

## A Providential Turnaround Esther 6:4-14

INTRO: The beginning of this providential turnaround is seen in Esther 6:1-3. The King could not sleep. Matthew Henry says: “His sleep fled away (so the word is); and perhaps, like a shadow, the more carefully he pursued it, the further it went from him.... Even after a banquet of wine he could not sleep when Providence had a design to serve in keeping him waking” (Vol 2 1138).

When the King could not go to sleep, he called for the Journals of his reign as king. It just happened that the servant who read to him came to the section in the Journals that recorded a plot against the king and the man who revealed the plot; thus saving the king's life (2:21-23). Do you truly believe this just happened accidentally? Not me! I believe God, by Providence, guided the reader. God is sovereign and Providence is the hand of God in the glove of history.

The King is moved by the report that is read and decides to do something for the man who has not yet been honored. Again, we see the Providence of God for, “the king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he wills” (Prov 21:1).

It is God Himself who is responsible for the Providential turnaround that we shall see in Esther 6:4-14.

### I. VSS 4-5, HAMAN'S PROVIDENTIAL EARLY ARRIVAL

- A. Vs 4, The King is not able to shake his desire to honor Mordecai, the man who saved his life; and although it is early in the morning, he is anxious to display his gratitude for this faithful man.
  - 1. Because he wants to take care of honoring Mordecai, he calls out, “Who is in the court?”
  - 2. “By a strange twist of fate, one of those coincidences which are never coincidences, Haman is entering at that very moment to propose his bloody plan to the king.....” (Stedman 4).
- B. Vs 5, Haman is about to get the surprise of his life. He is thinking one thing, but it is not what he thinks.
  - 1. Haman had arrived early to get Mordecai hanged.
  - 2. The King wants to honor Mordecai, and guess who is in the court?
  - 3. We need to keep in mind that the king had no idea about the quarrel Haman had with Mordecai.

## II. VSS 6-11, MORDECAI PROVIDENTIALLY HONORED

- A. All that happens in verse 6-11 and throughout the book of Esther is in God's hands and is done in His time.
- B. Vs 6, Read carefully the words of this verse and you will see the response of a man stuck on himself. Haman is a man who pictures the sinful nature of man, the fleshly nature. "Now Haman thought in his heart, to whom would the king delight to do honor more than to myself?"
  - 1. God is not impressed by our proud and self-embellishing attitudes.
    - a. Hannah's song is recorded in I Samuel chapter two, note verse three: "Talk no more so exceeding proudly: let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed."
    - b. Proverbs 16:5: "Everyone that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished."
    - c. James 4:6b: "...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble."
    - d. Habakkuk 2:4: "Behold his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."
  - 2. Before we go to verse seven, it should be noted that it is a good thing for kings and others in places of authority to delight in honoring that which is good (Rm 13:7).
- C. Vs 7, As we shall see in verse 8-9, Haman knows what it means to honor someone. It is doubtful that Haman would have made the suggestions we find in verses 8-9 for anyone else. Haman was a self-centered, proud man.
- D. Vss 8-9, Here is Haman's suggestion to the king. If you really want to honor this man in whom you delight put your robe on him let him ride your horse and wear your crown. Deliver your apparel and horse to one of your noble princes so they can deck out the man you want honored and bring him on horseback through the street saying: "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour."
  - 1. What is Haman really saying? Simply put, he is telling the king to give him yourself publicly for this is true honor.
  - 2. Do you really want to honor God? How can you do it?
    - a. First of all, you can serve His Son Jesus Christ who

died to give life to believing sinners. Jesus says in John 12:26, "...If any man serve me, him will my Father honour." God honors those who serve the Son by giving us Himself and all that is His (Rm 8:32).

- b. To honor God, I must give Him all that I have and all that I am. I must give Him the clothes I wear, the car I drive, the honors I am allowed to receive. I must publicly and openly give Him my all (Rm 6:11-3; 12:1-2; I Cor 6:18-20).
- E. Vss 10-11, Here we have the humiliation of Haman. He had been riding high. He was so full of himself, so full of pride.
- 1. On the horse that he is leading through the city is the man who would not bow to him. At home there is a gallows prepared to hang the man the king is honoring. What a providential turn around!
  - 2. What a rage he must have been in. What a situation. Outwardly, he was praising a man he hated and wanted dead. Inwardly, he was looking for the day Mordecai would die.

### III. VS 12a, MORDECAI'S TRUE CHARACTER

- A. "And Mordecai came again to the king's gate."
- B. He did not get the big head. He did not swell up with pride. He went back to his old place.
- C. Mordecai had placed Haman and the whole situation that he and the Jews faced in God's hands. Mordecai would not be changed by his fifteen minutes of fame. He went back to his place of duty.

### IV. VSS 12b-14, HAMAN'S WIFE A SPOKESMAN FOR PROVIDENCE

- A. Vs 12b, Haman hurried home, upset, grieving, and humiliated.
- B. Vs 13, There is no comfort in the words of Zeresh Haman's wife. She knows that her husband is in deep trouble.
  - 1. Haman was about to reap what he had sown.
  - 2. The wheels of God's Providence were about to grind him to powder. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said: "the mills of God grind exceedingly small" (Stevenson 1708).
- C. Vs. 14, Providence marches on as the knock comes to the door of Haman's house, and he is whisked away to the banquet he had so anticipated. Now, he wishes he had never been invited.

CONCLUSION: Haman pictures life without regard for God or anyone else except self. This kind of life leads to destruction.

We are to trust in God and lean not on our own understanding (Prov 3:5-6).

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