

Esther-Chapters 7-10-Handout #4

Chapter 7

v.1-4-The king and Haman come to Esther's 2nd banquet where the king asks Esther 'What is your petition? What is your request?' She responds 'My petition: my life. My request: my people. For we are sold, I and my people to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. "Sold" is a reference to the ten thousand talents of silver Haman promised to bring into the treasury when this mystery people were destroyed (v.3:9) (Ahasuerus did know the people Haman was talking about were the Jews). She tells him she would not have bothered him if they were merely sold into slavery. Here she clearly identifies herself as a Jew. "Although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage" means that the enemy could not make up for the loss of revenue in taxes were the Jews exterminated. This appeals to the king's interests.

v.5-10-When asked by the king, Esther identifies Haman as the adversary and enemy. Now Haman is afraid because he knows he's condemned. The king angry goes into the garden and Haman throws himself at the feet of the Queen Esther who is probably on a couch in a reclining position. These people, when they had a banquet, reclined on couches while eating. The king enters and interprets Haman's action as an attempt to rape is queen and he orders Haman to be executed. His head is covered (probably preliminary for execution) and Harbonah, king;'s chamberlain, makes mention of 75 feet high gallows Haman has prepared for Mordecai, who spoken good for the king, which stands in Haman's house. The king says hang Haman on it (this is probably a stake for impaling).

Chapter 8

Now the twists or irony that comes when God is in control. The gallows meant for Mordecai is where Haman hangs. Haman's house is given to Queen Esther who turns it over to Mordecai. The signet ring that Haman had and the authority that goes with it is given to Mordecai.

v.3 6-Esther speaks again and falls at the king's feet asking that the king reverse the evil Haman had planned through the decree. The king holds out the royal scepter toward Esther which means that Esther was taking another chance. So she actually approaches the king twice praying for favor. Please reverse the letters oh king. But once done it cannot be undone.

v.7-14-The king tells them to use the authority he has given them with the king's ring. Write something that overrides Haman's decree. So they write a decree giving the Jews on the 13th day of the 12th month, when Haman's decree is to be enacted, the right to gather and defend themselves against all those who would assault them, and to take spoils. Spread it throughout all the provinces of the empire. This decree went out the third month.

v.15-17-Mordecai goes out from the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple. And there was rejoicing in Shushan. And many of the people became Jews for fear of the Jews.

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Chapter 9

In the twelfth month Adar, thirteenth day (March) The Jews all over the empire gathered and defended themselves against their enemies. And the officials of the empire helped them for fear of Mordecai, number two man in empire. All over the empire they killed 75,000 people, but did not touch any of the spoils. This was about defending themselves, not profiting from it. In Shushan, (Susa), 500 were killed, and the 10 sons of Haman, who are named.

v.12-the king asks Esther again what is her petition and she asks for another day for Shushan, the fourteenth day, to strike the enemies of the Jews there, and she asks that the sons of Haman be hanged upon the gallows (impaled upon the stakes). So in that extra day the Jews of Shushan killed three hundred more.

v.17 Feast of Purim-in the provinces they came together on the thirteenth day and rested and feasted on the fourteenth day but in Shushan they came together on the thirteenth and fourteenth day and rested and feasted on the fifteenth. And this feast of Purim would be celebrated throughout the generations.

Chapter 10

Mordecai is great in the kingdom, elevated to the highest position under the king. And he seeks the wealth of his people and peace to all his seed.