


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

The King Honors Mordecai

¹ That night the king could not sleep; so, he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him.

Q1. The king couldn't sleep. He could have demanded a concubine, or a walk, or a ride, or a snack. Yet, he asked to listen to someone read the chronicles of his reign. Is this "Coincidence? Or God-incidence"?

² It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.


³ "What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked.

"Nothing has been done for him," his attendants answered.

Q2. What is the likelihood that the reader of the chronicles would include the relatively recent act in which Mordecai saved the king from an assassination plot?

Lesson 6: Esther 6:1-14

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

⁴ The king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows he had erected for him.

⁵ His attendants answered, "Haman is standing in the court."

"Bring him in," the king ordered.

⁶ When Haman entered, the king asked him, "What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?"

Now Haman thought to himself, "Who is there that the king would rather honor than me?"

Q3. Pridefully, Haman assumed that would be the one person the king would honor. Would Haman's answer have changed if he had asked first, "Who do you intend to honor?"


Proverbs 16:18 [The Message (MSG)]

First pride, then the crash — the bigger the ego, the harder the fall.

 Or you may have learned this verse in the old KJV:

Proverbs 16:18 [King James Version (KJV)]

Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

 "Haughty": synonyms are arrogant, proud, conceited, self-important


Proverbs 16:4-5 [NIV-1984]

⁴ The Lord works out everything for his own ends - even the wicked for a day of disaster. ⁵ The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

Lesson 6: Esther 6:1-14

⁷ So he answered the king, "For the man the king delights to honor, ⁸ have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head. ⁹ Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honor, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!' "

Q4. What is conveyed to the people of Susa, when a person is arrayed in such royal attire, riding a royal horse, and led through the streets by a nobleman?


 *Haman answered, Let the royal robe, etc.* — “[Haman concluded that] he himself was the favourite intended; he prescribes the highest instances of honour that could for once be bestowed upon a subject; nay, he names honours too great to be conferred on any subject.

A royal robe the king has worn — “Namely, the king’s outward garment, which was made of purple, interwoven with gold, as Justin and Curtius relate. To form a notion of that height of pride and arrogance at which Haman, who thought all the honours he specified were designed for himself, was arrived, we may observe, that for anyone to put on the royal robe without the privity and consent of the king was among [those] the Persians accounted [as] a capital crime.

And a horse the king has ridden — “[a horse] which was well known, both by his excellence, and especially by his peculiar trappings and ornaments.” [©about 1800, *Commentary of the Old and New Testaments* by Joseph Benson. Text Courtesy of BibleSupport.com. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/esther/6-7.htm>]

Lesson 6: Esther 6:1-14

Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹⁰ "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."


Q5. The king directed Haman "Do not neglect anything you have recommended". What are the details of the honors the king, through Haman, will bestow upon Mordecai?

Q6. Things were going so well for Haman . . . and then the 'floor fell out from under him'. Could Haman refuse the command?

Q7. What might have happened if Haman had said, "but I want to execute Mordecai"?

Lesson 6: Esther 6:1-14

Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹¹ So Haman got the robe and the horse. He robed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city streets, proclaiming before him, "This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!"

Q8. Was Haman alone as he approached Mordecai, or was he at the front of a small contingent of dignitaries and soldiers?

Q9. Mordecai undoubtedly knew how Haman felt about him. What thoughts were swirling through Mordecai's mind, when Haman approached him leading the king's horse? (Can you imagine the stilted interaction between Haman and the man he hated Mordecai?)

Q10. What was Haman feeling as he led the resplendent Mordecai through the streets of Susa, shouting, "This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!"?

Q11. What did the citizens of Susa see as Mordecai was led through the streets?

Q12. Did many of the citizens of Susa know that Mordecai was a Jew? How might the citizens of Susa rationalize (or explain-away) the conflict between the edict to kill the Jews and Mordecai's honors?


Yes? }
No? } Why?

Rationalize the conflict?

Lesson 6: Esther 6:1-14

Q13. Speculation: how quickly did the king's honor of Mordecai reach the ears of Queen Esther?

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹² Afterward Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief, ¹³ and told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, "Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him - you will surely come to ruin!"

Q14. Haman (and Satan) thought he had a perfect plan to rid the empire of Mordecai and his fellow-Jews – the entire people-group – throughout the country! As you read Zeresh's (and Haman's advisors) quote in verse 13, does it seem that they have some idea of the power of the God of the Jews?

Yes? }
No? } Why?

Isaiah 29:14 [(NIV-1984)]

Therefore, once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish."

Lesson 6: Esther 6:1-14

1 Corinthians 1:18-21 [The Message (MSG)]

The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out. It's written, I'll turn conventional wisdom on its head, I'll expose so-called experts as shams. So where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent in this day and age? Hasn't God exposed it all as pretentious nonsense? Since the world in all its fancy wisdom never had a clue when it came to knowing God, God in his wisdom took delight in using what the world considered stupid — preaching, of all things! — to bring those who trust him into the way of salvation.

Romans 10:17-18 [(NIV-1984)]

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. ¹⁸ But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course, they did: 'Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.' [Psalm 19:4]

Romans 10:8-11 [(NIV-1984)]

⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. ¹¹ As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."


¹⁴ While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and hurried Haman away to the banquet Esther had prepared.

Q15. Could Haman suddenly 'call-out sick'?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Lesson 6: Esther 6:1-14

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Q16. Think back over these six chapters. Do you see the 'Hand of God' in the narrative?

Yes? } Please explain.
No? }

Copyrights:

Questions: © For All Eternity on behalf of Christ Jesus.

Scripture: The Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV ® [NIV-1984]), © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Zondervan Publishing House.

Scripture: The Message (MSG): © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson, The Message (MSG)

Scripture: J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS). © 1960, 1972 by J. B. Phillips, *The New Testament in Modern English* by J.B Phillips.