

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? Esther 7

INTRO: The man coming to dinner is a man who is about to get his dessert, his just desserts. To get your just desserts is what poetic justice is: "A term introduced into England by Thomas Rymer in 1678, denoting the reward of the virtuous and the punishment of the vicious...that all characters reap the harvest of their just desserts" (65). Poetic justice is illustrated in Psalm 37. Read it carefully and you'll see that God is sovereign.

Esther chapter seven has been called the ultimate in poetic justice. The wind is about to be taken out of Haman's sails. His ship is about to come to a sudden stop and then sink. His fame will soon be infamous. His hatred for the Jews and God's marvelous deliverance will forever be remembered in the celebration of Purim, Mordecai's Day (3:7-10; 9:24-26).

- I. VSS 1-4, ESTHER'S DINNER PREPARED
 - A. Vs 1, The king and Haman came to the banquet that queen Esther had prepared. I don't know what was on the menu as far as food is concerned, but I do know that Esther has something other than food cooking. I am sure Haman was uneasy as he sat at the table.
 - B. Vs 2, This is the third time that the king has asked Esther what she wishes, what her petition is (5:3,6; 7:2).
 1. Between the time of Esther's first banquet and this one, God injected something. He revealed to the king, on a sleepless night, that Mordecai had saved his life (6:1-3). This prompted the king to honor Mordecai as a loyal and courageous man.
 2. The delay between the first and second banquet was on and for a purpose; it was premeditated.
 - a. God had a sovereign plan and the events took place as He planned them.
 - b. By delaying her request until the second banquet, Esther was being sensitive to God's timing.
 - c. She did not want to rush; she wanted things to happen "in his time." Friends, Romans 8:28 is still in the book: "And we know that all things work together..."
 - C. Vs. 3a, Esther is going to speak. She is going to reveal her petition.

- D. Vs. 3b-4, As Esther reveals what is on her heart, there are two startled men at the table. One is startled and scared; the other is just startled.
1. Esther takes her place with her people. She reveals that she is a Jew. By doing so she identified herself with her God. The secret disciple is now an open witness.
 2. In this verse, notice her straight forward plea: "For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish..." (3:8-9, 13). At this, Haman's hands must have shook. He may have dropped his fork and tea glass.
 3. "...But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue..."
 - a. The king would have lost his queen, but she would have been willing to go into slavery.
 - b. The situation was much worse than slavery; it was genocide, a holocaust.

II. VSS 5-8, CHARGES PREFERRED

- A. Vs. 5, the king sits up erect; he is startled; he is amazed. He did not even dream that such a thing could be happening in his kingdom, not this thing that threatens his lovely queen.
1. Because the people who are to be slain are Esther's people, the king is moved to action. For this King, killing is no big thing as seen in his handling of the war that he waged with Greece where he threw thousands of men into battle and certain death. But now, his precious Queen is threatened, her life is on the line. You see, Esther is the key. She has come to the throne for such a time as this (4:14).
 2. Remember, Haman is at the table. He is prime minister; he has the confidence of the king. Think of this as being like the wife of the President being threatened by the Secretary of State.
- B. Vs 6, Haman is in a heap of trouble, more trouble than he had ever been in.
1. The decree he had obtained not only included Mordecai, it not only included the Jews in the Persian empire, it included the queen in the palace. The Queen was deeply loved by the King.
 2. Haman's sins have found him out. His wife's words would

not haunt him. Friend, you can't hide from God.

- a. His pride, his haughty spirit had led him astray. "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov 16:18).
 - b. Prov 18:12, "Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility."
- C. Vs 7, The king, in anger, stands up. His head is swimming; his heart is racing. "How could these things be, how could I have authorized such a decree."
1. The king goes out of the room; Haman who is between a rock and a real hard place jumps up and pleads with the queen for his life.
 2. He sees that things have gone sour. He knows the queen is his only hope; he pleads and pleads.
 3. Haman falls across Esther's bed while the king is out of the room.
- D. Vs 8, As Haman begs and pleads lying across Esther's bed, the king walks in.
1. The king says: "Will he force the queen also before me in the house?"
 2. Haman's fate is sealed. No order is given, but the servants know exactly what to do, "As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face."

III. VSS 9-10, THE NECKTIE PARTY

- A. Vs 9, This verse reminds us of Galatians 6:7-9. Note that the very gallows that Haman had built to hang Mordecai on are now used to hang him.
1. He was hung that night because the king was the "Supreme court."
 2. Psalm 37:35-36.
- B. Vs 10, Haman is hanged. "Here was a man who went to dinner and found out it was a necktie party. They hanged him!" (McGee 117).
1. Haman died on the gallows because there was no one to die for him.
 2. You and I deserve eternal death, separation from God. But thank God, someone died in our place.
 - a. Rom 5:6-9
 - b. John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that

- a man lay down his life for his friends.”
- c. I Pet 3:18.
 - d. Mt 20:28.

CONCLUSION: Do you believe Christ died for you? Trust him today.

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