


Day 1

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

Justice Prevails

¹ So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther, ² and as they were drinking wine on that second day, the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

Q1. What inferences can be made about the king's feelings toward Queen Esther from his choice of words?

Q2. Why might the king assume that his queen wants something from him?

Esther 5:4-8 [English Standard Version (ESV)] [We previously studied chapter 5, in which we read:]

⁴ And Esther said, "If it please the king, let the king and Haman come today to a feast that I have prepared for the king."


⁵ Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, so that we may do as Esther has asked."

So, the king and Haman came to the feast that Esther had prepared. ⁶ And as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king said to Esther, "What is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."

⁷ Then Esther answered, "My wish and my request is: ⁸ If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my wish and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come to the feast that I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."

Lesson 7: Esther 7:1-10

Day 2

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³ Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor with you, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, grant me my life - this is my petition. And spare my people - this is my request. ⁴ For I and my people have been sold for destruction and slaughter and annihilation. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king."

Q3. Verse 3: Did the king know that she was a Jewess? Was nationality (Jew or non-Jew, Persian or non-Persian) part of the original requirement for those who sought the prettiest maidens in the country for the king's harem?

Esther 2:1-4 [The Message (MSG)] [We previously studied chapter 2, in which we read:]

¹⁻⁴ Later, when King Xerxes' anger had cooled and he was having second thoughts about what Vashti had done and what he had ordered against her, the king's young attendants stepped in and got the ball rolling: "Let's begin a search for beautiful young virgins for the king. Let the king appoint officials in every province of his kingdom to bring every beautiful young virgin to the palace complex of Susa and to the harem run by Hegai, the king's eunuch who oversees the women; he will put them through their beauty treatments. Then let the girl who best pleases the king be made queen in place of Vashti."

The king liked this advice and took it. . . .


⁸ When the king's order had been publicly posted, many young girls were brought to the palace complex of Susa and given over to Hegai who was overseer of the women. Esther was among them.

Q4. Verse 3: even the worst criminal in the land could 'petition' for a life-sentence versus a death-sentence; yet, here is the Queen petitioning for her life and requesting that the king have mercy upon her people. Briefly: what is a petition? what is a request? Why did Queen Esther make the distinction?

Petition?

Request?

Distinction?

 pe-ti-tion [Source: Copyright © 2003-2023 Farlex, Inc; <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/petition>]

1. A solemn supplication or request, especially to a superior authority; an entreaty.
2. A formal written document requesting a right or benefit from a person or group in authority.

Lesson 7: Esther 7:1-10

3. Law

- a. A formal written application seeking a court's intervention and action on a matter: a petition for review of a previous court's decision.
 - b. A pleading initiating a legal case in some civil courts: a bankruptcy petition.
4. Something requested or entreated: granted our petition.



re-quest [Source: Copyright © 2003-2023 Farlex, Inc; <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/request>]

1. To express a desire for, especially politely; ask for. Often used with an infinitive or clause: requested information about the experiment; requested to see the evidence firsthand.
2. To ask (a person) to do something: The police requested her to accompany them.

- Q5. (1) Was the king aware of the consequences from the authorization he had given Haman?
(2) Was the king aware of the people-group Haman was targeting? (3) Was the king indifferent? Or was he a caring person?

(1) Yes? } Why?
No? }

(2) Yes? } Why?
No? }

(3) Indifferent?
Caring?


Esther 3:6, 8-9 [NIV-1984] [We previously studied chapter 3, in which we read:]

⁶ Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, [Haman] scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead, Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes. . . . ⁸ Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom whose customs are different from those of all other people and who do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. ⁹ If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will put ten thousand talents of silver into the royal treasury for the men who carry out this business."

- Q6. When you think about the position (or the role) Mordecai had at the gate, were the Jews merely slave-labor or were some in positions of authority?
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Lesson 7: Esther 7:1-10

Day 3

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⁵ King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?"

Q7. From the king's words, do you think the king was happy, sad, furious, or ambivalent?

Q8. What do you think was going through Haman's mind?


⁶ Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this vile Haman." Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

Q9. From Queen Esther's choice of words, what did she think of Haman?

Q10. Why was Haman, the king's second-in-command, "terrified"?

Lesson 7: Esther 7:1-10

Day 4


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⁷ The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden. But Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life.

Q11. Why did the king leave the banquet hall for the garden?

^{8a} Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining.

Q12. Could any man approach the Queen? Since, by 'happenstance', Haman stumbled and then fell onto Queen Esther's couch – perhaps, next to her – perhaps, on her – what is the usual consequence of such an indiscretion? [Co-incidence? Or God-incidence?]

 “The couch on which she had been reclining at the banquet: This was the customary posture at meals, not only of the Persians, but also of the Greeks and Romans, and of the later Jews. The Last Supper was thus eaten. Haman had obviously thrown himself at the queen's feet to ask for mercy. The king on his return was evidently full of wrath against Haman, and though he was for the time God's instrument in averting Haman's wicked design, his own base and worthless character is none the less conspicuous. The attempted massacre had been authorised with the full knowledge and consent of the king, who yet ignores utterly his own share of the responsibility. Great and noble ends are at times brought about by the instrumentality of unholy men, blind instruments in a purpose whose end they [do not] understand.” [©about 1880, *Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*, edited by Charles J Ellicott. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/esther/7-8.htm>]

^{8b} The king exclaimed, "Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?"


Q13. If the king had an 'ounce of mercy' for Haman, did Haman's indiscretion seal his fate?

Lesson 7: Esther 7:1-10

^{8c} As soon as the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

Q14. What does the phrase “they covered Haman's face” signify? Why was his face hidden?

Day 5

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⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, "A gallows seventy-five feet high stands by Haman's house. He had it made for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king."
The king said, "Hang him on it!"

Q15. Is Haman's fate sealed?

Q16. What might Haman's family think as they watched the final consequence of Haman's treachery?

Lesson 7: Esther 7:1-10

¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided.

Q17. Haman was hung. Was justice served?

Q18. Is a death sentence ever justified?

Q19. Is there applicability for us, today, in this sentence of death for Haman?


Q20. What is the consequence for those, who do not believe, in the saving grace of Christ Jesus?

John 3:16-19 [NIV-1984]

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. . ."

John 14:6 [NIV-1984]

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. . ."

 John 14:6 explicitly states that people (souls) come to the Father through [belief in] Jesus. The questions that every person must answer for herself/himself are these: Did Jesus die for my sins? Why do I need a Savior? What happens to me upon the death of my physical body? If I continue to scoff at religion, at Jesus, and I die, will I be condemned to death – separation from God? That is a horrible consequence!


Lesson 7: Esther 7:1-10

Romans 5:9-12 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men [and women] because all sinned

Day 6

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Q21. Did God have a role in this story?

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