

Esther 6:1 ¶ On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

Esther 6:2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

Esther 6:3 And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.

Esther 6:4 ¶ And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

That night the king could not sleep and called for his servants to read to him from the book of chronicles in which was recorded significant incidents occurring in the kingdom. The reading included the events of the day when Mordecai had saved the king's life by reporting on the plot by Bigthana and Teresh to kill him (cf 2:21-23).

The king asked what honor had been bestowed upon Mordecai for his great service to the king. They responded that nothing had been done. The king then asked who was in the court. It happens that Haman had just arrived on his mission to seek the king's permission to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had erected for that purpose.

Once again we see God's sovereign hand at work in events as they unfold. It wasn't just coincidence that the readers chose that specific book and that specific section to read to the king that specific night.

Proverbs 16:9 "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."

Proverbs 21:1 "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."

Psalms 115:3 "But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased."

Esther 6:5 And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.

Esther 6:6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?

Esther 6:7 And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,

Esther 6:8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:

Esther 6:9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man *withal* whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king

delighteth to honour.

The king's servants told him that Haman was in the court, so he told them to let him come in. When Haman came in, the king immediately asked him a question—What should be done to honor the man in whom the king delights?

Proud Haman immediately assumed that he must be the man to whom the king referred. He suggested that the king bring forth one of his royal robes, one of his own horses and the royal crown. I immediately thought that the reference was to the king's crown. Most commentators clarify that it is a royal crown that is placed on the king's horse (shown in Persian reliefs).

The robe and horse should be given into the hands of one of the king's most noble princes. The prince should take the robe and put it on the man that the king wants to honor. He should then lead the man throughout the city sitting on the king's horse and declaring, "Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king delights to honor."

Esther 6:10 Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, *and* take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

Esther 6:11 Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

The king told Haman to make haste and do as he had suggested to Mordecai the Jew that sits in the king's gate. He warned him to make sure that everything was done just as he had suggested.

So, Haman did as the king commanded—and don't you know he was burning with hatred in his heart the whole time. He couldn't have been more humiliated. Mordecai must have been grinning from ear to ear.

It's quite obvious that the king had no idea that the decree issued in his name was against the Jews.

Esther 6:12 ¶ And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered.

Esther 6:13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every *thing* that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai *be* of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.

Esther 6:14 And while they *were* yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

Finally, Mordecai was returned to the king's gate. Haman hurried back to his house burning with shame. He told his wife and advisers all that had happened.

What a difference a day makes! The very people who had so encouraged him the day before suddenly turned on him. They were obviously superstitious. The NIV words it more clearly: *“Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him — you will surely come to ruin!”*

At that very moment, the king’s chamberlains showed up to take Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared.