

Character Study: Esther

Part 3 – Haman’s Plot Backfires

Esther 5-7

What’s happening?

- Esther had made up her mind to approach the King in hopes of preventing the Jews from being killed. The King was gracious, and offered to give her whatever she wanted. Esther requested the King and Haman to come to a banquet she was preparing. (5:1-8)
- Haman was thrilled at the offer given by the queen and quickly went home to brag to his family. Everything seemed to be going well for Haman, though he was still angry at Mordecai for not bowing before him. His family encouraged him to build gallows and ask the king to have Mordecai hanged. Haman had the gallows built. (5:9-14)
- That same night, King Ahasuerus learned that Mordecai was the one who had informed him of the men plotting to kill him, and the king was troubled that Mordecai had never been honored. When Haman entered the palace the next morning, the king asked him what should be done for a person the king wished to honor. Thinking the king was referring to him, he recommended parading the man around the city on one of the king’s horses. The king had Haman do just that for Mordecai. No doubt grumbling the entire way, Haman listened. (6:1-14)
- At the banquet, Queen Esther told the king how she, along with the other Jewish people, had been ordered to be killed. The king asked who was responsible, and she explained that it was Haman’s plan. Full of anger, the king had Haman hanged on the very gallows that Haman had made for Mordecai. (7:1-10)

What’s God doing?

> In a twist of fate, the person who had plotted against God’s people was hanged on the very gallows he intended to use for evil. God had intervened, not only by saving Mordecai’s life, but also by eliminating the person who was causing the trouble.

What’s to learn?

→ After prayer and fasting, Esther bravely approached the king, and the timing could not have been more perfect. God showed that when He is working to accomplish His will, even the timing of circumstances are in His control. What are you going through today that is requiring you to trust God’s perfect timing?