, all different sizes and all useful in getting the job done. But the one thing that impressed me was not the tools he used, but the way he used the tools. He obviously knew what he was doing. The same is true of God and how He uses different things, events, and people to accomplish His purpose in our lives.

God used the ravens to feed Elijah (1 Kg. 17:6). God used the casting of lots to spare Esther and the Jews (as we will see). God's providence reaches even to the hairs of our head. Jesus says they are all numbered (Mt. 10:30). Thomas Watson said, "Surely if providence reaches to our hairs, much more to our souls."

- God's providence reaches to all times

When God's time came for Joseph to be released, the prison could hold him no longer. When God's time came for the Jews to be free from Pharaoh's grip, Egypt and the taskmasters could hold them no longer. When God's time came for wicked king Ahab to die, the Bible says in 1 Kings 22:34 that "a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness." God's providence is working in ways and times we do not understand. Sometimes it seems like God's providence is not working us. For years after David was promised to be Israel's king, Saul pursued him and tried to kill him. God promised Paul the lives of all that were on board the ship, but in God's providence the storm arose and the ship broke in pieces.

How should we respond?

- Respect God's providence
- Submit to God's providence
- Be thankful for God's providence
- Trust God's providence to work for our good

The work of God's providence is like a checkerboard, made up of light and dark blocks. Sometimes we think that a move will turn out good, but come to find out it backfires. Other times we fear something will turn out bad, only to find that it brings the greatest blessings.

**Romans 8:28** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*