

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 79 – The King Learns Of Mordecai Through Mordecai's Rise In Authority (Esther 6-10)

1. What did the king do on the night in which Haman's wife and his friends made the plot against Mordecai (Esther 5:14-6:1)?

*"(1) On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king" (Esther 6:1).*

2. What was found written in the book of records of the chronicles?

*"(2) And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus (cf. **Esther 2:21-23**)" (Esther 6:2).*

3. What was the king's response to what was found written in the book of records of the chronicles?

*(3) And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him" (Esther 6:3).*

4. Why did Haman come to see the king?

*"And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him" (Esther 6:4).*

5. What kept Haman from making the request to hang Mordecai?

The king wanted to honor someone and Haman could not fathom that it was someone other than he. So, Haman is asked what should be done and he really spills some wonderful things thinking it will be him that is honored. Funny thing is, he ends up having to be the one to honor Mordecai. Notice: *"(6) So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself? (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. (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. (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" (Esther 6:6-11).*

Think about the lessons here concerning pride (**Proverbs 11:2** and **Proverbs 29:23**). Additionally, what do we reap (**Job 4:8**, **Hosea 10:12-13**, and **Galatians 6:7-8**)?

6. Was Haman happy to have carried out the king's request?

No: *“And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered” (Esther 6:12).*

7. What happened when Haman came into the company of his wife and friends?

*“(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. (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” (Esther 6:13-14).*

8. Did Haman come to the banquet with Esther and the king?

Yes: *“So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen” (Esther 7:1).*

9. How willing is the king to hear and answer Esther's request?

He is very willing: *“(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” (Esther 7:2).*

Why has Esther received such special attention of this heathen king (**Esther 2:15-17** and **Proverbs 14:35**)?

10. What is Esther's request at this banquet?

*“(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” (Esther 7:2-4).*

The fact that they were sold and the price could not countervail the damage refers to the price Haman had put on the Jews (**Esther 3:9**).

11. At what point did Esther expose Haman as the adversary?

At the king's request: *“(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. (6) And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen” (Esther 7:5-6).*

12. Did the king rise to Haman's defense?

No: *“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” (Esther 7:7).*

13. What happens to Haman?

*“(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**" (Esther 7:8-10).*

14. What turn of events do we find as we begin chapter eight of Esther?

Esther and Mordecai are honored in the manners Haman once was: "(1) *On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her.* (2) *And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman*" (Esther 8:1-2).

15. What request did Esther make now (at this point of our study)?

"(3) *And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.* (4) *Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,* (5) *And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces:* (6) ***For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred***" (Esther 8:3-6)?

16. Did Ahasuerus grant the request of Esther?

Yes: "(7) *Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.* (8) ***Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.*** (9) *Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.* (10) *And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries:* (11) ***Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey,*** (12) *Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.* (13) ***The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.*** (14) *So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace"* (Esther 8:7-14).

17. In light of the king's decision, how well were things for Mordecai and the Jews?

*"(15) And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. (16) **The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.** (17) And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And **many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them**" (Esther 8:15-17).*

Many actually became proselytes (Jewish converts – **Isaiah 1:27** and **Acts 2:10**).

So, how would a proselyte get land in Israel (**Ezekiel 48:22-23**)?

18. What prevented the enemies of the Jews from trying to execute Haman's plan?

*"(1) Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, **(though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)** (2) The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people. (3) And **all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.** (4) For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man **Mordecai waxed greater and greater.** (5) Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them" (Esther 9:1-5).*

19. Does Esther have to approach the king to request something else now?

**No, he approaches her:** *"And the king said unto Esther the queen, The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? now what is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: or what is thy request further? and it shall be done" (Esther 9:12).*

20. What is the next request of Esther that the king allows?

*"(13) Then said Esther, If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do to morrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows. (14) And the king commanded it so to be done: and the decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons" (Esther 9:13-14).*

21. Were the Jews able to defend themselves and find joy in how things had gone for them?

Yes: *"(15) For the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and **slew three hundred men at Shushan;** but on the prey [spoils; plunder] they laid not their hand. (16) But the other Jews that were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and **slew of their foes seventy and five thousand,** but they laid not their hands on the prey [spoils; plunder], (17) On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. (18) But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the*

*fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. (19) Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwall'd towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another” (Esther 9:15-19).*

22. Explain what the days of Purim after the name of Pur were?

*“(20) And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far, (21) To stablish this among them, **that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,** (22) **As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.** (23) And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them; (24) **Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them;** (25) But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. (26) Wherefore **they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them,** (27) The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year; (28) And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed. (29) Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim. (30) And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth, (31) To confirm these days of Purim in their times appointed, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry. (32) And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book” (Esther 9:20-32).*

23. Did Mordecai remain in power as the book of Esther concludes?

Yes: *“(1) And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea. (2) And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? (3) For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed” (Esther 10:1-3).*

24. From our studies, do we learn it is better to stand up and defend God’s will or sit back while it is annihilated with a mindset that this is more “peaceful”?

Could the promise seed be destroyed and good people just watch that happen (**Proverbs 28:4**)? Nor should we sit back at any time when sin is promoted and do nothing (**Jeremiah 4:19**, **Ezekiel 3:17**, **Acts 17:16**, **Acts 18:9-11**, and **Jude 3**).