



Haman's Downfall



Esther Chapter 7

ESTHER'S BRAVE APPEAL (VERSES 1-4)

And, as we open our Bible to chapter 7, we see that Esther has courageously accepted God's mission for her. She understands that her position in the palace is more than just a result of chance or circumstance. It's a purposeful positioning by God to bring about deliverance and hope for her people. The time has come for her to face the reality that a sinister plot has been set in motion, one that aims to annihilate her people.

We all have moments like this. Perhaps not to the extent that Esther did, but we too have days when we're given a choice to remain silent or to courageously stand up against injustice. Whether it's in our homes, workplaces, our church, or communities, we are called to embrace the opportunities before us and use our voices for the greater good.

As Esther boldly steps forward, don't overlook the power of prayer that's behind her. Through heartfelt prayers, we invite God's intervention and guidance. Prayer becomes our anchor, connecting us to the source of His strength, wisdom, and comfort. It's through prayer that we create a pathway for miracles to unfold.

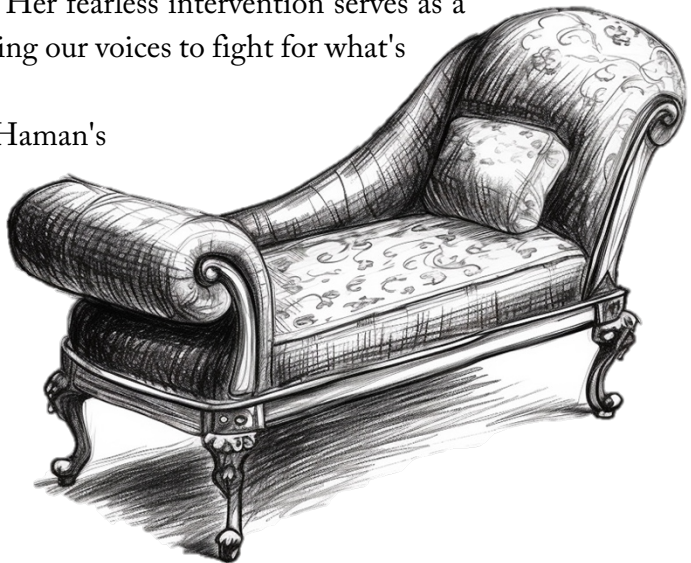
Esther's love for her people surpasses her fears. She speaks with grace and tact, revealing her Jewish identity and indicting Haman as the enemy plotting against her people.

Did you know?

The use of couches during banquets was a common practice in the ancient Near East and is known from various ancient cultures, including the Persians, Greeks, and Romans. Banquets would often involve reclining on couches or divans while eating and drinking.

As Esther speaks up on behalf of the Jews, she embodies the essence of Proverbs 31:8, which calls us to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." In this pivotal moment, Esther becomes a champion for the silenced, advocating for justice. Her fearless intervention serves as a timeless example of using our voices to fight for what's right.

The revelation of Haman's wickedness prompts King Xerxes to take swift action to protect the Jews. The tide turns, and the salvation of Esther's people becomes inevitable.



HAMAN'S DOWNFALL (VERSES 5-10)

Within these verses, we witness a play of divine justice. Haman's devious plans are exposed, stirring up the king's fury. It's a moment of irony, as Haman is hoisted onto the very spike he had prepared for Mordecai.

As I poured over these verses, I was reminded of an old saying, 'if you play with fire, you're bound to get burnt.' It's a simple yet powerful phrase that's reflected in the divine justice revealed in this chapter. As Haman's evil plot comes to light, the king's anger is stirred. We see a touch of heavenly poetry as Haman meets his end on the very post meant for Mordecai.

It also brings to mind a personal experience from my childhood, where I learned the hard way about the consequences of playing with fire. I was just five years old when my friend and I decided to experiment with matches. Ignorant of the danger, we lit fire after fire, finding excitement in our little flame-filled world. We thought we could easily control it, extinguishing each fire with our feet. It seemed harmless... until it wasn't. Suddenly, the stomping didn't work, and panic set in. We knew we had crossed a line.

Within minutes, the familiar sound of fire trucks roared down the backlane, shattering the innocence of our childhood mischief. Trouble had come knocking on our door, and we were in for a boatload of trouble.

The Bible warns us, 'Whoever digs a hole and scoops it out falls into the pit they have made. The trouble they cause recoils on them; their violence comes down on their own heads' (Psalm 7:15-16). These words are a vivid reminder that when we engage in harmful or destructive behavior, we face the consequences of our actions.

These verses do not stand alone—they align beautifully with the divine justice found in the story of Esther, painting a portrait of God as not only a just Judge, but also a loving Father who yearns for the

very best for us. He alerts us to the possible repercussions of our destructive behaviour, inviting us to follow His light. For it's in the journey toward the light that we experience His guidance, protection, and unfailing grace.

What did the king offer Esther?

What was Esther's petition at the second banquet?

Under what circumstance would Esther have held her tongue?

The Bible says 'Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life.' How is this different from sincere repentance?

What did the king see when he returned from the garden?

Can you think of a time in your life when you had reason to be concerned, but God worked everything out?

AS WE CLOSE THIS CHAPTER

Let's pause for a minute and take these lessons to heart. May we, like Esther, boldly stand up for what's right, using our voice and influence for God's purposes. And let's take comfort in the fact that God is our righteous Judge and Defender.

May these thoughts encourage us to walk boldly and confidently in our faith, trusting in God's perfect justice.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Esther Chapter 7

What did the king offer Esther?

King Xerxes again offered Esther up to half of his kingdom when she was about to present her petition at the second banquet (Esther 7:2).

What was Esther's petition at the second banquet?

Esther's petition at the second banquet was to spare her life and the life of her people, as they were sold to be destroyed, killed, and annihilated (Esther 7:3-4).

Under what circumstance would Esther have held her tongue?

Esther would have held her tongue if she and her people were merely sold into slavery. (Esther 7:4)

In other words, Esther and her people had been targeted for complete destruction, meaning they were to be killed and wiped out. If they had just been sold as slaves—both men and women—she wouldn't have bothered the king, because being sold as a slave would not have been as severe or as terrible a situation.

She was communicating the seriousness of the threat against her and her people, stating that it was so severe that she needed to speak out, even though it might be risky to do so.

The Bible says Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate stayed behind to beg queen Esther for his life. How is this different from sincere repentance?

Haman's plea for his life is different from sincere repentance in several ways. Sincere repentance involves a change of mind and heart, acknowledgement of wrongdoing, and a commitment to turn away from that wrongdoing. Haman's plea was driven by fear of immediate punishment and not an admission of guilt or remorse for his actions.

What did the king see when he returned from the garden?

When King Xerxes returned from the palace garden, he saw Haman falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. Misinterpreting this as an assault, the king exclaimed, "Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?" (Esther 7:8). This action sealed Haman's fate.

Can you think of a time in your life when you had reason to be concerned but God worked everything out?

(This answer will be different for everybody).