




# *Mondecai is Honored*



## Esther Chapter 6

### **A SLEEPLESS NIGHT (VERSES 1-3)**

Lately, it seems that every direction I turn, I stumble upon a verse that echoes a similar message, "the Lord goes before you," and "He will make a way." And once again, I'm reminded of the countless times things that worked out in my favor. The good days when everything fell into place, opportunities that knocked on my door, and others that swung the door open...

Looking back on those days, I wonder, how many times I chalked them up to good fortune. How many times did I count it as luck? Maybe I didn't put it that way, but if I wasn't thanking God, then who was I giving credit to?

Things don't just magically fall into place. If they did, I wouldn't have to tidy up my kitchen every day or make my bed in the morning. The fact is that life requires effort and a lot of intention.

Just the other day, Michael mentioned how lucky we were to have such a good dog. "Gabby never barks!" he said. "She's always been so well-behaved."

Little did Michael realize that while he toiled away at work, I invested my time and energy in training Gabby during those early months of her life. I established boundaries, taught her to sit and to come when she was called. I instilled in her the understanding that ceaseless barking was not an option. I introduced her to our neighbors, nurturing her comfort with them. I intentionally socialized her, molding her into a gentle companion for children.

More often than not, there's effort and dedication behind the things we enjoy. A beautiful garden, well behaved children, food on the table, a roof over our heads, the carpet under our feet, the clean water we drink, and the list goes on. If we can grasp this simple truth, perhaps we can start to discern God's handiwork in the hidden corners of our lives. Maybe, we can trust that God is at work, in the most seemingly insignificant moments of life.

With that perspective in mind, we can clearly see God's hand at work in Esther chapter 6. The king wasn't awake by sheer chance. It wasn't a fluke, good fortune, or luck that he discovered Mordecai's role in thwarting his assassination. This was an undeniable demonstration of God's perfect timing. The events of that night were planned with precision and predetermined by God.

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## Did you know?

“The Book of Chronicles” in this chapter refers to the historical records kept by the Persian court. These records were a chronicle of the activities, decisions, and noteworthy events during the reign of the king.

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Knowing that God is at work in our lives give us all the more reason to lean on His wisdom, trusting He'll guide us and lead us in the way we should go.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)*

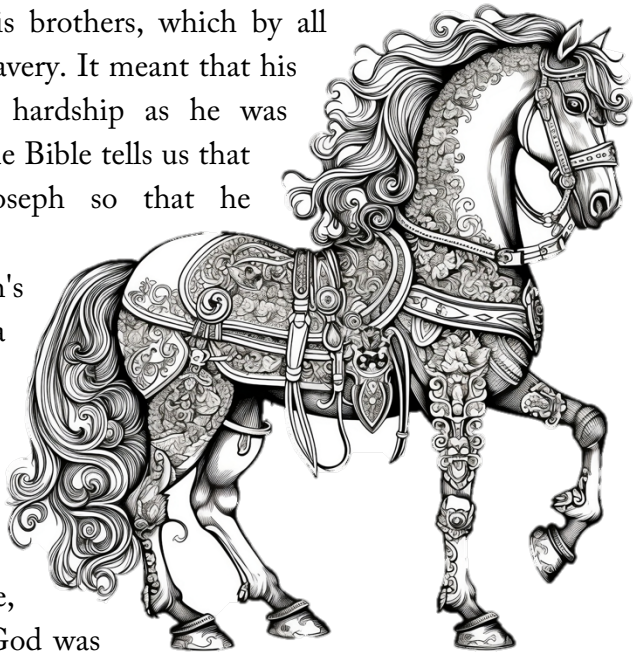
## HAMAN'S HUMBLING EXPERIENCE (VERSES 4-11)

As Haman enters the king's presence to request Mordecai's execution, we see the tables suddenly turn. Haman finds himself in a position he never imagined: having to publicly honor Mordecai, the very man he had planned to kill.

As I'm reading this portion of scripture, I'm reminded of the saying, "What Satan meant for evil, God intended for good." It comes from the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis.

Joseph was sold by his brothers, which by all accounts was a ticket to slavery. It meant that his life would be met with hardship as he was destitute and alone. But the Bible tells us that "the Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered."

Like Mordecai, Joseph's circumstances weren't a result of coincidence, luck, or chance—they were finely tuned by the orchestration of God. Every high and low was designed with a purpose, and whether he felt like God was

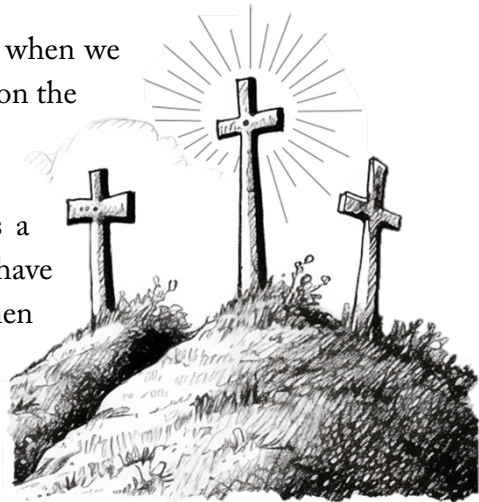


beside him or not, He was at work behind the curtain of everyday life bringing forth purpose through pain.

The turn of events in Esther 6:10 is highly ironic, almost humorous in its divine orchestration. It's a clear demonstration of God's perfect timing:

*“Go at once,” the king commanded Haman. “Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended.”*

Isn't it just like God to flip the script when we least expect it? Isn't that what He did on the cross? In the ultimate display of divine strategy, God used the cross—an instrument of death and despair—as a stage for His glory. Satan may have thought he had claimed victory when Jesus was nailed to the cross, but that was far from the truth. The crucifixion, a seemingly tragic ending, was not the end at all. In the quiet of the tomb, God was still at work, orchestrating the greatest miracle of all. One that would elevate Jesus to the highest place with a name above all names.



## THE DOWNFALL BEGINS (VERSES 12-14)

Following the humiliating event, Haman rushes home where he tells his wife and friends everything that happened to him. In their response, his advisors and his wife Zeresh articulate a profound truth, saying, "Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish

origin, you cannot stand against him—you will surely come to ruin!" This statement echoes the wisdom encapsulated in Proverbs 28:18,

*The one whose walk is blameless is kept safe, but the one whose ways are perverse will fall into the pit."*

It's as if they are unknowingly speaking the truth of this proverb. Haman's pursuit of ill-intent against Mordecai, instead of leading him to victory, initiates his downfall. The stark contrast between Mordecai's upright conduct and Haman's perverse schemes underlines the enduring truth of Proverbs: righteousness guards the path of the blameless, but wickedness subverts the sinner.

What some might call coincidence, is clearly the providence of God throughout the book of Esther. List a few of the events in the story thus far that were clearly orchestrated by God.

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What did the king find in The Book of Chronicles?

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How was Haman's own pride used against him?

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What two things do we learn about pride in Proverbs 16?

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What attitude change do we find in both Haman and that of his family and friends?

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## AS WE CLOSE THIS CHAPTER

Let's stop to consider some valuable lessons. God's timing is always perfect, and He works in ways we might never anticipate. Pride and ill intentions, as seen in Haman, lead to downfall, while righteousness, demonstrated by Mordecai, is eventually honored.

Let's carry these truths into our daily lives, trusting in God's perfect timing, striving to walk in humility and righteousness, and remembering that God is our just and sovereign King. No matter what we face, dear friend, we can trust in Him.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWER

## Esther Chapter 6

What some might call coincidence, is clearly the providence of God throughout the book of Esther. List a few of the events in the story thus far that were clearly orchestrated by God.

(These answers will be different for everyone).

Several events in the book of Esther might appear as luck or a coincidence, but they reveal God's providence. Some of them are:

- Esther, an orphaned Jewish girl, becoming the queen of Persia (Esther 2:17).
- Mordecai overhearing a plot against the king and reporting it, which was recorded in the king's chronicles but initially unrewarded (Esther 2:21-23).
- The king having a bout of insomnia and deciding to read the chronicles, which leads to him discovering Mordecai's unacknowledged service (Esther 6:1-3).
- Haman entering the king's presence at the exact moment the king is deciding how to honor Mordecai, leading to Haman having to honor his enemy (Esther 6:4-11).
- The reversal of fate where Haman was hanged on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai (Esther 7:9-10).

### **What did the king find in The Book of Chronicles?**

The king found in the Book of Chronicles that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 6:1-2).

### **How was Haman's own pride used against him?**

Haman's pride was used against him when he assumed the king wanted to honor him and suggested a grand show of public recognition. Instead, he found himself honoring Mordecai, his nemesis (Esther 6:6-11).

### **What two things do we learn about pride in Proverbs 16?**

1. Pride leads to destruction: "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).
2. Pride can lead to strife: "Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice" (Proverbs 16:18).

### **What attitude change do we find in both Haman and that of his family and friends?**

In terms of attitude change, Haman went from being incredibly proud and boastful to being deeply humiliated when he had to publicly honor Mordecai (Esther 6:11). His family and friends, who initially supported his plans to kill Mordecai, began to show doubt about his success and foresaw his downfall once they learned that Mordecai was a Jew (Esther 6:13).