

[Presumption]

Esther 6:7 – 7:10

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~ Our Spiritual Safari concluded the last leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God by examining a restless king with a bad case of insomnia! So, a sleepy King Xerxes – a.k.a. Ahasuerus – called for the record of the kingdom to be read to him. I suppose those boring minutes of official business were like a good fairy tale to the king. Perhaps he thought having them read to him would make him tired – I don't know. What I do know is that the king discovered Mordecai had never been rewarded for thwarting the coup de' etat that is recorded in chapter two. And, suddenly, the king felt as if he needed to do something to honor Mordecai.

At that very moment Haman made an entrance to see the king to request that he be allowed to start the genocide he had planned; before the decree to kill all the Jews in the land ever even went into effect – and number one on Haman's hit list was Mordecai, whom the king now wants to honor. A good suspense story just doesn't get much better than this, friends. So, this very strategic moment in time in the Book of Esther reveals the fact that God is moving in His providence.

Proverbs 16:⁹ *A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps ~*

That truth from Proverbs is undeniable in the life of Haman. It speaks of those who are disinterested concerning the will of God being revealed. Haman is the one who authored the decree to kill all Jews, and he has already built gallows on which to hang the man he so desperately despised, Mordecai; and all done at the behest of his treacherous wife, Zeresh. Well, God, Who is sovereign over all things, has plans of His Own for Haman — and for His people – the children of Israel.

In our previous report, we concluded with Xerxes asking Haman '*what should be done for the man whom the king delighteth to honor.*' Naturally,

Haman couldn't think of anyone who the king would want to honor more than Haman; because Haman is one arrogant and conceited little man! I suppose there was a basis for Haman thinking it was him to whom the king was referring – but he was dead wrong. Of course, Haman already has a plan and program for just such a time as this....

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⁷ And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,

⁸ Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:

⁹ And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

~ At this point, Haman is plotting to usurp the throne of the Median-Persian Empire, friends. I'm sure the king himself was next on Haman's hit list; and Haman certainly wanted Queen Esther for his own, too. Haman has no earthly idea she is a Jew at this point, though. I'm sure Haman would have simply thrown his own wife, Zeresh, out in the streets – or probably just killed her. Haman is nothing in the world except a blood-thirsty individual. He has no qualms with murdering *ANYONE* who stepped in his path to power.

Well, Haman thinks he is the one to be honored, so he makes all these suggestions. What Haman really means is: if he could have the crown and the royal apparel, and the king's own horse – and then be led out through the streets of the city – the people of the land would become accustomed to seeing him as the king. Haman is revealing his hand in a subtle way; and I think the king just now begins to see the plots in Haman's mind – even

though he doesn't do anything about it yet. See, this king is not the smartest man around by any means....

10 Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

~ Haman could not believe his ears. Nothing could have been ordered that would have been more displeasing and ignominious than this. Placing the crown and apparel of the king on and leading Mordecai around on the king's horse would destroy his life. At this point, Haman is becoming one miserable individual, to be sure. Haman wanted to lead Mordecai to the gallows on the king's horse and murder him right there – but he had to refrain from doing that in light of what has happened. Things could not be more humiliating for Haman than what's happening now...

11 Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

12 And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered.

13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.

~ What a trophy wife and treasured soul-mate Zeresh must have been. She sure has a way with words. After all, she is the one who suggested the gallows be built to murder Mordecai in the first place! Now she says, "... I told you so." I have no doubt Haman secretly hated Zeresh; I can only imagine all the other bad things in their marriage. The moment her husband began to fall, Zeresh has absolutely no words of comfort for him whatsoever. Well, the events are happening to his disadvantage so fast and furiously now that Haman can't even keep up with them; and he is going to

be late for the banquet he has been looking forward to so anxiously. Haman has utterly no control over the things happening in his life at this time; and the reason he has no control over his wicked and perverted life is because God is overruling every step this lost and degenerate man takes as He protects His Own via His providence....

¹⁴ And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hasted to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

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¹ So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

² And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.

³ 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:

⁴ For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

⁵ Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?

~ Esther was, undoubtedly, still very nervous going into this banquet – and rightly so. Haman, on the other hand, was thrilled the queen had invited him and the king to this exclusive lunch she has prepared personally. I'm sure all three are in a state of extreme excitement. Unfortunately, the way things have worked out with Mordecai have left Haman a sorry mess. I'm sure he has no idea why the king would ever want to honor this Jew, Mordecai; and I don't think Esther knew what had happened, either.

Haman definitely had mingled feelings going into this party; but those have now turned into a five-alarm terror for him. Haman may have come to dinner, but he is going to die before it's over – and he won't be dying from indigestion, either. This little party isn't going to end the way Haman expected at all.

Meanwhile, Esther has made her request known loud and clearly now. The king is puzzled by his queen begging for her life. Haman never dreamed Esther was a Jew when he devised his decree. I'm sure the king was shocked to realize his queen had been sold-out. The king just couldn't believe someone would attempt this crazy plan; and he now begins to put two and two together; and the sum is that Haman is attempting to do some very bad things to him. Remember, the king had never taken the trouble to ask who the people were that Haman wanted to exterminate. Human life was cheap and expendable to this king. He had already sent hundreds of thousands to perish in a failed war campaign against Greece. Perpetuating sorrow and death didn't disturb him at all.

There is a long list of nations that have practiced anti-Semitism; and a historical study concerning what happened to those nations is extremely interesting. At the time of the Spanish inquisition, for example, Spain was the leading nation of the world. The Spanish armada was poised to destroy Great Britain when a storm came up unexpectedly and sunk every single ship they had. That was the hand of God, my friends. See, God always makes good by His providence; that's the way He operates. Today, Spain is a fourth-rate nation, at best; one that really means nothing at all on the world scene. Of course, England has followed suit with Spain, but that's another story. Well, at the time in which we are studying, this king wants to know who would presume to do such a thing....

⁶ And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

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.

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 ~

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Psalm 37: ³⁵ *I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. ³⁶ Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found. ³⁷ Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. ³⁸ But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off ~*

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