

Sermon Discussion

15 August 2021

Read Esther 6:1-14

Dig Deeper

Of all the texts that could have been selected by the librarian (from the records of Xerxes' 12 years of rule up to that time), the one that contained the account of Mordecai's uncovering the assassination plot (2:21-23) was read to the king. Extrabiblical sources confirm that the Persian kings maintained an elaborate recording system. The **Greek historian, Herodotus**, noted that the king kept especially clear records of those who served him well.

In v. 8, some have suggested that the Bible is in error when it speaks of a horse wearing a royal crown. They think that the man, not the horse, should have worn the crown. However, based on sculptured reliefs that archaeologists have discovered on a stairway at Persepolis, it was evidently *"a special arrangement of the horse's hair to form a topknot between the ears."*

Notice in v. 10, this is the first of five times Mordecai is called "the Jew" (see 8:7; 9:29, 31; 10:3), apparently to highlight the fact that a Jew, though opposed by Haman, was given a prominent position in Susa in the Persian Empire. He who wanted respect from Mordecai had to give respect to Mordecai.

1. Why is Esther 6 more about what God is doing than what Esther and Mordecai are doing?
2. What can we learn or be reminded of about God from studying the chapter? Why do we tend to doubt the Lord's perfect timing? Describe a time when you doubted the Lord's right timing only to be proven wrong.
3. How can we wait on the Lord joyfully rather than anxiously or angrily?
4. Mordecai stopped the assassination plot on the king all the way back in Chapter 2, but he is not rewarded until Chapter 6. Although we may never receive a reward on earth, Galatians 6:9 reminds us to *"not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."* In what areas of your life do you need to be patient and persevere to do the right thing?

Application & Prayer

Since we serve a sovereign God who is in control of all things, there is no such thing as coincidence. He is intimately involved in the inner workings of our lives in order to have things work for our good and His glory. He orchestrates and uses something as insignificant as insomnia to change the fate of the Jewish people. How incredible is that?!

- Take some time to thank God for His sovereign provision in your life.
- Ask Him to help you fully surrender to Him and to trust His plan for your life.
- Ask God for patience and faith like Mordecai's.