

4/22/24

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Lesson 7 Esther 7:1-10

Esther 7:1-10 (NASB)

¹ Now the king and Haman came to drink *wine* with Esther the queen.

² And the king said to Esther on the second day also as they drank their wine at the banquet, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be done."

³ Then Queen Esther replied, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me as my petition, and my people as my request;

⁴ for we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed and to be annihilated.

Now if we had only been sold as slaves, men and women, I would have remained silent, for the trouble would not be commensurate with the annoyance to the king."

⁵ Then King Ahasuerus asked Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would presume to do thus?"

⁶ Esther said, "A foe and an enemy is this wicked Haman!" Then Haman became terrified before the king and queen.

⁷ The king arose in his anger from drinking wine *and went* into the palace garden; but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that harm had been determined against him by the king.

⁸ Now when the king returned from the palace garden into the place where they were drinking wine, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, "Will he even assault the queen with me in the house?" As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

⁹ Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who *were* before the king said, "Behold indeed, the gallows standing at Haman's house fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai who spoke good on behalf of the king!" And the king said, "Hang him on it."

¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai, and the king's anger subsided.

5. XERXES TOLD OF PLOT, HAMAN HANGED ([CHAP. 7](#))

[7:1-4](#). What **Haman** knew about **Esther** is not stated. If he knew of the connection between Mordecai and Esther he may have been even more terrified at the prospect of attending this second banquet given by Esther. This was the fifth banquet mentioned in the Book of Esther: two were given by **the king** ([1:3](#), [5](#)), one by Queen Vashti ([1:9](#)), and two by **Queen Esther** ([5:4](#), [8](#)). During the banquet **the king** again asked Esther her **request**, and again he promised that he would grant it to her (cf. [5:3](#), [6](#)). This time Esther got right to the point and gave her **petition** and **request... life** for her and her **people**. It was now clear to Xerxes what her nationality was (cf. [2:10](#), [20](#)). She explained that all her **people** had been **sold** (i.e., the king was offered a bribe by Haman; cf. [3:9](#); [4:7](#)) into extinction (cf. [3:13](#)). Showing her subservient position to the king, she added that if they had merely been **sold** into slavery she certainly would not have bothered **the king**. Esther's statement not only shows the unbelievable power of the king, but also the condition to which she was reduced. **Esther** may have been apprehensive, not knowing if the king would grant her request. It was quite possible that he would fly into a rage, as he had done with Vashti ([1:12](#)).

[7:5-6](#). However, this time **the king** did not become furious. He requested more information about who was doing **such a thing** to **Esther** and her people. Undoubtedly a look of terror was on

Haman's face as he realized that he was about to be exposed before the most powerful man on the face of the earth. **Haman** must have known that his execution was assured now that "fate" was working against him. **Esther** revealed that **vile Haman** was the **enemy** (cf. [3:10](#); [8:1](#); [9:10, 24](#)).

[7:7-8](#). Now **the king** was filled with **rage** (cf. [1:12](#) and cf. Haman's anger on two occasions, [3:5](#); [5:9](#)). The reason why the king left the palace to go outside to his **palace garden** is not given. It has been suggested that he went out to control his anger, but that is unlikely in view of his other behavior. Others have suggested that he was thinking up a way to execute Haman legally, but that is unlikely because any word of the king was law. Others have said that Xerxes was trying to figure out a way to spare Esther and her nation. Whatever the reason, Esther and **Haman** were left together in the banquet hall.

While begging **Esther** to spare **his life**—though he realized **that the king had already decided his fate**—Haman fell **on the couch** (cf. [1:6](#)) on which **Esther was reclining**. Persians (and later Greeks, Romans, and Jews) reclined on couches when they ate. At just that moment (another so-called "happenstance" in the sovereignty of God) **the king** returned and accused **Haman** of assaulting **the queen**. However, Haman was not assaulting her but **was merely falling** on her couch. It is highly unlikely that Haman and Esther were alone in that banquet hall. No doubt people who were serving the meal and the guards were also present. The word **they** ([7:8](#)) suggests that several people were there. What is meant by their covering **Haman's face** is uncertain. Probably they did this because Haman was now a doomed man, condemned to death.

[7:9-10](#). **Harbona**, one of the king's seven **eunuchs** (cf. [1:10](#)), told **the king** about the **gallows** which Haman had built during the previous night to kill **Mordecai** ([5:14](#)). Possibly Haman was hated by many people in the city of Susa, especially in government circles. Many might have been glad to see Haman killed. Harbona obviously knew of Haman's plot to kill Mordecai. At the king's orders, **Haman** was taken and **hanged... on his own gallows** (i.e., impaled; cf. [comments on 2:23](#)). The tables had now been turned, but the Jews were still left with a major problem. **The king's** edict to eradicate them was still in effect. Per a Persian decree there would still be a great slaughter of many innocent people because of the wicked actions of a now-dead man.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

Open it

1. How would you go about asking your boss for a really big favor?
Politely and away from everyone else
2. In what settings is it difficult for you to stand up for what you believe?
In screaming crowds with pitchforks in hand

Explore it

3. What did the king offer Queen Esther at the banquet she prepared for him? ([7:1-2](#))
What is your petition, it will be given, up to half the kingdom, will be granted.

4. What did Esther ask of the king? ([7:3-4](#))

Grant me my life, is my petition. And spare my people, is my request. For we are all to be killed. This alone is the reason, if we were to become slaves it would not be of great enough importance to bother the king with.

5. How did King Xerxes react to Esther's request? ([7:5](#))

As her who is he, where it is he, where is he who dare to do such a thing.

6. What did the king do when he discovered the truth about Haman? ([7:7](#))

Went into the garden to calm himself and think.

7. What final twist in the story guaranteed Haman's demise? ([7:8](#))

Haman had gone to Esters couch and fallen on her, the King assumed he was molesting the Queen while the King was near.

8. What ironic circumstances surrounded Haman's death? ([7:9-10](#))

Haman was sentenced to the same fate he wanted for Mordecai, death by impalement.

9. How was the king's fury finally abated? ([7:10](#))

The king used Hamans own pole to punish him on.

Get it

10. In what ways do you think Christians should be involved in confronting injustice?

We should guide those around use using the bible as our guide.

11. What can you do to confront the injustice you see around you?

Sometimes protest quietly is the best way.

Apply it

12. How can you praise the Lord for His sovereign work in your difficult situations?

I owe him my life for so much, and Praise is all I can repay with.